

**NORWOOD'S COAKLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS READ WITH
THERAPY DOGS 'ADDIE' 'BANDIT' and 'MYLES'
FEBRUARY 28 AT 9:15 AM
DURING 'READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK'**

*- Therapy Dogs from Dog B.O.N.E.S. Listen to Children Read, Remove Pressure Creating Fun,
Relaxed Environment -*

- WHAT:** February is "I Love to Read Month" and 'Read Across America Week'. To encourage a love of reading, therapy dogs Addie (Shetland Sheepdog) and Bandit (Shih Tzu) from Dog B.O.N.E.S., a Massachusetts therapy dog non-profit, will offer companionship and motivation to Norwood middle-schooler children (ages 11-15 years old) as they practice reading aloud. Children who receive reading support are often self-conscious and have difficulty reading in front of classmates. However, reading to an attentive therapy dog is non-judgmental and provides a safe and relaxed audience, allowing a child to practice reading skills, build self-esteem, and associate reading with a pleasant experience.
- WHY:** The facts are significant. Literacy is a learned skill. One in four children grow up without learning to read. Illiteracy is passed down from parents who can neither read nor write. Source: <http://dsorg.us/19k2QSw>
- WHEN:** Friday, February 28, 2014
- WHERE:** Coakley Middle School
1315 Washington St, Reading Room
Norwood, MA 02062; 781-762-7880
- TIME:** Program starts at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 2:00 pm

Dog B.O.N.E.S of Massachusetts is a non-profit volunteer based organization whose primary purpose is to provide well trained, affection, obedient, registered and insured therapy teams for visitations to hospitals and schools where they may provide therapeutic contact with the elderly, the disabled or the young. For information on Dog B.O.N.E.S of Massachusetts, visit <http://www.therapydog.info>.

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