HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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BROWNIE TROOP VISITS HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE LAB

HOLMDEL (March 27, 2017) – Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore Brownie Troop 120 recently made a visit to Dr. Josephine Blaha's science lab at Holmdel High School and the result was

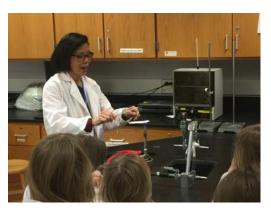
pure chemistry.

Troop 120 is made up of six young ladies (and one younger sister) all of whom are currently third graders at Village School in Holmdel. Greta Buerkle, troop leader along with fellow parents Laxmi Chen and Mariah Dubin, noted that the girls themselves generated the idea for the visit to the high school lab. "At the beginning of the school year our Brownies brainstormed together and made a list of ideas that they wanted to pursue. One of them was "how to be a scientist".



The girls stated they were most interested in robotics and conducting messy experiments," Buerkle said. Dr. Blaha did not disappoint them, especially when it came to the "messy experiment" part of their request. She had the girls complete a lab where they created slime out of common household ingredients.

But the visit was not all fun and games, of course. As Brownies who are aspiring to eventually become Girl Scouts, the troop takes their learning and development very seriously, and Dr. Blaha treated them just as she would treat her high school students. After a tour of the lab, Blaha distributed lab coats and protective eyewear and explained the importance of these items when



conducting any experiment. They learned new terms like "beaker" and "flask" then Dr. Blaha showed them how these tools were used in the lab by illustrating some simple chemical-based reactions. Lab coats buttoned and safety goggles firmly secured, the girls then proceeded to work through the experiment where they produced slime, with Blaha guiding them through the process and answering questions. Troop Leader Buerkle was thrilled to see the girls so engaged and excited and felt the experiment "was an absolutely perfect way to give them a hands-on lab experiment".

Buerkle also felt that Dr. Blaha really kept the girls very engaged throughout the visit, offering exciting information and encouraging their curiosities by answering their questions in a way that

led them to think more deeply about Chemistry. Holmdel's current district goals align with Buerkle's comments as the schools work every day to increase student engagement, challenge and excitement in the learning process and maximize the potential of every student. By having these types of visits, where students in the younger grades are exposed to the high school curriculum, it really creates an even stronger sense of community, on both the personal and academic levels.

In the end, the Brownies not only walked away feeling more confident about the roles they might play as future scientists, thinkers, and innovators, but they were also gifted with their own personal copy of the Periodic Table as well, to complement their lab coats and goggles. It further emphasizes that learning can be hard work, but it can also be fun. As Troop Leader, and the person guiding the girls on their future excursions of discovery, Buerkle appreciated how accommodating Dr. Blaha and Holmdel High School were in making it all happen, and hopes for future collaborative opportunities in the future. She noted that the girls are very curious and adventurous, and that they are lucky to have such an amazing community to support them. And Periodic Table notwithstanding, that is the perfect element for success.