

Therapeutic Paws of Canada

PAWS Room Informative Letter



Dear Parent/Guardian,

On date: Monday, January 15th and Thursday, January 18th at lunch, the Therapeutic Paws of Canada, a Pet Therapy Team, will be coming to our facility to provide a free pet therapy program called a PAWS Room. Your child will have the opportunity to participate by interacting with the Certified Pet Teams in a group setting to promote health and wellness.

Therapeutic Paws of Canada is a non-profit organization of volunteers whose pets have undergone a strict Therapy Pet Evaluation to determine their suitability to work with children and adults. All pets have been certified in this national organization to work in these programs. All pets involved have up to date vaccinations and handlers have full background checks and Criminal Record Check for Vulnerable Persons clearance.

PAWS Rooms have been used in many other schools as well as many colleges and universities. Medical evidence suggests that the presence of a Therapy Pet has been shown to lower blood pressure and heart rate and release chemicals (oxytocin) in the body that make us feel more relaxed, peaceful, and happy. This program is commonly used in conjunction with other Health and Wellness initiatives within the school to promote a healthier learning environment.

I understand that the Handlers and the Dogs/Cats involved in this program are members of Therapeutic Paws of Canada and have been certified by that organization as Therapy Dog/Cat Teams or where the program is provided to minors, as Child Certified Therapy Dog/Cat Teams. Therapeutic Paws of Canada has strict guidelines in place for the safety of those they visit and for the safety of teams performing the visits. While every possible precaution is taken, accidents can and do happen and can occur without fault of either the participant, the facility, it's employees/agents or the service provider being Therapeutic Paws of Canada and its certified teams. The chance of injuries or incident can be reduced by carefully following instructions at all times whilst engaged in the visits. By permitting this activity you accept the associated risk.

If you do NOT wish your child to participate in this program please inform the appropriate staff at our facility or contact the Team Leader below for more information.

Diane Myers, Guelph Team Leader
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Website: www.tpoc.ca

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