

Home > News > Avon-by-the-Sea

Girl Scouts work to promote literacy for their Silver Award

By Amanda Stone

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — It was an evening of furry companions and promoting literacy last Wednesday at Avon Elementary School.

The students of Girl Scout Troop 54 coordinated the Reading to the Dogs program last week, where students had the opportunity to come out to the school to learn about therapy dogs, as well as read to their four-legged friends.

Girl Scouts and seventh-grade students Ellie Farrington, Emily Magrini, Ally Vernagila and eighth-grade student Anna Bongiorno coordinated the evening as part of their trek to receive their Silver Award.

The theme the girls chose to work with in order to receive their award is the promotion of literacy and not just to the usual suspects of young children.

Instead, through various events, the girls helped to promote literacy to the young, old and sick. Each girl is in charge of running their portion of the project and assigning the other girls tasks.

Prior to last Wednesday, the girls also helped coordinate a magazine drive, where they collected magazines from the local community in order to donate them to local community centers and nursing homes.

Emily was in charge of running the magazine drive.

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1



Dublin, a therapy dog, and its owner Sarah Gross [right], of Freehold, were read to by Girl Scouts Ally Vernaglia [from left], 13, Emily Magrini, 12, and Ellie Farrington, 13, all of Avon, during a Reading to the Dogs program at Avon Elementary School. Photo by SUEANNE GOSS, STAR NEWS GROUP

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