

OUR PULSE

Black female lawyers are paving the way

NIKISHA BROWNE, GRADE 11

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, female students of black descent gathered at Daniels Spectrum Community Centre in Toronto for the eighth annual Sistahs in Law Retreat. This event partnered black female lawyers from the Black Female Lawyer Network with students through the Ontario Justice Education Network. Cathedral High School was represented by four students: Nikisha Browne, Aliyah Gordon, Clemence Nsangamayi, and Anna-Maria Massiah, along with law teacher, Patricia Valeri Tortis.

The program served as a great mentoring experience where Little

Sistahs were able to ask Big Sistahs questions about being a lawyer.

The event offered students the opportunity to network, enabling students to gain contacts in the field of law.

Further, it did this in a way where a sense of togetherness was achieved.

It gave the students the ability to not only gain knowledge about what it is like to be a lawyer, but to really learn what this is like for a black female in the legal profession today.

They started the event by talking about its purpose and the black lawyers that paved the way, such as Myrtle Blackburn who became the

first black female lawyer in Ontario.

They examined race and gender issues from a youth perspective. They did this in an interactive way where Little Sistahs had the opportunity to make hash tags discussing the stereotypes and negative comments they face in relation to people's perception of their race and/or gender as well as the stereotyping they face from within their own race.

This was later presented to the Big Sistahs and the rest of the people that attended the event in the form of a slide show presentation.

In the afternoon, a number of black female legal professionals shared their compelling stories

about their journey to their careers in law. They all had, and in some cases, are still facing difficult obstacles that vary from financial matters to having children and being in school.

One of the many inspiring stories shared was by a young woman who had had two children at the age of 14 and still managed to finish high school, go on to university, volunteer, and obtain a job in the justice sector.

"It was a great day that was very empowering for me because I was able to connect with other black females in a career I one day hope to be in," said Cathedral student Anna-Maria Massiah.



Each week The Hamilton Spectator presents a page of news from local schools. Today, we feature Cathedral High School.

ART MATTERS



Marisela Prudencio, Grade 11, Springtime in Japan

The Path

ERIC RODRIGUES
AND AARON REYNOLDS, GRADE 12

I look to the sky as I'm on my knees
Begging you, would you please
Put me, back on your path.
I seem to have lost my way
Fallen down, gone astray
I need your everlasting grace
You take my hand and calm the
storms
And pull me back into your arms.
That is, where I belong.
Sun is dark, moon is black
No light shines upon my back
As I walk down, this forgotten
path
I see your light further on,
Beckons me, to carry on
To your everlasting love.
You take my hand and calm the
storms
And pull me back into your arms.
That is, where I belong.
In these dark times, I still will
pray
You give me strength day by day,
To help me, carry on.
You placed a light inside my
heart,
Take away all the dark
That covers this forgotten path.
You take my hand and calm the
storms
And pull me back into your arms.
That is, where I belong.

Limerick

TIFFANY MILLS, GRADE 11

Lost was a little girl's tear
That quivered and shook with
such fear
But little did it know
That soon would come snow
Leaving it frozen
Oh, poor little tear

Cézanne's