



Remember Layla *Dating violence murder*

The Center for Youth Leadership (CYL) at Brien McMahon High took a one day break last week from its bullying and child abuse prevention activities to remember Layla Banks.

Layla, a resident of Greenwich and a graduate of Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford, was brutally murdered by her ex-boyfriend at a hotel in

Stamford in 2007. “We’ve done several things over the years to remember Layla,” said Jasmine Velez of CYL. “We’ve held a silent vigil downtown, a hallway demonstration at school and last year we handed out pins to people at our school. We thought t-shirts would be a good way to go this year, so we asked 70 of our members to wear a purple shirt.”

Layla’s death is a reminder that dating violence can have horrible consequences. Did you know that of those teens in Connecticut who were in abusive relationships last year, 30 percent considered suicide and 20 percent attempted suicide (*Department of Public Health*)?

Photo from left: Mirella Fernandez, Maria Rivas and Patricia Rodican