



Tower Tribune



Volume 229

Fordson High School

April 2017

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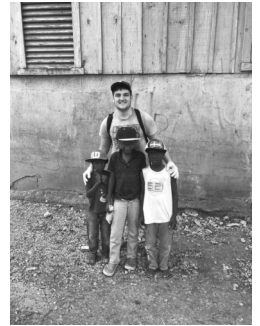


Serving in the Dominican Republic

Zainab Jabber

A group of Fordson students from the Interact Club had the awesome opportunity to go and help the people of the Dominican Republic several weeks ago.

During the first day in the Dominican Republic, the Fordson Interact members went to a sugarcane community also known as a *bati*. They were there to help construct a school. The experience was very humbling and exhausting. In typical Fordson fashion, the members worked hard and greeted community members. This small community is in dire need of some basic elements as children lack shoes, and the entire village must use one, solitary water faucet.



During the second day the interact members continued to assist and interact with members of the villages. Toiletries were distributed and among those items were flip flops, toys, and groceries to 200 children and their families.

On day three of their trip, members went and spent time at an ecological foundation. They also went and visited an orphanage and went sightseeing at some of the beautiful places the country had to offer. The club members handled themselves maturely, despite the trip being physically and mentally exhausting.



A special thanks goes out to Fordson Principal Heyam Alcodray and Dearborn Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Glenn Maleyko. Without their unwavering support this trip would not have been successful.



Remembering Mrs. Siese

Over the last month Fordson has endured a terrible loss. We lost an educator and a friend, Annette Siese. Mrs. Siese suffered from ovarian cancer. She was very supportive of “Turn The Town Teal” which was a campaign to promote awareness of ovarian cancer and the symptoms that come with it. In honor of Mrs. Siese, Fordson was able to raise \$665 dollars to donate to the campaign. A big thank you for the Tractor staff and students who came together to do this amazing deed in her honor. A special thank you to Ms. Gansenhuber for creating the beautiful sunflower in upper A hall, which is where Mrs. Siese taught. There are still more petals left over for another sunflower to be displayed in the cafeteria. Again, thank you to the Fordson family for helping make this possible.



And to quote Mrs. Siese, “happiness is a choice.” ~ Diana Almusowi

My Pride, Your Tradition, Our Legacy By: Marwa Hachem

One of the most outstanding landmarks in the nation has influenced the lives of others and is the foundation for our community's growth. Completed in 1928, Fordson High was designated as a Historical Landmark by the state of Michigan and is recognized as the nation's first million dollar high school. To honor the date that Fordson was completed, March 22nd, this year's Fordson Student Government organized the first-ever "Legacy Day". This day was composed of an enormous amount of school spirit and encouraged students to leave a “legacy” for future Tractors to come. Students and staff participated by wearing their school colors that day, and the best outfits won prizes like valuable gift cards. Along with all of the maize and blue, there were Fordson Fun Facts placed around the school for a scavenger hunt. Each day of the week, a clue was posted about Fordson in which students had to figure out the answer through the sentences. My peers were very excited and are looking forward to this next year as well. Along with all of the fun, the people who answered all five riddles correctly were given a “Fordson Prize Pack” so they can wear in honor of their new achievement. This day was not only fun, but educational as well. I am so happy to be a part of such a project and my peers are the ones that inspire us forward. Until next year, Fordson. Happy 89th birthday.

