

# Burbank Leader

SERVING THE BURBANK COMMUNITY SINCE 1901

WEEKEND, OCTOBER 16-17, 1995



DEVON KIRSCHBAUM / THE LEADER

Kacy Williamson, 10, hugs Shiloh before they show family and friends the results of the Nonviolence Works program.

## Canine duty

Students train shelter dogs and find them homes after violence-prevention program

By Claudia Peschiutta, *The Leader*

**S**OUTH SAN FERNANDO DISTRICT — Shiloh, Scamp, Foxy, Buttons and Solo have a lot to be thankful for.

Because of the efforts of a group of students at William McKinley Elementary School, the five homeless dogs are guaranteed to be placed with families.

The nine students and five canines graduated Thursday from Nonviolence Works — an after-school program that teaches fourth- and fifth-graders kind-

ness and respect for animals, a

nonprofit organization based in Burbank. Fifth-grader Nick Montgomery said he enjoyed the four weeks of helping to feed, groom, train and clean up after Buttons, an energetic terrier mix.

"It was fun because we got to do different tricks," he said.

His mother, Candy Montgomery, and his grandmother, Andrea Lind, said the program had a significant impact on Nick. "It's changed him a lot, I've noticed," Montgomery said. "It's taught him a little more self-control."

and family members at the graduation ceremony some of the tricks they taught their dogs, including how to sit, stay and lay down.

Paul Owens, the director and founder of Raise with Praise, said students are taught to work with dogs using praise and rewards, such as snacks, instead of punishments.

"The whole purpose of the program is to teach children about nonviolence by being nonviolent with animals," said Owens, a professional dog trainer.

The students were chosen by teachers at the school, based on those who