



The Entrance Public School

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Wellbeing Dog Program

Dear Parents/Carers

We are so excited to inform you that Murphy, our Wellbeing School Dog, will be visiting our school regularly. Murphy is part of our Wellbeing Dog Program that is designed to assist with educational support and provide affection and comfort to our students and staff.

Murphy is a Labradoodle puppy. He was identified as having a suitable temperament required for a School Wellbeing Dog by qualified Dog behaviouralist at 8 weeks old. He is a very easy going and fun-loving puppy, that has made wonderful progress during his intensive trauma therapy training. Being a Labradoodle, Murphy has a non-shedding, allergy friendly coat. He will be regularly bathed and groomed for school. Murphy will be fully supervised by his handlers at all times.

At school, he will be engaging with students through individual and small group interventions, which will then progress to whole class and playground interactions, as he becomes more comfortable in our school environment. All interactions with Murphy are completely voluntary. It has been well documented that dogs can decrease anxiety and benefit children's learning and development. Please refer to the following link of an article that explores the advantages of having a wellbeing dog within a school. ABC- *How therapy dogs can help students in the classroom with more than stress relief.*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-20/therapy-dogs-can-help-reduce-student-stress-anxiety-depression/9564120>

Students will be informed about procedures regarding animal handling and how Murphy will fit into the school routine. Murphy will attend school three days per week to support our students, as he will require rest days in between to ensure the consideration of his own wellbeing.

Please return the permission slip below if you would like your child to **opt out of this program**. If we do not receive your acknowledgement, it will be recorded that you are happy for your child to interact with Murphy our wellbeing dog.

Yours Sincerely

Dave Stitt
Principal

Liana Haslam
Assistant Principal Wellbeing

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As parent/carer of _____ from class _____,
I would prefer him/her **to opt out of the Wellbeing Dog Program** at school.

Signed _____ Date _____