

63RD CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
Believing In Achieving
SHARITON FOUR SEASONS | EMERY CONVENTION CENTER | CHARLOTTE, NC



Empathy to Action: A Therapy Dog Takes Students Beyond the Classroom

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON EDUCATION **NOVEMBER 26-27, 2013**

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Presenters

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 Hardin Park School

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By the end of the session, participants will:

- Identify ways educators and community partners can collaborate to achieve educational goals.
- Examine how teachers can allow students to direct instruction and become strong class leaders.
- Understand how to incorporate service animals in learning.
- Identify ways service learning can be part of classroom learning.

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Demographics

Overall description of Watauga County

- Watauga County Schools Enrollment 4498
- Total county EC population 805

Description of Hardin Park School

- Title 1 school
- Number of Hardin Park students 775
- Number of EC students at Hardin Park 149
- Number of General Education Classes 36

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Service Animal or Therapy Dog?

- As of March 2011, "Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities...Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA...Some State and local laws also define service animal more broadly than the ADA does. Information about such laws can be obtained from the State attorney general's office."
http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

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Service Animal or Therapy Dog?

- There is no legal definition of "therapy dog" but a common explanation would be:
 "Animal-assisted therapy (AAT), also known as pet therapy, utilizes trained animals and handlers to achieve specific physical, social, cognitive, and emotional goals with patients."
<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/pet+therapy>

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Therapy Dog Organization Structure

- Each organization has its own educational and testing protocol, rules and regulations.
- All require up-to-date veterinary care. Once the dog-handler team has completed the testing/registration process, they are welcome to begin visitations.
- Not all offer liability insurance.

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Therapy Dog Organizations

The Delta Society <http://deltasociety.org>
 Therapy Dogs International <http://tdi-dog.org>
 Therapy Dogs Incorporated
<http://therapydogs.com>

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Common Therapy Dog Settings

- Hospitals/Long Term Care facilities
- Disaster Sites (additional training required)
- Nursing Homes
- Schools
- Libraries



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Considerations for Schools/Classrooms

- Classroom Setting
 - Student behaviors
 - Noise level
 - Medical conditions
 - Children's prior dog experience with dogs
 - Number of children
- Size of Dog

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Suggestions for Placing a Dog in a School

- Have the paperwork in order
- Meet with all parties BEFORE placement
- Allow the dog and handler to visit the classroom during "off" hours before the first visit
- Set a goal; be realistic and flexible
 - If you are targeting a student, how do you set the environment so they don't feel singled-out?

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Ideas

- Collaborate with related service providers.
- Classroom preparation for therapy dog placement.

"Toby is cool. I felt really happy reading to Toby." – Edmerson

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Classroom Description

- This was a third grade classroom with general and special education students.
- Toby visited once a week for 30 minutes.
- Toby served as a springboard for social studies sessions and a class service learning project.
- Students read to Toby weekly.

"Toby was really calm. I felt really good reading to him. He never barked." – Roxy

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Toby Goes to 3rd Grade

- Questions
- Reactions
- Toby's work
- Student love!
- Video

"Toby made me feel good. He made reading in front of the whole class much easier." – Garrison

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October is Disability Month in North Carolina

SESSION LAW 2007-274

- SENATE BILL 753
 - Each local board of education shall provide instruction on disability, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement in conjunction with Disability History and Awareness Month.
 - Local boards of education are encouraged to incorporate individuals with disabilities or knowledgeable guest speakers from the disability community into the delivery of this instruction."

link: <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2007/Bills/Senate/PDF/S753v4.pdf>

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Previous Disability Awareness



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Disability Awareness



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Toby's Influence on One Terrific Third Grade Class

- A New Idea for Disability Awareness Month:
Pennies for Pups
- Presentation to Students
- Brainstorming

"I liked to read to Toby because he was a great listener." - Patrick

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Students as Collaborators: A Plan Evolves

- Steps
- Children's Literature
- Education of Students



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Selecting an Organization

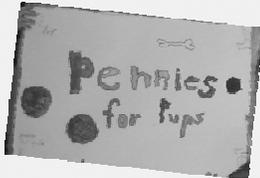
- Paws for Purple Hearts
www.pawsforpurplehearts.org/
- Service Dogs for Children
- The Vote: 2012 was an election year!

"He was always really sweet. He was calm and relaxing. He didn't mind if all of us pet him." – Lyndsey

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Involving the Whole School

- Posters
- Speeches
- Collection containers



"It felt good because we really wanted to help. I was really nervous at first." – Christin

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Speech Written by Class

Hi, my name is _____. I'm a third grader from Ms. Beckley's Class. We are doing a special project in our class called Pennies For Pups. This year a service dog named Toby comes to our classroom every Thursday morning. We love reading to Toby and we love giving him belly scratches. Our class has been learning about different types of service animals and we have decided to raise money for an organization called Paws For Purple Hearts. They provide service dogs for Veterans with combat related physical disabilities. Your class will get a container to collect money in and our class will collect the money from your room every few days. Our goal is to raise \$550.00 by the end of October. We are so excited about Pennies For Pups and we thank you for your help.

