

THE LIGHT HOUSE

September 30, 2004 Issue #4 Edited By: Hickory Classroom



Inside this issue:

Pet Service Program
Student Writing
Student Artwork
Photographs
Interviews



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Principal's Spotlight:



Doug Herman, Director
Grandfather Academy

The following information is based on an interview conducted by The Hickory Group Reporters (Grades 5-10).

We wondered what was going on this year so we went to Mr. Herman for some answers.

9th-grade reporter: can you make some general comments for the newsletter.

Mr. Herman: Sure

9th-grade reporter: What are some things happening this year.

Mr. Herman: Volunteers from Appalachian State University are coming to do guest reading for smaller groups.

9th-grade reporter: What about special lunches?

Mr. Herman: The special lunches are planned by the Student Activity Committee.

9th-grade reporter: what about the present damage of Hurricane Ivan.

Mr. Herman: I am planning for 2 (two) flood days which are normally for snow.

9th-grade reporter: What about the possible damage from the two tropical storms Jeanne, and Karl

Mr. Herman: We may have more flood days because of the two tropical storms.



Pet Service Project (“THE LIGHTHOUSE” FEATURE ARTICLE FOR THIS ISSUE)



“They worked hard and did not give up,”

Have you seen a variety of canine critters around the Grandfather campus lately? If so, you have Ms. Laura Hickey to thank! It's all because of her brilliant idea that we have this Pet Service Program at both the school and home!

We asked what gave her the idea. “The natural friendship between children and animals,” she said. When asked why she sees

this as a positive step, she said it ensures that the Grandfather children have every opportunity to work through their issues. She believes animals can help kids with this. We also asked how Hickory was chosen as the first cottage to get its own dog. It was Hickory's level of interest.

“They worked hard and did not give up,” Ms. Hickey said. “They also raised the money for it”. **(cont. on page 2)**



PET SERVICE PROGRAM

We wanted to know what led her to believe that Milo was the right fit for Hickory. Wait until you hear Ms. Hickey's response! "We **"interviewed"** Milo and then introduced him to Gabi and Rudy. We decided it would be a safe environment for him".

We also wanted to know if she worries about the dogs when they are in class, and if so, why?

Ms. Hickey does not worry about them being neglected or harmed by children, but she is a bit concerned about the dogs playing too roughly. She said Gabby might playfully jump on a child and frighten him or her, since these are large dogs..

Also, how might a variety of dogs help the kids?



Ms. Hickey said that Rudy, Gabi, Milo, Bailey, Munchkin and Bojangles all are very different. Their unique personalities bring out different responses and emotions in kids. She said this is interpreted as a good thing, as students have different styles, too.

We then asked Laura to rate the program, on a scale of 1-10. Without a moment's hesitation, she gave it a **20!** She feels that the program has gone beyond her expectations.

Our last question for our Director of Treatment Services regarded how she sees this program changing or growing.



Munchkin, showing she's very much at home here at Grandfather Academy!

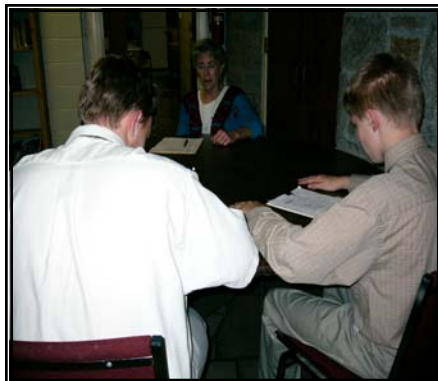
"Our students are the primary focus, with the dogs being the support and secondary focus, so however the animals can support our children is how it will grow both at Grandfather Home and Academy."

In addition, she hopes to see every cottage eventually receive a dog.

We greatly appreciated Ms. Laura's time and enjoyed talking to her. We are so glad we have the pet program here and agree that it will continue to make a positive impact on our students. We look forward to continued growth and development.



Interview by: Paul S. and Alvin B.



"RUDY RECOGNITION" FROM THE HARRIS GROUP

RUDY

By: Cassandra, Maryanne, and Taylor

The funniest thing about Rudy is his barking for attention, and when he grunts, he passes gas. Sometimes when he passes gas, he smells really bad. The whole class covers their nose hoping to block the smell. Miss Patty, the Behavioral Health Assistant, sprays air freshener to block out the smells. She makes sure she sprays every nook and cranny-all the while holding her nose and waving the spray around. Rudy slobbers like Beethoven when he spots something he likes.

