



October 16, 2020

Families of W.G. Murdoch,

W.G. Murdoch is proud to announce that we now have a Certified Therapy Dog available to us! Roo is a Portuguese Water Dog and belongs to Miss Danielle Fink. She will be spending most of her time with the grade 6's but will be available to students experiencing emotional challenges on an 'as needed' basis. She loves long walks, snacks and playing ball, but is always happy to curl up next to you while you're reading a good book. She is also hypoallergenic and non-shedding.

Therapy animals have been proven to reduce anxiety and stress, particularly in students. Having a fuzzy, tail-wagging body present can help to regulate students and assist with the everyday stresses of school. For more information about animal therapy, click the link below.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/consumer-health/in-depth/pet-therapy/art-20046342>

When Roo is present at the school, there will be signage posted at the main entrance to the school in order to support our school community in knowing when this added support is available to our students. Should you have any concerns related to the presence of a therapy dog at W.G. Murdoch, please reach out to Mr. Keenan by email at dkeenan@rockyview.ab.ca or call the school at 403-946-5665. We are excited about this new support we are able to offer in the school and look forward to the positive impact Roo will have with students in the school.

Derek Keenan
Principal, W.G. Murdoch School