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Social Studies Standards Met

Third Grade Civics and Government Goals

- Understand how citizens participate in their communities.
 - Exemplify how citizens contribute politically, socially and economically to their community.
 - Exemplify how citizens contribute to the well-being of the community's natural environment.
 - Apply skills in civic engagement and public discourse (school, community)

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ELA Reading Informational Text Standards Met

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

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ELA Writing Standards Met

- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

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ELA Speaking and Listening Standards Met

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 3 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
- Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.
- Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

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What DPI has to say about Service Learning?

- Service-learning is an effective framework for curriculum delivery, a learning tool, and strategy to engage students, parents, volunteers, and community. The following are a few examples:
 - Fosters a sense of care and concern for others
 - Positively impacts student outcomes
 - Extends the boundaries of the classrooms, community becomes the learning lab
 - Provides opportunity for inquiry-based experiential engagement with real-life situations

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Characteristics of High Quality Service Learning

- Links academic content standards and community-based service in ways that support outcomes for students.
- Curriculum and service are well planned for positive outcomes in both areas.
- Youth voice is encouraged and supports problem-solving.
- The process provides benefits to staff, students, volunteers, and community.

From the National Corporation for National and Community Service

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Pennies For Pups

- What students did on their own in the community
- School Buzz
- Bringing October to an end
- Total collected
- Toby's work in the classroom continues

"It was really hard, but we did it! We even beat our goal." – Jada

Watauga County Schools
828-264-7199
10010, HOLFORD, NC, NC, NC
NEWS RELEASE
October 18, 2012

Hardin Park's "Pennies for Pups"
Serves Those Who Served Us

What could be better than kids with a dog? How about kids and a dog working to help veterans with disabilities? That's what Kelly Beckley's third grade class at Hardin Park School is doing with a service learning project they've named "Pennies for Pups."

For the students, the star of the show is a certified therapy dog named Toby. Toby comes to school in Beckley's classroom every Thursday morning accompanied by his owner Laurie Rivera. His calm and friendly personality makes him well suited for his therapeutic role and very popular at school.

"My kids love the time they get to spend with Toby," says Beckley, "but there's much more to the project than having a dog in class. We're using this experience to help students learn about different service animals and service animal organizations, and they've been able to practice a variety of academic skills as they participate in the project."

After learning about the different ways in which service animals can assist persons with disabilities, Beckley's students decided they would raise money to help provide service dogs for veterans. The organization they chose to support is Paws for Purple Hearts, a group that helps veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) train service dogs to assist veterans with combat-related physical disabilities. As Beckley noted, "each dog helps two veterans in this program."

The students have made posters and money collection containers for each classroom at Hardin Park and they have written speeches about the project that they are presenting to each class at the school. "Writing, art, public speaking, math, and collaboration skills are all part of this service



Toby smiles amidst his fans at Hardin Park



learning project, and having Toby involved makes it more enjoyable and more real for the students," said Beckley. Although a service learning project is appropriate any time of year, this is an especially appropriate time for Pennies for Pups because October is Disabilities Awareness Month. Mary Williams, an adaptive physical education teacher, has been working with Beckley's class this year to help improve their understanding of disabilities and to help them learn about service dogs and other methods to help people with disabilities achieve their potential.

The class set a goal of raising \$550 for Pennies for Pups by November 2nd and is off to a good start, having raised \$232.90 the first week. However, Beckley said "we'd love to exceed the goal, and we're happy to accept donations from anybody who wishes to contribute."

Anyone who wants to make a contribution to Pennies for Pups may send a check to the Hardin Park school office made out to Hardin Park School with the words "Pennies for Pups" in the memo line.

Hardin Park School serves pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students and has a current enrollment of 789 students. It is rated a School of Distinction under the NC ABC's school accountability model.



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Learning Continues

- Veterans Day
- Our Visitor
- A Moment in Time
- "Thank you" letters

"I learned that it's really easy to help other people even if it seems hard." – Carlos

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More Social Studies Standards Met

Third Grade History Goals

Understand how events, individuals and ideas have influenced the history of local and regional communities.

- Explain key historical events that occurred in the local community and regions over time.
- Analyze the impact of contributions made by diverse historical figures in local communities and regions over time

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Reflections: Why Pennies For Pups Worked

- Students
- Teachers

"It felt good because we were helping other people who really needed help." – Brooke

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Questions?



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References

National Corporation for National and Community Service
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/servicelearning/>

Disability Awareness Information
www.ncpublicschools.org/newsroom/news/2010-11/20101001-01

Service Animals in Schools, NASN. January 2013

More than Just a Pet
www.invisibledisabilities.org/educate/serviceanimals/morethanjustapet/

Paws for Purple Hearts
www.pawsforpurplehearts.org/