

South End School

116 Harper Terrace
Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009



Lynn DiMatteo, Principal
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Dear South End Parents and Guardians,

A wonderful opportunity has been presented to us by one of our South End neighbors. Mary Ellen Monahan has offered to visit South End on Friday afternoons with her Labradoodle, Abiageal who is a Therapy Dog, certified by Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. Abiageal has an impressive resume as a volunteer for St. Barnabas Paws for Patients. I have had the pleasure of meeting with Mary Ellen over the past few weeks as well as Abiageal and look forward to their visits to SE to meet our teachers and children.

There is no doubt that mood and spirits lift for most of us when a pet enters a room. However when a Therapy Dog enters a group, students become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident in the area of reading. Therapy Dogs provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviors, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun. Our goal is to have Abiageal visit one grade level on each of the Fridays she is with us and have students read to her. She will always be accompanied by Mary Ellen.

Please see the attached permission slip so we are sure you wish your child to participate. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me (dimatteo.lynn@cgschools.org). We are so excited to offer this opportunity to our students and staff.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lynn DiMatteo, Principal
Cedar Grove School District
South End Elementary School



Abiageal

We would like to begin on Friday, so please detach and return promptly. Thank you.

_____ I **DO** give permission for my child _____ to participate in the Read to a Therapy Dog Program.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

_____ I **DO NOT** give permission for my child _____ to participate in the read to a Therapy Dog Program.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____