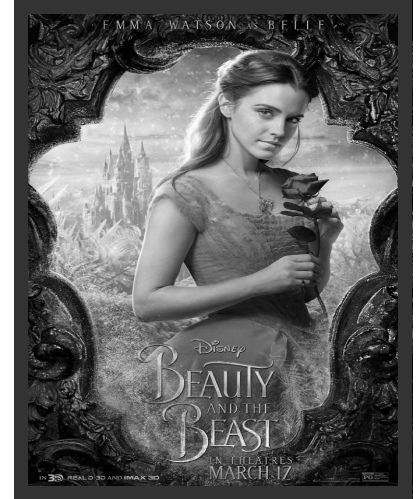


Movie Review



“A Tale As Old As Time...” By: Sukayna Davanzo and Allaa Ridha

Everyone knows the classic Disney story of Beauty and the Beast. There have been several adaptations of the story, yet every child in us completely swooned when hearing a Disney Motion Picture Film was to be released in early 2017. In fact, due to this anticipation, on March 17, people flocked to the theaters eager to see the memorable tale unfold on the big screen. With the book smart Belle portrayed by Emma Watson and the charming Beast played by Dan Stevens, the story of Beauty and the Beast was seen as never before. The cast was exceptionally talented, and brought forth a thoroughly flawless performance. The motion picture displayed a perfect marriage of classic Disney wittiness, music, and emotion. It did not stray far from the original, yet the actors were able to breathe new life into the previously animated characters. The set is what really brought the tale to life, each scene being even more bright and beautiful as the last. Not only did the movie maintain the message of the original; it also added a new flair so that the story of Belle could inspire more children and adults alike, the same way it did when it came out in 1991. If you haven't watched the film yet, do yourself a favor and book the earliest tickets you can. And if you already watched the film, watch it a second time. It's worth it.



Various critics have given feedback shedding light on the film. A.O. Scott from The New York Times stated, “It looks good, moves gracefully and leaves a clean and invigorating aftertaste. I almost didn't recognize the flavor: I think the name for it is joy.” Sandy Schaefer from Screen Rant threw in some good words saying, “Beauty and the Beast does it right by its predecessor, delivering a musical experience that both dazzles the eyes and plucks the heartstrings.”

Poisson d'Avril



April Fools Day arrived early at Fordson High School. On Friday, March 31st, a school of French fish swam through the building to celebrate Poisson d'Avril, the French version of April Fools. Many teachers reported being “fished” throughout the day.



Imad Fadlallah

As most of you may have heard, we haven't only lost a member of the community, but a member of our family as well. Imad Fadlallah, former principal, played a big role at Fordson. He served as principal for 5 years. He was always there to listen to what students had to say. He would always say, “Every student that walks through those doors has a story behind them, and it's our job to listen to those stories”. He had an impact on many students at Fordson and in the community. He was 57 years old at the time of his passing. He will surely be missed. ~ Reem Aoun

Horoscopes by Allaa Ridha

Aries: This month, you should really listen to that tiny voice in your head. Prone to tuning it out, follow your intuition and it will propel you forward. Some dates to note are the 9th, 10th and 11th, good days for spring cleaning. You'll feel very refreshed dusting those loose ends. Likely to face some problematic situations, your charm and wits will help you control that scene. Keep yourself grounded, and don't become too ambitious this month, especially on the 22nd and 23rd, to harvest the most rewards and success you could during this time. Expect a good time on the 29th and 30th.

Taurus: This month will begin with you feeling low on the 1st. The best action in the situation is to call your friends and plan an impromptu gathering. The friends you have now really care for you and would be thrilled to finally have some fun. Later in the month, you'll be feeling some good vibes from creativity, and possibly romance. Mark the 4th and 5th into your calendar, and keep your eyes open to upcoming opportunities. Make sure to express yourself on the 10th and 11th to avoid miscommunication. The beginning transition in spring is a promising time for you.

Gemini: Lately, you've caught yourself daydreaming. Having an ideal setting in your head is only the start, and the next step is to visualize what exactly you want. When that's determined you can plan the steps you wish to take to aspire that goal. Stay positive and be attentive, envisioning your future is a very progressive step to get to your desired place. Perhaps the 5th will present you with an opportunity to learn something new. The 20th and 21st are good times to have a long meaningful talk with a friend or sibling about thoughts running in your head. End the month on a positive note by taking a leisurely walk to the park, or a much needed vacation.

Cancer: Good energy will flow on the first few days of the month, beginning a thread of wonderful ideas. The 5th and 6th seem like good times for socializing. This is a great time to meet new people and progress in friendships. The 9th, 10th, and 11th will be led by your emotional side, taking you down the right path. Allow your instincts to lead you through success and romance. It may be a good idea to take the 20th to care for yourself and treat yourself for some fun. Tap into your impressive intellectual skills to face a problem on the 25th and 26th.

