



The Barker

Nor'wester Readers Canine Assisted Learning Program
... all the news that's fit to bark!

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR:

Deborah Glessner

Issue Highlights:

- 2014 FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE
- WALKAPOCKET FUNDRAISER
- WHAT OUR TEACHERS ARE SAYING!

Nor'wester Readers teams are currently visiting classrooms in:

♦ School Districts of:
Bensalem Township
Council Rock
New Hope Solebury
Pennsbury

♦ Chester County IU Child
& Career Development
Center
Coatesville, PA

♦ MCC Warwick House
(BCIU)

♦ Private Schools:
The Center School
Abington, PA
Olney Charter High School
Mastery Charter
Stetson Middle School

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

~Groucho Marx

Volume 4, issue 2

Summer 2014

NOR'WESTER READERS CONTINUES ITS 2014 FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Nor'wester Readers Canine Assisted Learning Program continues to push its 2014 Fundraising Initiative. Our organization is growing rapidly, and our financial needs increase proportionately as operating costs accelerate. Because we do not charge for our services, we rely on grants and your generous donations to grow the organization and expand our services. Your donation is a wonderful opportunity for you, your family, or your business to help support a proven educational program that benefits children.

We continue to encourage individuals and/or groups to consider ways to raise funds for the Nor'wester Readers organization. Casual Days, bake sales, car washes, dance marathons, 5 or 10K runs, bike races, school band concerts, and read-a-thons are just a few ways that students, parent teacher organizations, school faculties, and friends of Nor'wester Readers can contribute. High school students looking for community service hours can organize and run fund raising events.

Please consider making a direct donation at one of our five suggested donor levels:

INDIVIDUAL: \$25

FAMILY: \$75

BUSINESS: \$100

CORPORATE: \$250

FRIEND: \$500

OTHER:



Kathy Guenzel and Kerrigan encourage one of their reading buddies

We are grateful for your support which will help Nor'wester Readers continue to impact the educational environment in the classrooms we serve. Our therapy dogs work amazing magic, and it is our desire to keep that magic alive for those students who suddenly find the ability to learn and achieve by the side of their therapy dog.
(cont. on page 6)



Nor'wester Readers congratulates therapy dog handler and volunteer ,Cathy Larrick, in her new business venture. Cathy is happy to announce her new product, the **WALKAPOCKET**. She shares:

"On my daily walks with my dog I was always thinking about new ways to carry my things more easily. I needed efficient pockets. My work has been in outdoor apparel design so it was exciting to start working on new prototypes. I had the fabric, Aerospace, a lightweight, durable, abrasion resistant, wicking, quick dry mesh texture, knitted in the USA. It would have to lie flat, below my waist, be comfortable and secure with sleek modern lines, and manufactured in the USA. My answer is the WALKAPOCKET."

Cathy is donating a portion of her sales to Nor'wester Readers handlers to our organization. If you are a therapy dog handler working with Nor'wester Readers, please let Cathy know when you order your WALKAPOCKET. She will make arrangements for delivery of your orders. We are grateful to Cathy for thinking of us and supporting our 2014 Fundraising Initiative.

<http://walkapocket.com/index.html>

HELP SUPPORT NOR'WESTER READERS and choose one of three stylish WALKAPOCKET designs offered in four color choices to become an essential part of your dog walking apparel.



SAVE THE DATE !!

**NOR'WESTER READERS
FAMILY DOG WALK
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015
TYLER STATE PARK**



SAVE THE DATE! THERAPY DOG and CGC TESTING



Nor'wester Readers will be collaborating with Melinda Berger to offer a Bright & Beautiful therapy dog testing and AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluation on Saturday morning, September 27, 2014 at Holland Middle School in the Council Rock School District.

This testing will be offered only to handlers who are planning to become a part of the Nor'wester Readers team and volunteering with a class in one of the schools we serve.

Please watch our website for details and more information about registering.



From our December 2013 testing

Blake Huttner and his dog Bode are being evaluated on acceptance of a person in a wheelchair.



CGC Test link: https://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm

Bright & Beautiful: <http://www.golden-dogs.org/>



GO BANANAS WITH NOR'WESTER READERS!

The **Richboro Go Bananas Frozen Yogurt** store ran a fundraiser for Nor'wester Readers the weekend of June 13-15. We had therapy dogs, crafts for kids, face painting, and raffle baskets. Go Bananas donated 20% of their sales to NWR supporters back to the organization. A special thank you to Josh and Nicole Hoffman for their support.

