

# Henry Wrinkles visits Paragould Junior High School

By Joy Dachs

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Reading comes easy for some, but for others, a little extra encouragement is needed. That is where Henry comes in.

Henry Wrinkles and his master, Susan Boyd, visit area schools on a regular basis. On Wednesday, Henry and Boyd spent the day with Mrs. Skelton's exceptional needs class at Paragould Junior High School. Boyd and Henry helped the students learn about ants.

"Each student was given a book about insects and they had to present a fact about ants," said Skelton. "Each student read their fact out loud to the class for discussion."



Ant facts varied from how many legs they have, to all soldier ants are female.

Even Henry had his own ant fact, and sat at his own desk with his own insect book.

After the students presented their facts, Henry took his place on a mat and students took turns reading stories they wrote about Henry to him.

Each story carried a special message from the students, such as "Henry helps me read," "Henry is a help," and "Henry is a smart dog."

"Some of these kids don't like to talk very much," said Skelton. "When Henry comes they will sit and talk or read to him. They aren't scared to read to him because he will not tell them what they are reading is wrong, so they feel more successful."

Henry visits the class twice every Wednesday, and according to Boyd, the success is phenomenal.

"I used to teach school and one of my classes was very difficult," she said. "I started bringing a dog to class and it really helped the students to learn. So when someone told me that Henry would be good for the summer reading program I remembered how much success I had in the past with my other dog, so we decided to give it a try."

Henry was adopted from the Paragould Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) by Boyd, and he is the featured celebrity with the Henry Wrinkles Foundation. Henry promotes a spay and neuter program, humane education and the PAWS Up For Learning Program.