Leo: Avoid any big decisions dealing with finances in the beginning of the month. The 2nd and 3rd could have your brain trying to work out an intricate problem. Like they say, if at first you don't succeed, keep trying. That kind of energy will keep your creativity loose on the 9th and 10th. Keep yourself open to more friendships and advances in relationships. Letting go will get you what you want sooner than clinging tight will, so breathe deep and release on the 24th and 25th.

Virgo: The more social you are this month, the happier you'll feel. Keep a lookout on 9th, 10th and 11th for social outings. Don't fall deep into immediate disappointment when something doesn't work out the way you planned it, instead, expect some good news on the 14th and 15th. Near the end of the month you should slow yourself down, as a lesson presents itself to you on the 20th. Get philosophical on the 30th. You'll dig your insights.

Libra: Start the month by slowing down, and enjoying the small things that make you happy. A difficult situation will show up on the 5th or 6th, where your diplomatic skills will help you tackle that problem. You'll feel inspired on the 12th and 13th, perhaps, you'll even bake cookies or plan an extravagant event for a friend. Libra, new feelings might surface this month. And lastly, most importantly, make sure to get sleep on the 22nd and 23rd. Slow down again on the 27th and 28th, and by the time the 30th rolls around, you'll be ready for some strides in your relationships!

Scorpio: Expect lots of laughter during this month. Your relations with people will expand. You'll get to know more people this month, and will find yourself laughing with people you normally wouldn't. Make sure you communicate yourself completely with the people you see on a day to day basis. Especially, to people who may have mixed signals about you, this will help you avoid miscommunication. The 9th and 10th may be sensitive days for you, causing you to be aware of the smallest disappointments. Stay positive, and towards the end of the month, people will surprise you.

Sagittarius: Your month begins quite frazzled. You'll be likely to lose your things, and find yourself over place. Instead of trying to do things one way, trying doing it another. You could still create the same reaction by completing a task a "different" way. This will remind you that last minute solutions can sometimes be better than well-thought out ones. Keep a lookout on the 12th and 13th, you'll find yourself sparked with new ideas and wanting to take on a challenge you would normally run away from. When in doubt, call on that strong self confidence of yours, and you'll already know the right decision.

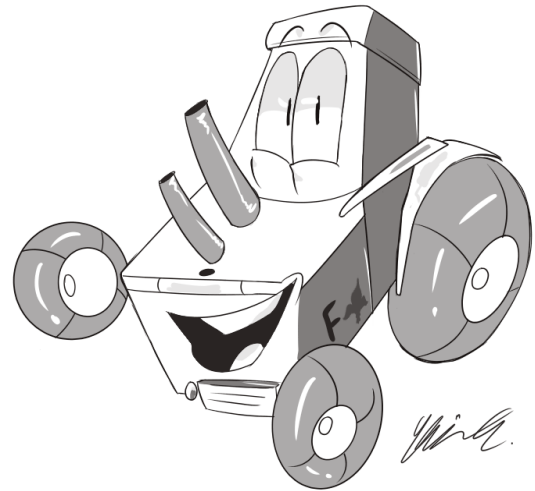
Capricorn: This month will begin with the juices of creativity. New challenges arise on the 10th and 11th, that won't be easy to tackle. In fact you may spend most of the month trying to resolve a certain issue. Often used to getting rid of problems right away, this will be a new feeling for you. But with your Capricorn nature, it won't take too long to resolve. Make sure you stay focused this month. Things will get hectic, yet your success is not too far away. End this productive month by checking in with yourself. Make sure you're not selling yourself off short.

Aquarius: Aquarius, begin the month by saving. You might feel the itch to splurge, attempt to be conservative with your spending. You probably don't have much contact with your neighbor, so try paying them a visit in the upcoming weeks. You'll be surprised with the kind of insight they have to offer. An emotional issue might occur on the 10th and 11th. The best thing to do is to make sure you talk out the issue with someone. Your intellectual skills will show their colors on the 16th and 17th. End the month on a concentrated effort to help others.

Pisces: The month begins off to a flying start. You feel great about a lot of aspects in your life. To keep this good streak make sure all your cards are laid out in front of you this month. This meaning, you shouldn't hide much, along with keeping all your options open this month. Feeling stressed on the 9th, 10th, and 11th? Grant yourself a day out to reward yourself for all your hard work thus far. Think way, way, way out of the box on the 20th and 21st. You could really make a difference with your non-standard approach. End the month with a riddle on the 30th. And a nap. You need to be well-rested to get everything done!

