

Volunteer Barb Lindholm and sidekick Nikko make a difference to readers

By Shelly Miller

As a volunteer at Roosevelt Elementary School for 16 years, Barb Lindholm says there is no place she would rather be. For her first eight years, she served as a weekly classroom volunteer in Jeanne Fitterer's first grade class. For the past eight years, Lindholm has spent additional time with her canine reading buddy Nikko, who is a certified therapy dog, helping students develop confidence and reading skills in a unique and engaging way.

"Nikko and I bring a fun aspect to reading through the Canine Reading Buddy program that makes kids feel special," said Lindholm. "I see them come out of their shell while they read to us."

Lindholm says volunteering is rewarding and helps keep her young and broad-minded. For a retired nurse who once considered teaching, the opportunity was a great fit.

"I spent my professional life working with the elderly so after retirement I knew I'd like to work with the young," she said. Lindholm was one recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Award this year in the schools. If you are interested in volunteering, call 507-387-5501 or email volunteer@isd77.org.



Barb Lindholm and canine reading buddy Nikko read with Roosevelt student Wyatt Hornemann.

Health services helps start the year off right

Immunizations

For the health and safety of all children in the schools, immunizations must be current to begin the school year. Children who cannot be immunized for medical reasons or whose parents are opposed to immunizations need to provide proof of legal exemption. The following immunizations are required to begin the school year.

Preschool

- *1 Varicella (chicken pox) or documentation of disease
- *1 Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- 4 Diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP)
- 3 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Haemophilus B (Hib)
- 2 Hepatitis A

Kindergarten

- *2 Varicella (chicken pox) or documentation of disease
- *2 MMR
- **5 DTaP
- 4 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B

Seventh grade

- *2 Varicella (chicken pox) or documentation of disease
- *2 MMR
- 3DTaP
- 1Tdap booster after age 11
- 4 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Meningococcal

*Minimum age: on or after first birthday. **Final dose: on or before age four.

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