

Dogs aid reader confidence

The Janus School is being taken over by dogs once a month as part of a new program to help students read.

On the third Tuesday of each month, certified therapy dogs visit school as part of a program introduced by teacher Susan Thompson.

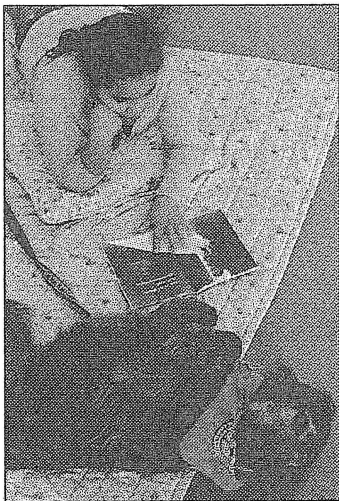
Students take turns partnering with a tail-wagging dog and focusing on their reading skills for 10 to 15 minutes.

"The uniqueness of this program is that it helps students to associate reading with a very positive experience, leading to better reading skills and increased self-esteem," Thompson said.

One Janus student declared his first experience with the reading dogs as, "The best day ever!"

All the dogs that visit The Janus School are certified through Therapy Dogs International, a volunteer organization dedicated to regulating, testing and registering therapy dogs.

A team of seven volun-



Riesling, a golden retriever, stretches out while being read to by one of 28 students at The Janus School on Tuesday.

teers co-ordinates the visits at Janus School from 9:50 to 10:40 a.m.

For more information, contact Nick Chapman, director of development, at 653-0025 x105, or nchapman@thejanusschool.org.