Fordson Originals

How did
We do it? How did this once upon a time
Welcoming garden of land turn into a battlefield,
Destined to be destroyed, to be shattered. When
The backs of the ones we thought we trusted
Have turned on us, when the petals fall off the
Flower, and the ugly truth is revealed, how can we
Save what is a lost cause? The flowers of this garden
Must continue to flourish, for if we don't, we've failed
Ourselves, and that is one thing we cannot do.
-Anonymous



Drought and Famine by Hanin Elhagehassan

Millions of people across South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen are suffering from starvation and famine. The UN has hailed it as one of the “worst humanitarian crises” in history. In Somalia, more than five million people are in need of medical and food assistance. Cholera outbreaks are prevalent in refugee camps and poorer areas, water is scarce. The terrorist group ‘Al-Shabab’ has also made it more difficult to send aid/help. The United Nations declared a famine in South Sudan earlier this year where more than five million people are in need of clean water and food assistance and food prices have inflated by approx. 800%. A little under one million children under the age of 5 are malnourished and government officials have placed restrictions on delivery of food aid. In Nigeria, an estimated fourteen million people are in dire need of humanitarian aid: hundreds of thousands of children are severely malnourished; clean water is hard to come by in poorer areas; almost 3 million people are internally displaced; and people are still scarred and being affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. In Yemen, 7 million people are dying of hunger: about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the country is in desperate need of humanitarian aid; it’s a target of U.S. and Saudi Arabian air strikes; people don’t have access to adequate healthcare facilities; and Saudi Arabia imposed a blockade on Yemen’s major port leading to the inflation of food and fuel prices. The U.N. is urging and calling on countries throughout the world to mobilize and send assistance/aid. The U.N. needed \$4.4 billion dollars by the end of March to avert the famine. It’s upsetting to announce that the world came nowhere close to the intended target, ending up at a mere \$423 million dollars (which is nowhere near enough to assist more than 20 million people). It’s even more upsetting that Trump plans on cutting down on foreign aid which would be disastrous for countries plagued with poverty/famine and for the U.S. as it would increase political conflict. Ironically, the U.S. and other western countries who are not providing much aid are also responsible for the centuries of imperialistic and oppressive policies that set up the state in which many “third-world” countries, leaving them vulnerable to disasters such as these. It’s essential for international communities and our own community to get involved. Change starts small, make a difference by donating to numerous GoFundMe pages that have been set up and other organizations that can be found online.

The Fordson Jewel By: Mr. Mohammed Youssef Bazzi

Jewels sometimes come in the form of precious stones and are used to express commitment and value. Other times jewels take a more figurative meaning and refer to an admired person. Fouad Zaban is the gemstone of Fordson High School, who has served as a mentor, coach, teacher, and friend to generations of young men and women for the past 22 years. It is his love and commitment to Fordson, first as a student athlete and now as a role model and leader in the community, which solidify his legacy as a "Fordson Man." I can go on for hours discussing his achievements and accomplishments, but instead I want our students to get to know Fouad Zaban the person, without whom, I would not be the person I am today.

I grew up in a loving family surrounded by my parents, grandparents, brothers and aunts. However, not a single member of my family graduated from college. I met Mr. Zaban when I was a college student. I saw in him everything I wanted to aspire to become. He was a young Arab man, college educated, and very articulate. I always doubted whether I would make it through college due to the fact that none of my family members did. It was through his academic achievements that I believed in myself and ascertained the self worth and confidence I needed to fulfill my dreams of being like him, an educator.

Have you noticed that you never receive a flashy email from Mr. Zaban detailing any of his projects or community service work? Mr. Zaban is a man of humility, who has prided himself on working selflessly behind the scenes to ensure student growth and development. He is always in attendance in support of student events. Whether at a boy's or girl's sporting event, a National Honor's Society function, or a day of cleanup at a local city park, Mr. Zaban assumes the responsibility of leading by example and supporting students to excel in and out of the classroom.

