



4 February 2020

Dear Parents

Therapy Dog

Cannington Community Education Support Centre has a Therapy Dog that resides in one of the year 9 classrooms. Bentley is an 18 month old Basset Hound and has been certified for this role. His certification has been done through K9 Support (you can find out more about them on www.k9support.com.au). Having this certification means that he has been deemed suitable to work with students in a Special Needs context.

There are many benefits of having Therapy Dogs available to students including teaching responsibility, improving the mental health and welfare of the students, and increasing self-esteem (<https://www.petsintheclassroom.org/benefits-of-classroom-animals/>).

I am planning to bring Bentley to school and incorporate him into my classroom program. This will include a variety of activities, including being available to students who are upset and would like to just sit and hang out with him.

"The basset hound is a friendly, easy going dog. Originally hunting in packs, they tend to be good with other dogs and other pets in general. Bassets are people oriented and get along well with children. Fairly smart dogs...a firm, patient hand with plenty of creativity is required to bring out the best in them." (<https://www.hillspet.com.au/dog-care/dog-breeds/basset-hound>)

Your Child will undoubtedly have opportunity to interact with Bentley when he is at school. This will usually be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and sometimes on Fridays, this semester.

If you have any questions regarding the benefits of having an animal at our school, or any other concern, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9351 2480.

Yours sincerely,

Rhoda Whelan

Senior Teacher, Therapy Dog Handler

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