All of these character traits are about a sweet dog named Rudy!

DESCRIPTION OF OUR RUDY!

BY: Melanie S.

Rudy is a very large, Great Dane. Large is a word that could possibly be used to describe his size, but I think the word huge or gargantuan would describe him a bit better.

Rudy is light gray and white. He is definitely not a pure white, but is more off white. His color makes him look like he is faded. But I do not think a bath will make his colors look any brighter!

He has big, floppy ears, and really saggy eyes. The skin on his face looks two sizes too big. His nose is REALLY big, but it goes right along with his "big dog" appearance. He might be a little old, and he might not act youthful, but he is a really, cool dog, and is an important part of our classroom!

"Paws"itive Pet Pals

Patches

Patches and his master were going home. Then he heard big noises. Then he went up to his house, and his wife saw him. She was happy that he was home. And then Patches ran up to his house. He got on his big coat. Then, he walked down to where the dock was. Then, he poked the ice. There was ice under his feet, so he slipped into the water. Then, Patches jumped in and saved him.

By: Jacob N.

Patches is a very heroic dog. He saved his master's life. I think he is a hero. I think I would love to have Patches as a pet.

By: Brittany N.

Rudy

Has gray and white spots
 Has a red collar and leash
 Has a black nose
 Is very tall and friendly
 Is a Great Dane
 Is very, very, old
 Is very gentle
 Is very sleepy most of the time
 Is very safe
 Has red eyes.

By: Regina J.



Bailey and Munchkin are all smiles...



Bojangles brings happiness!



Bailey takes a break from the busy, Grandfather Academy day!



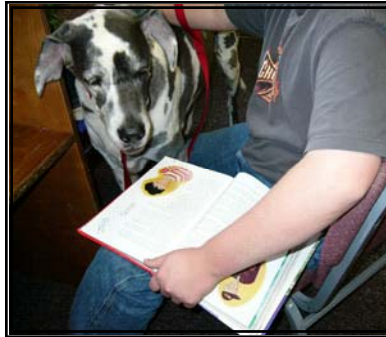
...when it comes to being read to!



“Rudy Recognition” continued from P. 2)

A DESERVED DEDICATION TO SPECIAL RUDY

Rudy is a really remarkable dog. He was neglected and abused, but still made it through. We are learning that abuse happens to other people, even animals. Those of us who were abused and neglected are seeing Rudy as an inspiration to work harder so we can have a loving family like his. He is teaching us empathy because we know what he has been through and we know how hard it is, and it IS hard to see the effects of abuse! Rudy is also teaching us to care for others. We take care of him because we can't help but feel empathy for him. We are also learning how to take care of animals. We learn how to care for him by learning responsibility of having a pet to care for.



When our cottage takes care of Rudy, we have many responsibilities. One of these is taking him outside to use the “bathroom”. When he has to “go”, Rudy makes grunting noises and starts to get “antsy”...We take care and clean up after him so that the animals and people of Grandfather Home live in a clean environment...We give him a treat and say, “Good boy” when he uses the restroom.

Another responsibility is giving him water. We give Rudy water so he won't be thirsty throughout the day. In order for him to be able to drink, we have it fixed in a special way. We put his water bucket on top of a crate. We do this because it's easier for him to drink due to his arthritis.

Another responsibility for having Rudy is helping him to lie down. We keep a bed for him because of his arthritis. If he has a bed, it's easier on his hips when he gets up or down. This helps the eight or nine year old Great Dane to feel more comfortable.

Last but not least, we give him deserved attention. Because all six of us get an hour with him, Rudy is able to have a lot of individualized attention. ...This is all part our therapy.

When Rudy comes into the classroom, you know you are going to have a buddy all day. He keeps us company and gives us a lot of attention. He helps support us because he is always there to hug on and love on when we need something to nurture. He also helps us build confidence, as he doesn't care what you look like. When you talk to him, he listens and doesn't criticize, and he LOVES to be read to!

By: Jennifer B. & Alex C.

“THE GALLERY”

(a display of our talented student arts and crafts work)



“CAUGHTCHA” CREATIVE LEARNING CENTER

Neale Students improving their vocabulary skills the “fun” way-playing SCRABBLE!

