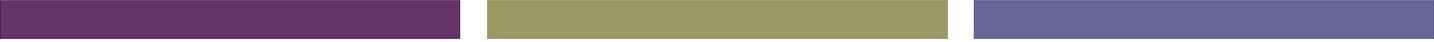


# Beaverdam Elementary School

15485 Beaverdam School Rd,  
Beaverdam, VA 23015



August 24, 2015

Chris Miller  
Director, Sprite's HERO, Inc.  
Paws to R.E.A.D.® Program  
3916 Fauquier Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23227

Dear Ms. Miller,

Beaverdam Elementary is pleased to begin its third year of partnering with Paws to R.E.A.D. ® to enhance the literacy skills and enjoyment of reading in our students. The Paws to R.E.A.D. ® program has become a mainstay for motivating and encouraging some of our youngest students who are developing readers. The commitment of your organization and the dedication of the handlers and therapy dogs, which volunteer their time and talents to our school, are invaluable. Of the many intervention programs offered at our school, Paws to R.E.A.D. ® is the one that is met with the most enthusiasm by our students.

Teachers are eager to enroll students in the Paws to R.E.A.D. program because students regard it as pleasurable, fun, and rewarding. The students enrolled in the program often do not realize the benefits of the program in relation to their literacy skills but definitely benefit emotionally from their relationship with the therapy dogs. The students express excitement, admiration, and sheer joy when greeting the therapy dogs and their handlers. They also enjoy their time reading with the R.E.A.D. team, which is individualized, differentiated, and special.

Several of the students enrolled in the Paws to R.E.A.D. program have made gains in their literacy skills. Teachers have noticed improvement in decoding, fluency, and comprehension skills as a result of enrollment in the Paws to R.E.A.D. program. More importantly, perhaps, is the fact that most of the students enrolled in the program have changed their attitudes about reading. It is no longer viewed as dull and laborious but rather interesting and fun. Many students have also gained confidence in their reading, which is a factor that will propel them to take risks and try new challenges. That in itself is a huge accomplishment in breaking down the barriers of reading insufficiencies.

I am looking forward to renewing our partnership with Paws to R.E.A.D. for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Your organization's commitment to servicing developing readers at no cost to the school has allowed us to continue the program, offering a resource of immeasurable value to our students. I applaud you and your R.E.A.D. teams for your dedication and devotion to young readers in the great Richmond area.

Sincerely,

Doris Favale  
Reading Specialist  
Beaverdam Elementary  
Hanover County Public Schools.