A second Go Bananas Fundraiser will be held at the Richboro location the Weekend of September 26-28, 2014. Please support our organization by making time to stop by and buy some delicious, refreshing frozen yogurt. 20% of your purchase will be donated to Nor'wester Readers. All you need to do is tell them you "Go Bananas over Nor'wester Readers!" OR just cut out this article and take it into the Richboro store for your purchase to be counted towards our organization's fundraiser. As always, we appreciate your support.



PAST PARTNERS

The Nor'wester Readers Organization
honors the memory of our therapy
dogs who have crossed the Rainbow
Bridge.

Grace Lennon's Blue

Members of NWR 2008 - 2014

Blue and Grace working with a class at
Wrightstown Elementary.

**HONORING OUR THERAPY DOG TEAMS**

On June 9, 2014, the Nor'wester Readers organization hosted an End Of The Year Celebration breakfast meeting at the Corner Bakery Café in Newtown, PA. Certificates were presented to each volunteer for their service during the 2013-2014 school year. In addition, volunteers with five or more years of participation in Nor'wester Readers were honored with a special recognition certificate and a rhinestone paw pin. The five year honorees are:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Carol Boyle | Nan Muska | Mary Ann Pfannenstiel |
| Linda Lonsinger | Lisa Conicella | Carol Wagner |
| Wendi Huttner | Lynne Weiser | Debbie Glessner |
| Karen McAllister | Grace Lennon | Cathy Guenzel |
| Christina Minsky | Kelly Wolff | Serena Cohen |

**NOR'WESTER READERS HAS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN . . .**

BDR EARTH DAY FAMILY FUN RUN at Washington Crossing Park — April 6, 2014.

Camp Expressions Summer Camp for Children with Special Needs July and August 2014 on The George School campus, Newtown, PA.

Canine Book Buddies — Free Library of Northampton Township, Richboro, PA — July 2014

ESY classes for multiple disabilities students in Council Rock School District — summer 2014

WHAT OUR HOST TEACHERS ARE SAYING!

"I truly do not think there is enough time in my lifetime to fully express how much Kerrigan and Cathy Guenzel have made a difference in my classroom this year. As I type this, I am preparing the room for our "Last Day with Kerrigan" celebration. For our celebration, each student will be receiving a bound book of all of their writing that was inspired by Kerrigan this year. From imagining what Kerrigan would wear for Halloween, to writing about him taking a trip to see Santa on the Polar Express, to a Tall "Tail" that involved Kerrigan wrestling rattlesnakes and wild monkeys in Brazil—he inspired it all. Cathy will be presented with a complete book of their work and pictures I took and the book is about 2-3 inches thick.

Not only did he and Cathy inspire their writing and reading confidence, but he inspired their hearts. One of my favorite quotes is from Aristotle....."Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." No one embodies this quote more than Cathy and Kerrigan. I have students in my class that suffer emotionally and/or mentally due to attention issues or an inner battle with depression and anxiety. Kerrigan has eased their little minds and gave them something to look forward to each week. There were days where Cathy would turn to me with a smile and say, "I don't think we've gotten much work done yet!" from the carpet and I'd reply, "What you're doing is more important than the worksheet they need to complete." She and Kerrigan successfully educated their hearts and their minds each week with compassion, dedication and love.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for finding the perfect match for my special little group of children, and I look forward to (hopefully) working with this fantastic team in the future." (KC – Richboro Elementary CR)



"Your program is priceless! Each year I have seen my lower reluctant readers grow to confident readers. Priceless! Today, as we were sitting as a group in the reading center, a student stated, "Marley is a good listener, and Miss Tricia is a good teacher." Priceless! I asked the group what was their favorite thing about Marley – all answered, "reading to her!" Priceless! The program has also enhanced excitement about writing within my students. During the year I take pictures of Marley and the students. Then the students use the pictures to write in their journals. Amazing how the non-writers become writers when they start writing about Marley. Priceless! My students LOVE to escort Marley, to pet Marley, to read to Marley, to write about Marley, and to read their written stories to Marley! Priceless! Thank you for allowing us to participate." (DG – Goodnoe CR)

"There was one child in my class who was having difficulty being a flexible thinker and would often become frustrated. Throughout the year, I worked with this student to use strategies to help him become unstuck. On one occasion early in the school year, the student was "stuck," and Laila had just entered the classroom. The student reluctantly went over to Laila to read to her. After having some time to chill out and pat Laila, he became more positive in his thinking and was able to enjoy the rest of the day. Throughout the school year, Laila became a positive influence for this student, and in turn, he made great gains in become a more flexible thinker and easing his frustration independently." (LS – The Center School)

