



WILLIAM FLOYD SCHOOL DISTRICT
of the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS EXPLORE THE EXCITING WORLD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Moriches, New York – Local veterinarian Dr. Barbara Etzel, sole practitioner at the Floyd Harbor Animal Hospital, visited the William Floyd Moriches Elementary School to provide the fifth grade students a bird’s eye view of the world of veterinary medicine.

Dr. Etzel began her day at Moriches Elementary as a Guest Greeter. Rita, an Irish setter and therapy dog/show dog, and Veterinarian Technician/Hospital Manager Elaine James, helped greet the students.



Daisy Rosales-Guevara is welcomed by Dr. Etzel, Elaine James, and (Irish Setter) Rita.

On her eight year path to become a veterinarian Dr. Etzel learned about every animal from aardvarks to zebras. A practitioner now for 28 years, Dr. Etzel provides a wide-range of services to “pocket pets” any animal that can fit through the door of her animal hospital. She said, “I wanted to be a veterinarian since I was about 10 years old. It’s great having the opportunity to speak to students who are at the age when

they begin to explore what they want to do. I want them to know they can do anything and they should do something that makes them happy every day.”

The students learned about the day in the life of a veterinarian and the education needed to practice veterinary medicine. Dr. Etzel said, “I examine animals the same way a general practitioner examines people. I check the animal’s ears, eyes, lungs, heart, temperature, and weight. I use a stethoscope, thermometer, scale, and a microscope.”

Her hospital also provides a full range of services that include diagnostic, therapeutic services, and surgical treatments.



Victoria Krammer, Dr. Etzel, Elaine James, and (Irish Setter) Rita.

Victoria Krammer is very knowledgeable about veterinary medicine. Since the age of seven, Victoria, a student in Ms. Peterson’s class has aspired to be a veterinarian. She said, “I know that I have to work hard especially in math and science. My mom said that you have to gain an animal’s trust when you’re a veterinarian.” Victoria bonds with her two cats, Lexus and Beamie, and dog Sebastian each time she brushes them. “My dad told me about the amount of schooling I have to do. This is what I want, so I know I can and will do it.”