

# Tower Tribune

**Your School. Your Voice.**

Volume 106

March 2013

Dearborn MI, Fordson High School



## Generation of Promise

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## Opportunity Knocks!



Generation of Promise (G.O.P.) is a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with Focus: Hope. The two organizations share a common mission to eliminate hatred and build mutual understanding among students. It brings juniors from a variety of high schools around the metro Detroit area to come together and learn from each other. Each year they choose several Fordson students to represent our community and its unique concentration of Arab-Americans.

The G.O.P. program begins with an ice breaker session during the summer. Students come together in a three day summer retreat. Speaking from personal experience, the bus ride to the camp was a quiet ride with everyone sitting near their classmates; the bus ride back from camp was a loud one with everyone sitting with new friends. Within three days participants go from not knowing each other to forming amazing friendships.

From this point on, students come together one Wednesday of every month. Students discover the history of Detroit and spend the day touring the beautiful city and explore various communities such as: Latino, Asian, African American, and Jewish. They also learn about social issues such as teen pregnancy, social injustice, LGBT issues, homelessness, and poverty. As the program goes on, students uncover the true roots of racism and social injustice. G.O.P. even has a student exchange program where a student hosts a G.O.P. partner for the day in his or her school. The visitor and host exchange roles on another day.

Personally as a former Generation of Promise member, I learned more from the program than I could have ever learned from a school textbook. It provides valuable lessons in engaging, hands-on lessons. Your perspective on various topics will begin to expand beyond the Dearborn state of mind.

For students interested in becoming a part of this program please see Mrs. Cantrell immediately in A128 hall for an application. It is a remarkable program to add to both your college and scholarship applications and to your life experience. This program needs truly dedicated students. Attendance is mandatory at the summer camp program. During the school year, students are not allowed to miss more than two program days. If a student has absence issues, they will not graduate (from GOP) and will not be a part of the Generation of Promise graduation. There is *no financial cost to this program*. As this is a school-sponsored activity, program days are school related events and will not be counted towards audit on the days where the student is absent.

If you are interesting in representing the Pride, Tradition, and Legacy that is Fordson, and you are willing to explore other communities – the G.O.P. experience is for you!

For more information visit <http://www.focushope.edu> and click on Generation of Promise on the left hand side.



## Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Jamieson

By: Zahraa Dabaja

This month I was honored to sit down with Fordson’s one and only, Ms. Jamieson . Ms. Jamieson is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher who is also the Link Crew Coordinator, the 10<sup>th</sup> grader lead teacher and personally one of my favorite teachers. Ms. Jamieson has been teaching for a total of 13 years, 12 of those years in Dearborn. She graduated from the University of Miami of Ohio with a bachelor’s degree in 2000. She then graduated from Wayne State University with a master’s degree in 2005.

Q: What made you want to become a teacher?

“I wanted to become an English teacher because I love books. It was really as simple as that. I love literature and teaching was a way for me to be surrounded by what I love, and maybe even pass on that love to my students. And also because I couldn’t pass Spanish in college and you didn’t need a foreign language to major in education...my current and former students can tell you the whole sordid story...”

Q:Do you enjoy working at Fordson?

“I have taught at several different buildings in the district and Fordson is, by far, the best place I have ever worked. I have had some of my best and brightest students here, and I have met some truly amazing colleagues and friends in my years here. I can’t ever imagine teaching anywhere else.”

Q:What’s your favorite book?

“Asking me to pick my favorite book is like asking me to pick my favorite student...impossible! But my favorite book to teach is probably *To Kill a Mockingbird*...or maybe *Lord of the Flies*...or possibly *Romeo and Juliet*...let’s just say...all of them.”



Ms. Jamieson takes time out for a quick snap shot with student Lyla Khouryzat

# SPORTS

## Tractors Hoop it up

By: Amal Choucair

The Fordson Boys Basketball team has made big strides towards a successful season and continues to work hard on and off the floor winning in more ways than one. Coach Oss says he is extremely proud of his athletes as they have accomplished things that haven't been done in over ten years. This season's team has won over a large fan base and continues to have excellent attendance at all of their games.

The team had a big win over Inkster on senior night as they overcame an early deficit to pull out a victory. Coach says that the Inkster win was rewarding and was "one of the most memorable games of my tenure." Along with this being a farewell night for the seniors, they took to the court with heavy hearts and dedicated the game to our late friend Ali Hachem. The team's overall season record was 12-7 with a league record of 6-2, good enough for second place in the WWAC. In the playoffs, Fordson defeated Edsel Ford and Lincoln Park in the first 2 rounds of the District, but the results of the District finals were not available at the time of publication..



