



R.E.A.D.®

ON!

Continuing Education for R.E.A.D. Teams

VOL. X ~ No. 4

April 2025

Heartwarming News from READing Paws

From Merilee Kelley:

READing Paws has been under the scrutiny of the Catholic Diocese in Nashville. St. Michael's was asked to "test" the program for the Diocese and, if approved, the program would be rolled out to all 20 schools in the Nashville Diocese.

We have two teams there, volunteering with selected 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders on a weekly basis. It FINALLY started about a month ago.

Got this email from one of the teams last night:

Hi Merilee,

I wanted to pass on the wonderful comments from St. Michael's (teachers, staff, principal, priest, and parents).

The Principal has met with the diocese educational team and spoke many accolades about R.E.A.D. A couple of the teachers praised Ripley and showed gratitude about how much their students are enjoying it. I mentioned to the Principal how I've seen a difference in the students just during these first three visits. I mentioned one of the students in whom I've seen such a change from the first day to today. She said that the student's parent works there at the school and would love to hear it.

The parent came out of her office and gave me a big hug. Her son, who has dyslexia, on day one came to her with such a big grin on his face. He said, Mom! I read to Ripley and she fell asleep. Ms. Susan told me that means she is enjoying my reading to her. It made Ripley so calm." He went on, "Mom! She understood me and didn't make me feel bad."

My heart is full and warm. I know this is a place for Ripley to spread love. His mom just gave me a big hug and said "Thank you and please come back next school year, too!"

The Principal said, "We are elated. This is *such a phenomenal program.*"

I can go on more. I just wanted to let you know R.E.A.D. has made quite a mark in the Nashville Diocese:)

– Susan Santoro & Ripley

ALSO IN NASHVILLE:

This sweet scene happened at Sunset Elementary School in Brentwood TN (Nashville area) — a R.E.A.D.er cozying up to Millie, partner of Linda Fairbanks.



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS / R.E.A.D. ~ www.therapyanimals.org

4050 South 2700 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84124 (or) PO Box 17201, Salt Lake City, UT 84117 • 801.272.3439