



Dear Parents,

This week we focused on the T in STEAM. On Tuesday we were joined by India Healy O'Connor. She has founded her own app-based business called Xelda. Xelda is an online payments platform where you can scan a QR code to make a payment or donation to a specific person or organisation. India realised that less and less people were carrying cash these days which was affecting charities and small business. From this, she was inspired to develop Xelda. India works hard on the business and marketing side of her company and has outsourced a team of coders to help her with the technology.

During the week some classes have been working on STEAM tasks in school. 5<sup>th</sup> Class have been learning about circuits. They created working circuits with and without switches. Inspired by their work, Amy in Ms. Lamberts class brought in a model of a cable which is laid underwater to supply internet to countries around the world. I'm looking forward to seeing more classes taking part in STEM workshops over the next couple of weeks.

On Friday we were joined by another female founder. Zoe Desmond joined us to tell us about her social network and online community Frolo. Frolo is a supportive community for parents who are looking for advice, information or to meet other likeminded parents. Zoe told us about the challenge of starting a business and how things don't always work out the first time, she reminded us that when we see a problem we should see it as an opportunity to find a solution rather than a reason to stop.

Also on Friday, I presented our latest At home STEAM challenge. The students have been asked to create a flood barrier which would protect a paper or cardboard house. It must be waterproof, and it will need to be tested to make sure it is successfully protecting your card/paper house. I am very excited to see the entries, please send them to me at [lbrennan@mountanvillemjs.ie](mailto:lbrennan@mountanvillemjs.ie) before 10<sup>th</sup> February, in your email please answer this question '*was your flood barrier successful or unsuccessful? Why?*'

Leah

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With many thanks to Barbara Spollen, Rachel O'Reilly & the STEAM Committee