## Season Comes to an End for Lady Tractors



By Amal Choucair

The Girls Basketball season came to a close on February 27th with a bitter loss in the second round of the playoffs to Crestwood. However, the Lady Tractors had an impressive showing in the first round as they knocked out rival Dearborn High with a close 50-48 victory. The team started the game slow only to pull through and seal the win with critical free throws and three point shots down the stretch. Sadly, the team will bid farewell to seven seniors as they move on from their high school careers. The girls finished the season with a 10-13 record and had solid wins throughout the season. Impressive showings from the underclassmen, including Madina Fawaz and Mariam Faraj, let Coach Doug know the squad is in good hands as he steps away from the team himself. Congratulations on a successful season ladies!

Senior captain Talia Hamid was voted to the All-League team and Sikne Mansour, Ghada Bazzi, Raina Hazime, and Souha Homayed were honorable mentions. Talia was the team's leading scorer with 8.5 points per game and Raina Hazime was the leading rebounder.

# SWIMMING



Fordson's Boys Swim Team had a successful season this year posting a 4-3 record and finishing 4th in the WWAC league meet at Belleville.

### In Loving Memory of Ali Hachem

March 3, 1997—February 17, 2013



On February 17th we lost a bright ray of sunshine. We lost a smile that brightened any room. We lost a personality that was sure to be loved. We lost a son, a brother, a cousin, a nephew, but most of all, our friend. Our deepest sympathies go out to his beloved family and friends.

# CLUBS

## KEY CLUB

Fordson Key club members were busy with community service projects in the month of February. On Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> members assisted at Henry Ford Elementary with the annual Science Night Fair. Fordson Key Club members then went to the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center to assist adults with disabilities at their annual Valentine's Day Dance. Fordson students volunteered along side Dearborn High and Melvindale students. Key Club members danced, assisted the disabled, served food, and cleaned up after the event. Once again, our Fordson students showed their giving spirit in an incredible way.



### Call to Key Club Convention 2013

This year the Michigan District of Key Club annual convention will be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan from March 8-10. Fordson Key Clubbers who are in good standing and have been active in our community service projects throughout the year, have been invited to attend. DCON is not a vacation, but rather a great learning experience that promotes leadership skills and making a positive difference in the world.

Our very own faculty members Ms. Zinab K. Zriek and Mariam Soberal-Mikulak, both teachers and Key Club advisors at Fordson High School, have been nominated best advisors of the year. This is a great accomplishment that they will be recognized at the State DCON convention. They both have led meetings, attended services, guided students, volunteered in events and made our community and staff members aware of all the hard work and effort our students put forth on a daily basis. We are proud of them and their achievements through the Key Club organization. Thanks and good luck.



## QUILL CLUB

By: Rasheen Alhamadi

The Quill Club is beginning to collect entries for its annual literary magazine. The club is collecting poetry, short stories, or any form of art. So, if you're an artist of any sort, be sure to submit your entries soon. Quill is also, having a poetry contest. The contests theme is about how a person's legacy can carry on even after they're gone. The prize to the winning poem is \$50. All you have to do is write a poem inspired from the topic and submit it. In order to keep things fair, instead of writing your name on the poem, you're supposed to write a fake name of your choice. Then, you attach an envelope to your poem with your real name inside. The poetry contest submissions are to be dropped off in a folder outside of Ms. Jamieson's room (B-207). The Quill submissions are to be dropped off directly to Ms. Jamieson. So, don't forget to get in touch with your artistic side this year and your work could possibly be printed in Fordson's literary magazine.



### International Club

International Club is run by a group of open-minded students who help others learn about the different cultures and customs of the world. This club meets every Friday at 2:30 in Ms. Mikulak's class in room A109. They have had many fun events such as ethnic food nights where they present information and facts about a country and share food from that specific country. They have also had movie nights where they picked a movie that is about a foreign country. Other things they do is fund raise by holding bake sales to donate to the Gleaners Food Bank. They are planning a horse back riding trip in the spring as well as a universal cultural event. New members are always welcome.-Sara Alqaragholy

## WHEN I LOOK AT THE WORLD

By Alex Zapien

All of my words and thoughts, left unsaid,  
Deeds and actions, left undid.  
We come and go, placing ourselves outside  
The hearts and lives of others. They try and try, but still we always  
run and hide.

