



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that Welly, a Facility Dog, will be working in our school in partnership with two of our Social Workers, Jodi Allward and Sony Brar. Welly will assist Jodi and Sony in their support of students and in their promotion of positive mental health and wellness. Welly is scheduled to join our Bishop Macdonell Community after the Thanksgiving weekend.

Welly is a highly trained Labrador Retriever and is certified by National Service Dogs (NSD), based out of Cambridge, Ontario. National Service Dogs is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). Welly has been trained to ADI standards for Facility Dogs and is highly obedient, and well-mannered. For information about some of the benefits of having a Facility Dog to provide CAI, please see the information enclosed with this letter.

There will be further information posted on our website about how we are integrating Welly into our daily routines here at Bishop Macdonell. All students and staff will be instructed as to proper protocol regarding the Facility Dog. Although Welly is a friendly, well-mannered dog, Jodi and Sony will ensure that all guidelines are followed in how students and staff approach and interact with the Facility Dog, in order to maintain his excellent training. Please be assured that we are cognizant of potential allergies some students may have and thus are implementing best practice strategies in order to help prevent any issues in this regard.

We look forward to welcoming Welly and the anticipated benefits that having such a resource will bring to students and staff at Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School.