



Ollie!

Master of Calm Energy

School District K-9 Role Model

"Ollie," is a five year old golden retriever. He first started working in the Prince Rupert Middle School when he was 5 months old as a pilot project to see if having a K-9 role model in a school would help students to become calm, confident and caring in their interactions with both people and animals. Ollie's specific role was to bring smiles, calmness and positive energy to the school. His presence and work in the middle school surpassed any expectations the students, staff and administration had and became an integral part of the school community. The following year Ollie moved to Terrace and became the Official School Dog for three schools including; Suwilaawks Community School, Thornhill Primary and Cassie Hall. Ollie attended assemblies, participated in DPA classes, worked with students who were having a difficult time, often just being there for them when they felt overwhelmed, frustrated or sad. He visited many classrooms, often educating students about how to be "Pack Leaders" and understanding dog behavior. Staff also came to see Ollie for a quick pet or to just find calmness and balance to their day.

Although Ollie has not been in the schools regularly since Anne retired, he will be visiting New Hazelton High School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for the next few months.

Ollie is also a certified Saint John Ambulance Therapy Dog. He is certified for the Paws 4 Stories Children's Program. Many children, who struggle with reading or are just anxious about reading out loud, love to read to Ollie. He is nonjudgmental and an excellent listener. Ollie's calmness helps children to relax and feel more confident about their reading and themselves. Ollie partnered with the Terrace Public Library four years ago and visits the library on a regular basis. Ollie's last 8 week session at the library was working with four autistic boys. The progress in their reading ability and communication skills were amazing!

For more information about Ollie you can contact Anne Dopson (adopson1022@gmail.com).