"Michele Lecker and Rory have been a wonderful asset to our school and students. On the days they come in, the entire mood of the school changes. It can be an emotionally rough day for some students which will affect the entire school. When Michele and Rory come in there is a sense of peace and tranquility. It is truly amazing to see the transformation. One of our students who was working on her graduation project actually changed her topic half way through to do the project on therapy dogs. She did a wonderful and knowledgeable presentation, completed a brochure, and was very enthusiastic about the project." (JH – The Sloan School CR)

"Our students have struggled with significant personal issues this year, including eating disorders, OCD, anxiety, depression, family illness, lack of academic motivation, etc. Mrs. Grossman and Blu's visits helped brighten the day of students who otherwise have real difficulty connecting with others. There are several students in particular who would light up with Blu's presence. One student in particular struggled with severe anxiety and depression this year, but Blu's visit was the one time when this 17 year old would smile and become engaged with the class. It was amazing to witness the transformation." (SG/LR – CRHS-South)



NOR'WESTER READERS WILL BE AT THE CRAFTS IN THE MEADOW EVENT ~ October 18-19, 2014

Tyler State Park ~ Art Barn Entrance off Newtown Richboro Rd.

Come support our organization and meet some of our therapy dog teams!



2014 FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

(continued from front page)

Nor'wester Readers Canine Assisted Learning Program

2014 Fundraising Initiative Donor Form

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

CHECK ONE:

☐ Individual: \$25

☐ Family: \$75

☐ Business: \$100

☐ Corporate: \$250

☐ Friend: \$500

☐ Other: \$ _____

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK:

Communication
Internet and website fees
Printing and duplicating
Insurance
Public Relations
Advertising
Accounting/Auditing expenses
Volunteer Services Expenses
Salaries
Data Back-up
Social Networking
Workshops & Seminars
General operating expenses
Supplies . . . and more!

Thank you for supporting our community based non-profit Canine Assisted Learning Program. Your tax deductible donation ensures the future growth of our organization committed to education in the schools we serve.

MAIL TO:

Nor'wester Readers
234 New Rd.
Churchville, PA 18966





NOR'WESTER READERS
485 Worthington Mill Rd.
Richboro, PA 18954

215-504-0154
Lab324@aol.com
Dglessner2@comcast.net

Directors:
Wendi Huttner
Deborah Glessner

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The goal of the **Nor'wester Readers** Canine Assisted Learning Program is to utilize registered therapy dog teams who will work cooperatively with public school teachers to support and build student motivation, enhance focus, and increase task persistence. The presence of our therapy dog teams will offer a stress free learning environment which will increase student self esteem and confidence.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Nor'wester Readers therapy dog teams will enhance the educational environment in ways which will prompt students to fully realize their learning potential.

www.norwesterreaders.org



THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Greetings!

We are right in the middle of THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER. Yes, your dogs may be seeking shade with their tongues lolling or preferring to be indoors in air conditioning or in front of fans, but the real meaning of the "dog days of summer" has to do with astronomy. During the period between July 3 and August 11, The dog star Sirius, in the constellation Canis Major, begins to line up with the sun. Because Sirius is one of the brightest stars in the sky, it was once believed that the heat from that star coupled with the sun contributed to the hot days of summer.

In spite of the hot summer days, we have been focusing on therapy dog assignments for the upcoming school year. Teachers and handlers will soon be receiving email notices regarding assignments and the proper procedures to follow to expedite the process of gathering allergy and parent clearances.

We are continuing our 2014 Fundraising Initiative throughout the remainder of the year. A donation form is included in the newsletter. Please consider making a donation and sharing our initiative with your friends and family. We are grateful for your support in any amount. Ongoing donations and sponsorships enable us to keep the magic alive for those students who suddenly find the ability to learn and achieve by the side of their therapy dog.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Go Bananas Fundraiser the weekend of September 26-28 in the Richboro store. Stop by and enjoy some froyo knowing that 20% of your purchase is going towards our organization.

Please take a moment if you are on Facebook to go online and LIKE US! We appreciate it when you SHARE our Facebook posts. It's one way we can spread the word about our organization and the wonderful work our teams are doing.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful school year.

Debbie Glessner