We hold out on those who mean the most.  
We constantly brag and boast.  
All of us bother ourselves with petty things.  
Why can't we just enjoy the happiness that love brings?

We all need something in our meaningful lives,  
But yet we evade doing the things we should as they arise.  
Instead of work we play.  
Instead of taking each moment, we waste away the day.

But I say, no more.  
Let us hold each vital moment as it is, before  
The end all comes and takes us all away.  
That is all I have to say....

# Bring a Buddy to Berry

As students across the district begin the second semester many have never taken the opportunity to find out about the many exciting and challenging programs offered at the Michael Berry Career Center (MBCC).

To spread the word about these exciting opportunities, staff at the Career Center will be hosting "Bring a Buddy to Berry" during the months of February, March and April. Students can join a friend who is a current Michael Berry student or he / she may be paired up with a Berry Buddy once arriving at the Career Center for the morning or afternoon session. By participating in Bring a Buddy to Berry, the student will be able to experience the unique learning experiences only offered at MBCC.

The student who is interested can visit the Michael Berry Career Center website at <http://berry.dearbornschools.org>. Here you will find more information about becoming a Berry student for the day! Just click on the link to put in a request to visit. It's that easy!

Here's what to expect on that day:

- Ride the Dearborn School bus to MBCC with the current Berry students and see how easy it is to get there.
- Meet the MBCC teachers and tour the building to learn about all classes offered.
- Spend a two-hour session with your buddy in class. Learn what they do and check out some of the projects they have completed. OR, pick the way you want to spend your time by visiting the classes you are interested in joining.
- Ride the bus back to your home school and see how easy it is to be back for dismissal and or after school events.
- Spend the next several weeks bragging about how cool your visit to MBCC was!

The staff at the Michael Berry Career Center look forward to meeting all prospective students. We hope that you will be impressed by what you see and sign up for classes for next year! Please visit the website for more information or contact our lead teacher, Mr. Riggs at [riggsm@dearbornschools.org](mailto:riggsm@dearbornschools.org).

## BlackBerry: Back to life, or on life support?

By: Hussein Kain

In a world dominated by iPhones and Androids, is there a third place for what once was the King? BlackBerry is fighting for a place in the mobile world with its newly released operating system BlackBerry 10.

Let us be honest, the smart phone world has been calm lately with manufacturers only including minor features and gimmicks with every new iteration of their phone and as a consumer, that gets pretty obvious and boring. The industry needs to step up its game and BlackBerry isn't sitting back on this one.

The BlackBerry Z10 is more than just a new BlackBerry. It's the first BlackBerry that runs on the all-new BlackBerry 10 mobile computing platform. Not one line of code from the old BlackBerry operating system is present in BlackBerry 10. It truly is the BlackBerry experience re-designed, re-engineered and re-invented.

"BlackBerry 10 is not just a device. It is a whole new mobile computing platform" said Thorsten Heins (CEO of BlackBerry) while speaking at the Empire Club of Canada on Tuesday. In its last attempt to be recognized as an innovator again, BlackBerry is coming in hard with features and a user experience that's unlike any other. A whole new BBM with video chat and screen sharing, a gesture based operating system, big name apps, best in class on-screen keyboard, and a Time Shift camera that allows you to choose the perfect moment.

It doesn't stop there. It isn't just targeting the smart phone market this time; with BlackBerry 10, it is going after car integration, household integration, and simplifying the way we do things. After surveying 100 people in Fordson High School, 76% would switch back to BlackBerry after showing them demo videos about the Z10 and some even asked when they will be available so they can go and buy one. This is what BlackBerry needs and it's what BlackBerry has, a legacy and that's how it differs from other phones trying to make an impression. Keep in mind though, a comeback like this doesn't come over night. It'll take at least a year for people to make the switch. Competition is good when it leads to innovation that benefits consumers. Let's wish BlackBerry the best of luck.

## Student Spotlight: Hala Mallah

By: Zahraa Dabaja

This month, we sat down with 10<sup>th</sup> grader Hala Mallah to talk about her success as a student. Hala Mallah has been described as a quiet, hardworking, very motivated student. Her favorite subject is Language Arts and she enjoys playing baseball. She hopes to one day be a Pediatric Psychologist. Her favorite book is *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.

"My goal all throughout high school is to pass my classes as well as learn something new. My favorite part about attending Fordson has to be that at the end of the day we all get along and treat each other like a family."

Keep up the good work, Hala Mallah!

