

10/27/08

Dear Parents,

My name is Megan Polley (Diane Polley's daughter). I am writing to introduce you to an opportunity for your child (children) during afternoon Creative Kids Club.

I have a B.A. in Psychology and also attended the Assistance Dog Institute in Santa Rosa, California where I completed certification to train service dogs. Holly, my 4 year old Golden Retriever, was trained as a service dog, but due to health issues (she has minor hip dysplasia) was not able to be placed. So I adopted her. While in California, she and I were involved in a school program where children read aloud to visiting dogs.

Reading to a dog provides a fun, non-judgmental environment where children can improve their reading skills. Children may feel self-conscious reading aloud in a group. Research with therapy animals shows that children are often more comfortable interacting with animals. A dog's calm and attentive presence is comforting, and as a result, the child can begin to discover how enjoyable and worthwhile reading can be. Teachers report that children participating in Reading to Dogs programs often demonstrate improved reading skills.

Holly and I would like to visit Creative Kids Club one afternoon a week and have any interested child try reading to her.

If you would like your child to have this opportunity to read to Holly please return this permission slip by Wednesday, October 29.

Megan and Holly



I give permission for my child(ren) _____ to participate in the "Reading to Holly" program at St. Croix Catholic School.
