



## Back to School - Planning and High Hopes

The start of every school year is hectic with the need to sort through tons of details. Given the current surge within our community of the Delta variant of COVID-19 and the commitment of our school districts to offer quality in-person education, planning is even more complicated. The local schools have expressed a desire to resume the Read to Rover volunteer program to benefit their second graders, so we have been working creatively to figure out how this can be done safely. The requirements in all cases are 1) volunteers must be fully vaccinated, 2) masks will be worn, and 3) social distancing will be enforced between students and handlers (but not necessarily dogs and kids).

At Chimacum Creek Primary School, Kim Pratt has been in discussions with Principal Kyle Ehlis. Starting in October, we plan to hold Read to Rover sessions out of doors on Friday mornings. In the photo above, Juniper, Grady, and Lana O'Neill

are modeling how this distancing might look. Hopefully, the COVID-19 case rates will settle down before the arrival of rainy and cold winter weather, allowing us to revisit the outdoors plan.

At Port Townsend's Salish Coast Elementary School, Donna Geer, Carla Ellis, and Laura Joshel have been corresponding with Principal Lisa Condran and Librarian Denise Aedan about social distancing indoors within the well-ventilated school library space. Denise will clarify the protocols for kids to safely interact with the dogs and define a structured seating plan that will facilitate contact tracing. The details sound very carefully thought out and we look forward to being able to resume the program with confidence.

In the Quilcene Schools, librarian Alicia Johnsen is putting out a call for more volunteer teams which is their greatest need. They have plenty of room for distancing. It will be a Wednesday program. If anyone is interested in becoming a Read to Rover therapy dog team to serve Quilcene, please let us know. Contact us at [olympicmountainpals@gmail.com](mailto:olympicmountainpals@gmail.com).

## **Kim Gives Portraits to the Chimacum Read to Rover Volunteers**



*Julie Read, Kim Pratt, Shirley Williams with painting of Otis,  
Georgia Towle with painting of Topaz. Christina Pivarnik with painting of Shawnigan  
and Sidney, and Carla Ellis*

We've been following the story of Kim Pratt's marvelous painting project in previous issues of our eNews. Her original goal was to express her gratitude by giving each of the long-time Read to Rover volunteers a painting she did of their dog. This goal was



recently realized at a party hosted at Georgia Towle's Lucky Dog Training facility. After much socializing with friends who have not been together in a really long time, the volunteers went home with paintings they will treasure. The kids will not be left out since prints of the paintings have been made to hang in the Chimacum Creek library. Thank you so much to Kim, for these wonderful gifts, to Julie, for being a great art teacher for Kim, and to Georgia for hosting the party.

## **Impressive Early Results for the New Clinic Funding Model**

Thanks to all who have continued to support us as we change from our initial private vet voucher system to funding affordable spay/neuter services through clinics at Center Valley Animal Rescue and the Jefferson County Humane Society. Initial statistics for 2021 show that through July of this year, we have subsidized 280 spay/neuter procedures through our partner clinics. At this rate we will be on track to fund 100 more procedures than we did in 2020. At the same time, our veterinary service costs have gone down about \$5,000 compared to this time last year. This means we are helping far more lower income county residents to spay and neuter their pets at a much lower cost per procedure for OMPP. Our efforts to publicize these services (which include affordable vaccinations, microchips and licensing fees) will ramp up for the rest of the year and we expect even more positive numbers by the end of 2021. Your contributions to OMPP are going even further to assist our community. We are grateful to you for making this program possible.

[Visit our website](#)

## **We Welcome New Board Members**

Pet Pals is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to our Board of Directors, Kim Pratt and Donna Geer.

Kim has coordinated the Read to Rover program at Chimacum Creek Primary School since its founding.

Donna will be leading the Salish Coast Elementary School Read to Rover program.



## **Please Contribute**

In these times, we see more clearly that it takes all of us together to make good things happen.



*Kim Pratt with Boo Radley*

One way you can help is to support Pet Pals so we have the resources to serve our community through our funding of low income spay and neuter clinics and our therapy dog programs.

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization. Please consider donating today.

[Donate](#)



*Donna Geer with Cooper*

## Olympic Mountain Pet Pals

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