



Monday 19 September 2022

Dear Parents,

Oran Park High School will trial the use of a dog therapy program for students throughout Term 4 of this year.

We are able to trial 2 dogs working in the school; *Frank*, a French Bulldog and *Suzie* a Labrador. Both dogs are fully matured and vaccinated and show a highly loving, calm temperament.

Frank and Suzie will initially work with students in our Disability Support classes, under full adult supervision and if successful, may increase their work with selected students as identified by the school's Wellbeing Team.

Interaction with Frank and Suzie as part of a dog therapy program is entirely optional and students and/or parents can decline at any point.

Dog therapy is a recognised intervention supported by research with benefits that include:

- increased connectedness across the school for staff and students
- reduced anxiety and stress from patting or interacting with a dog
- increased positive student engagement
- support for emotional regulation and social/emotional awareness

A risk management plan has been developed and will be implemented across all areas of the school. As part of this plan, the dogs will be restricted to areas where contact with students who have allergies or a fear of dogs, is unlikely.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the trial of the dog therapy program please contact the school.

For support in translating this document into another language please visit <https://bit.ly/3cjhCWn>

Regards,

Brad Mitchell

Principal

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

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