



A kiss for Buddy: Above, Wood Creek fifth-grader Tara Tandon has a kiss from Buddy, a sled dog. At right, flakes were flying on the day Dan Anderson and his sled dogs came to Wood Creek Elementary School in Farmington Hills.



Easy sledding: Ali Spalter gets a ride from musher Dan Anderson and his dogs.

# 'Snow day' brings dogsleds to life

BY TOM BAER  
STAFF WRITER

It snowed and it snowed last Friday, but you heard no complaints from teacher Lanny Swanson or the 73 fifth-graders at Wood Creek Elementary School in the Farmington District.

Dan Anderson and his husky canine companions thought the weather was just fine, too.

It was a great day for sled dogs, and Anderson had five friendly ones to show the Wood Creek fifth-graders. The youngsters had just finished reading "Wind Song," a book about sled dogs and the famous Iditarod race in Alaska.

"This was the hands-on part of

the project," said teacher Swanson, who added that the kids enjoyed the meeting the dogs and going for rides in the sled.

"So much of what he (Anderson) said were things we had read about," the teacher said. "Several kids said it was the best school program they'd ever experienced."

Anderson, of Nunica, Mich., came with five Alaskan huskies and three sleds.

"I booked this program back in September and, yes, I was worried about what the weather would be like in March," Swanson said. "But it couldn't have worked out better."

"We enjoyed ourselves and we're going to make every effort to have him back next year."

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