

From: Julie-Anne Richardson

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 7:37 PM

To: vicepresident@caninefriends.org.nz ;

Subject: Canine Friends Pet Therapy Dog visit to HHS PAC- review for your website

Dear Vicky

I wanted to thank you very much for organising the visit from Canine Pet Therapy Dogs to Hillcrest High School Physical Assistance Centre. (HHS PAC) As I mentioned to you in my initial email, we experienced a bereavement at the beginning of 2019. This was a very traumatic time for all of us. One of the students, Sacha Gair, wanted to do something positive for her peers and the staff in the PAC. Our Physiotherapist mentioned Dog Therapy and so Sacha and I investigated websites online and contacted you

We managed to keep this a secret and it was a lovely surprise for all concerned. A small group of students and their teacher prepared and bagged dog treats for each of the dogs. This was a learning experience for the students as they researched appropriate ingredients and designed the packaging. They also ensured that no plastics were used in the packaging.

From my initial contact and throughout the process, I have been genuinely impressed with the dedication of yourself and your volunteers. We were fortunate to have 10 dogs and their owners visit us. The students and staff were very excited, Sacha was ecstatic and so excited that she did not trust herself to speak!

I have seen the transformation in the students when we have had the occasional dog visit us, but this visit took it to a whole new level. The dogs were extremely well behaved in a tight space with so many people dogs that they had never seen before. The owners were generous with their time and they were very attentive and made sure that they took their dogs over to the students who mobilise in power chairs and are not able to move without an assistant.

We found this visit to be such a positive experience that we would really like to make it something that occurs once a term!

Kind regards

Julie-Anne Richardson
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