

# **THE T.Y. TIMES**

## **THIRD EDITION**

**APRIL 2017**

### ***The Women of T.Y. Attend Blanch I.T.***

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January, the girls of transition year went to “Woman in Technology” in I.T.B. Girls from schools all over the country attended this event. The purpose of this was to get more young women involved in technology. On the first day, we went to a board- room with three other classes. We sat and listened to a women who told us about the types of engineering they do, how they got into the job and how much they earn. After lunch (which we got vouchers for- yum !), we went to a lab where we did experiments testing our problem solving skills.

On the second day we went to Ericsson, we listened to some speakers who told us what would be changing in technology by 2020 and how technology will be able to help us more. On the last day we made towers from card and selo-tape, we had a competition to see which tower was the strongest and could hold ten one cent coins. We also went to a computer room where we made cartoons which had to tell a story. When we were finished we went to the horticulture area were we watched drones and a man showed us how they work. Samantha got to try out virtual reality goggles. At the end of the event we went to a board room were we received prizes. The prizes included vouchers and hoodies. Overall most of us didn’t like the trip because none of us are really interested in this topic for future studies.

### **Bullies Out !**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, a lady called Kayleigh Cullinan, came into our school to talk about bullying. She recalled her horrific experiences of being bullied and the effects of bullying on her and her family.

When Kayleigh was younger, around our age, the bullying began. The bullying included harassment, name-calling and she even got bottles thrown into her back garden by the bullies. She could not leave her house because of all the name-calling. She thought the bullying was over but one day they attacked her and she almost went blind from that incident. Kayleigh then stayed at home for a long time and just listened to music and that is what inspired her to be a singer.

Music is what helped her cope with the bullying; she wanted to prove the bullies wrong. At the end of the talk Kayleigh decided to sing a song for us, she was good and we were surprised, she is an excellent singer. Overall, I think the talk was fantastic.

### **T.Y.'S Get Their Groove On**

On the 20th of January, a Friday morning, Dali class took part in a dance workshop, hosted by a professional dancer. The workshop was planned to take place in the Draiocht but due to a mix up the facilitators came to our school. The workshop took place in the PE hall, this was very handy as we did not have to walk to the centre.

The girl taught us different techniques of dancing, other warm ups and stretching techniques. At the end of the workshop we joined into pairs and created our own eight step routine which we danced for her.

The only bad thing about this day was that, we took part in this workshop in our uniforms, which was not very comfortable. There was an option of doing a further workshop in the Draiocht, anyone who was interested gave their name to Ms. Quinn, Ciara and Bobbi were selected.

### **T.Y. Workshop about Gender Equality**

On 20<sup>th</sup> of January, the T.Y. Class had a workshop on gender equality. The workshop was organised by Ms Quinn. The woman giving the workshop was from Concern. Her name was Claire Marshall.

Claire was talking about gender inequality in different countries. She told us what countries she was currently working with: countries within Asia, Africa and the Middle East. There are countries where women are not allowed to drive or vote even today. In some countries, women are not allowed to go outside without their husband or talk to other men. Women are also responsible for getting the families water supply, they must go early to get this, as it is not safe later in the day. They must also carry the water back, a good distance of around two kilometres. Most girls/women are not allowed to attend school or have a paying job. In the countries Concern work with, they are the voice for these women to empower them, as it is not safe in the current system for them to stand up to inequality.

At the workshop, about half of the class attended and everyone participated. There were many questions asked by the students and students answered questions the facilitator asked also.

### **T.Y.'s Make a Tune**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March the T.Y.'s took part in a song workshop, where professional music artists came into the school and helped create a C.D. Before the songs were created, people were split in two groups. One group created a song about recycling and the other group created a song about racism.

To choose an appropriate genre of music the facilitators asked each person in the class what their favourite type of music was. The majority of the class like rap and pop and they were the genres of music we created our songs in.

Even if people did not like singing, they could write lyrics or play an instrument. Luckily, some fifth years and members of our school's music class came in to help on the singing front. Some of the T.Y. class that sang/rapped were; Borys, Reece and Mahamuud. Most of the class thought that song school was going to be rubbish based on what others had said about it. However, they all changed their attitude at the end of the day saying that it was a blast. We even have recordings of the songs that were created. The song on racism was used in the school during Culture Day.

### **Blakestown's Got Culture**

Blakestown Community School held their first Cultural week on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. The T.Y.'s with the help of Ms Quinn, Ms Daly, Ms Keyes, Ms Byrne and Mr Dowdican were in charge of organising the week's activities.

There was a football world cup, a basketball tournament, a talent show, a fashion show, a photo booth, bracelet making, mask making, video games, a fair trade exhibition, multicultural food and a display on world religions.

This day was not just for the students of Blakestown but the wider school community. 150 primary school students visited as well as parents and other members of the wider community of Blakestown Community School.

The highlight of the day for most was probably the sporting activities. Cultural week reminded us all of how lucky we are to have a school community made up of many different diverse nationalities.