



# Who's New?

## The Scoop on Mr. McDonald!

**Sarah Aguirre**   **Jami Weber**

Mr. Dan McDonald is the Touchet School District's new superintendent.

A long-time Washingtonian, Mr. McDonald was born in Tacoma at St. Joseph's Hospital. After graduation from Stadium High School he attended college at Western Washington State College, Central Washington State College, Pierce College, and Washington State University.

Mr. McDonald met his wife, Theresa, on a blind date, which included attending a soccer game on a rainy day. She must have been impressed because they have been married for 23 years. They have two daughters—Megaan, who attends Central Washington State University, and Amber, who is a junior at Touchet High School.

Touchet's new superintendent has been involved in education since 1972. Classes he has taught include: math, reading, language arts, social studies, special education, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, middle school (4th-8th grade), 10<sup>th</sup> grade, preschool, and home economics in the K-12 setting. He has coached girls' softball, boys and girls' basketball, and football. He has also taught college classes.

The reason he became an administrator is because he thought that he could make a difference in more student's lives. He comes to us from McCleary School District, a district about the same size as Touchet, which is located near Olympia.

Touchet appealed to



Mr. McDonald because he knew the district had a reputation for excellence and he also wished to return to the east side of the state. He enjoys walking to work each day instead of driving on the heavily congested highways on the east side of the state. Mr. McDonald is pleased with his job choice as he appreciates the dedication of the teachers, the enthusiasm of the community for its school, and the respect the students have for learning. It is his goal to learn the names of all the students in the district within a year.

Our new leader thinks that the state requirements in education will require our district to be more vigilant in the process of educating our youth. The more stringent requirements will ensure our graduates are well prepared for college and/or further job training.

The McDonald family will be going to their lake property during the holiday season and perhaps go skiing, and maybe even fishing in Hells Canyon.

Welcome, Mr. McDonald, to the Touchet School District.



## The Lowdown on New Espanol Teacher Mr. McNinch!

**Shari Milliken**

To get to know Mr. McNinch and his thoughts about Touchet, I asked him the following questions:



**Smoke Signals:** *Where were you born and raised?*

**Jeremy McNinch:** I was born in Grand Coulee and moved to Ephrata when I was five.

**SS:** *Where did you attend college?*

**JM:** I spent a year at the University of Washington and then 3 1/2 years at Central.

**SS:** *How long have you been married?*

**JM:** It will be four years on December 30.

**SS:** *How did you meet your wife?*

**JM:** We went to high school together. She went on a date with my brother and her best friend had a crush on me.

**SS:** *What is your wife's profession?*

**JM:** Domestic engineer.

**SS:** *How many children do you have?*

**JM:** Two. David who's almost two and Clayton who is four.

**SS:** *How many years have you been in education?*

**JM:** I've been interested for about five years but actually teaching for about a year.

**SS:** *Why were you interested in coming to Touchet?*

**JM:** I really like the atmosphere where people care about people and I get to do a lot of different things.

**SS:** *How is Touchet different than the area you previously lived in?*

**JM:** It doesn't snow as much.

**SS:** *What positive things do you see about Touchet?*

**JM:** You get to see all of the

kids every day and everybody knows them by name.

**SS:** *What changes do you see happening in Touchet?*

**JM:** I see a lot more focus on helping all students meet standards.

**SS:** *Are you looking forward to Christmas break and what are you and your family going to do?*

**JM:** OHH YEAH! We are mostly going to relax at home and maybe go snowboarding with my brother. And also celebrate my wedding anniversary and David's birthday.

Smoke Signals

Wel come!