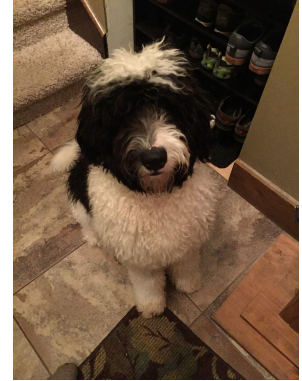


TrekNorth Therapy Dog Announcement



TrekNorth is beginning a Therapy Dog program with our very own therapy dog, Ziggy. Ziggy and his owner, TrekNorth teacher Leslie Drimel, have been trained to be a therapy dog team through the Paul Bunyan Dog Training Association Therapy Dog Training course. Ziggy is also certified with the American Kennel Club as a Canine Good Citizen.

Ziggy is a sheepdog/poodle mix, hypoallergenic, non-shedding, mild tempered and loving. He will be working with Leslie and with our school social worker, Rebecca Snyder, whom has also completed the Therapy Dog training course. Ziggy will work supervised by Rebecca or Leslie at all times during the day.

The incorporation of Therapy Dogs in schools has been shown to be beneficial to children's psychological development, social skills, and self esteem. Ziggy will be available to calm fears, relieve anxiety, and teach skills that many of our students will benefit from. At the times of the day when Ziggy is with Leslie, he will act more like a class pet. He will work with Rebecca in a Therapy Dog role in small group, or individual settings. He is also being trained as a Bemidji Area Reading Canine (B.A.R.C.) dog, and will be able to help students with reading interventions.

If you are interested in learning more about the use of Therapy Dogs in schools the following website has a great deal of information and links:

www.charlotteslitter.org

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Leslie or Rebecca:

Leslie Drimel ldrimel@treknorth.org

Rebecca Snyder rsnyder@treknorth.org

Please contact Leslie or Rebecca by **Monday November 27th** if you do NOT want your child to have contact with our therapy dog. If you are in support of your child interacting with Ziggy no further action by you is necessary.

Thank you!