Some call him Walker, others call him Hajj, I want students to know that he serves the role of my older brother. I say this because I want students to understand that role models don't necessarily have to be famous celebrities. In fact they may be family members or even peers. It is not unlikely for a freshman to emulate and admire a senior. I want all students to know that what you do impacts those around you and that you have the power of influence on your classmates. Mr. Zaban has the gift of making those around him better through his no nonsense approach of doing what is right, even if it goes against the status quo.

In closing, Fouad Zaban's ability to relate to students and foster a nurturing environment founded on integrity is what gravitates others to his loving personality. He is always willing to go beyond his duty as a teacher to problem solve and assist in saving every child that walks the hallowed halls of Fordson High School. Thank you Mr. Zaban for being who you are- a modest, humble person who always puts others before himself.

FHS Baseball By Reem Aoun

Baseball season is finally here and Coach Proctor is excited about this year's team. The team roster consists of 13 players, with 4 returning seniors and 5 returning juniors. The games are mostly held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The season started earlier this year, so that the team could get their baseball "groove" on sooner. Rashid Beydoun and Hussein Saleh are the two main pitchers, and the hard hitting this year will come from Rashid and Abbas Saad. There are 25 games in total this season. A day to mark on your calendar would be April 17th, it is a home game against Dearborn High at 4:00. Come out and support the baseball team!

Fordson Athletics

Powder Buff Night By: David Tran

On Friday, March 17th, the juniors, seniors, teachers, and Varsity Girls Volleyball Team came together and had a tournament to see who was superior in volleyball. There was a tremendous turnout to see the competition and everyone seemed to have a great time. The Juniors had a tough defeat, but played strong. The Seniors excelled over the Varsity Volleyball Girls and won against the teachers as well. Ali Zbib and I were the MC's for the night and we had a great time seeing the teams competing and ending the card marking with a bang. It's great to see our school doing fun activities like this to show some school spirit! Come out to other school events and have some fun, it will make your high school career more enjoyable.



Boys Basketball Team Continues District Success with 3rd Straight Title



The 2016-17 Boys Basketball Team walked into the districts at Dearborn High School as an underdog this year. The team managed to defeat Melvindale, Edsel Ford, and finally Detroit Cody to take their third straight district title. The team played phenomenal defense and were hot from the 3 point line for all three games. The Tractors were finally defeated by Cass Tech in the opening round of the regionals held at Fordson High School.



Club Opportunities

What is Link Crew? By Fatima Elmoukahal

Are you a sophomore going into your junior year? Then Link Crew might be the club for you. What is Link Crew? Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. What do you do as a leader? Every leader serves as a mentor to an incoming freshman and helps guide them throughout their first year in high school. When do you visit the freshmen? You visit the freshmen periodically throughout the year and are involved in every freshmen activity that is held at Fordson including the football tailgate, ice cream party, breakfast party, most improved party, freshmen extravaganza, and the freshmen orientation. Link Crew will be accepting applications this spring for the 2017-2018 school year. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Moussa.

Key Club Update By David Tran

So much has happened this past month and the Fordson Key Club has sure stepped up their game! At their conference in Lansing, Fordson Key Club was given multiple awards. They received Club Video (1st), Club Poster (2nd), Non-Traditional Scrapbook (1st), K-



Family Relations (3rd), and much more!

But that's not all! The Club Board members were announced as the Outstanding Club Officers of their positions:

Mohammad Mansour & Safa Khalil (Outstanding Co-Vice Presidents),
David Tran (Outstanding Secretary),
Sofie Tiguert (Outstanding Treasurer),
Fatima Taj (Outstanding Bulletin Editor)



As for me, I was elected into the District Secretary of the Michigan District 2017-2018 term! It was such an honor to become a part of the Executive Board and I can't wait to continue my service to the world once more.

After the conference, we had our elections for the new club officers and to pass on our legacy. We are proud to announce these new club officers of Fordson's very own Key club:
Sofie Tiguert-President
Hanine Farhat & Ali Hamade- Vice Presidents
Hassan Hammoud- Secretary
Brannon Alcantar- Bulletin Editor
Aya Hamid- Treasurer

