

The Season of Giving -The Fordson Way

Mountain of Food — Fordson’s Canned Food Drive

By Alyiah Albonjim

Fordson’s canned food drive was a tremendous success with over 14,000 cans donated. The cans are being sent to the Detroit Rescue Mission for hungry families in need. The event, led by Ms. Rida, brought about Fordson’s first ever “Bring a can to school day” in which students were asked to bring in either a can of food or a dollar that would be collected at the door. This ultimately meant double the amount of cans being raised. Despite the success, the food drive was not meant to see how many cans could be raised over a short period of time, but was to foster a sense of caring and gratitude to the hearts of Fordson students. Helping those with limited resources is something we should all aspire to do. By acknowledging such a controversial issue as hunger, even locally, we not only take a step closer to the solution, but also become a part of it. The satisfaction Fordson students will get from helping the less fortunate is immeasurable.



Students Reflect on the Importance of Giving

“The canned food drive is a great way to show our love for ones in need. Every family wants a get together around the holidays. Unfortunately, many around our community are unable to provide for their families; to the point where they can’t have a meal on their table. The canned food drive will let those people that can’t provide for their families have a

nice meal.” Nevein Srour

“I believe the purpose of this food can drive is, thus be given, thus be given too. This means if we give to others, others will give to us. In addition, it will not hurt to give to others. In the right way, this can help poor people out of poverty.” Hamza Elmelegy

“The canned food drive may not be as special to us as the people out there that have no food and sometimes have to go days without food. It doesn’t only bring joy to the poor people that you’re giving it to, it also brings joy to our hearts when you see the smile on their faces when you hand them the food. It’s really helpful and often times it brings a lot of families and friends together.” Ismaeel Badawi

“Did you ever take the chance to think about how important it is to donate canned food? Well, just to let you guys know it is very important and makes a big impact on people’s lives. It’s a holiday and its getting cold. People want to gather food for their family and enjoy a nice meal, but they can’t or aren’t able too. It’s very hard on some families and many people out there are struggling to survive. So, if you have canned food and are able to donate, do it! Trust me, it WILL make a difference.” Ali Fakh

“Giving the poor canned food is good for them because they usually have nothing to eat. The poor die of hunger so when our school donates the canned food we save hundreds of lives.” Hussein Barakat

“Do you ever have that feeling when someone has something that you want so bad but you know you can’t get it. Well, that’s how people that live on the street feel. All they want is a roof over their head and some normal food. The canned food drive is about helping all those people in need and that’s what Fordson is doing.” Saleh Hamad

Key Club Week

November 18th through the 22nd was "Key Club Week." Every day held something special to celebrate "caring for our way of life." Here is a recap of the week.

Monday: A 60 Key Club video of last year's accomplishments was shown.

Tuesday: An active member who went above and beyond their call of duty was recognized.

Wednesday: Students showed a random act of kindness like smiling at strangers, opening a door for someone, or helping those in need.

Thursday: Students wore their Key Club shirts with pride!



Key Clubbers shine again! On November 16th Key Clubbers attended the Fall Rally in Wayland, Michigan. This year's theme was "The Evolution of Service."



Members spent the weekend attending different workshops. The students participated in interactive, hands-on, and presentation workshops. In addition to that they created blanket brigades, cooling neckties, and cards for soldiers. Further, they also walked for hunger while meeting key clubbers from all over Michigan. Army soldiers were kind enough to teach the students about the importance of team work. Once again, Fordson students impacted the lives of others in a

Arab Student Union

The ASU(Arab Student Union) was fortunate enough to have guest speaker Osama Siblani speak to the group earlier this month. He is currently the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab American News and was given an award of recognition by the Arab Student Union after his presentation in November.



Fordson Students Serve at Focus Hope

On November 22nd, Fordson 9th grade students took to the streets of Highland Park and served 76 senior citizens at Gabrielle Apartments on 2nd street. Ms. Charlene Lee (second from left) receives a supplemental food box every month from Focus Hope. The program is called Food for Seniors. Fordson students have been delivering to her and the residents of her apartment complex every month since 2001. Ms. Lee says, "I am grateful that our young people are so willing to give back to people who are truly in need. It is a blessing to have the students of Fordson High School volunteer their time to help the elderly." On this particular trip, Mrs. Berry was instrumental in making sure the community service day went smoothly.



Living the Dream

By: Deena Atoui

Ms. Naura, one of the finest teachers at Fordson High School, has been teaching for eleven years. Besides her passion for teaching government and economy, Ms. Naura loves photography. It all started while attending a wedding, which featured a photo booth. She noticed many individuals going into the photo booth and coming out with smiles on their faces. She realized this is what she wanted to do in addition teaching. For three and a half years now, Ms. Naura has pursued her dream of photography. Just when she thought things could not get any better, they did.

While searching the web, she went onto the Channel 95.5 website, trying her luck to be advertised on their channel. The broadcasting station became very interested in Ms. Naura’s photography business. Unfortunately, the prices for advertisements were extremely high. She went to the radio station to speak to the company’s advertising department and they loved her! Understanding the situation between Ms. Naura and the high prices for advertisement, they made a deal with her. The deal was for \$5,000 of radio broadcast advertising, she would give out

\$5,000 worth of rental on a photo booth. What a great deal! All Ms. Naura has to do is brush up her commercial that advertises her photo booth and it will play right away! Not only will her ad be on Channel 95.5, but it will also be on 100.3, 92.3, 106.7, and WJLB. Talk about living the dream!



Principal Spotlight!

By: Mohamed Ahmed

This month’s teacher spotlight is none other than our influential principal: Mr. Mosallam. He has dedicated his time, effort, and cooperation to move Fordson forward positively. Lets find out what he has to say...

Background Education?

I hold a Bachelor's of Science in Education from Wayne State University, a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Michigan and an Education Specialist Certification from Wayne State University

Why did you choose to become principal of Fordson?

I believe that leadership is an important aspect of people's lives and to be a leader in education is an honor. Fordson High School is my home and will always be my home.

How has Fordson changed since you took office?

Fordson has not changed but has continued to move forward. We have continued to enroll more and more students into major universities, our community service hours and numbers have increased, our discipline has decreased, and our pride has gone through the roof.

What are your plans for Fordson's success in the future?

We want to continue enrolling students into major universities, continue to increase test scores, and continue to make Fordson a place where everyone wants to be because of the opportunities that we offer.

If you weren't the principal of Fordson High School, what would you be?

Not sure, I don't know what my life would be without Fordson High School!



Sports

Girls Basketball Team Returns a Strong Group

The Fordson Girls Basketball Team has six seniors who are returning to the team this year. Three of the seniors are point guard Souha Homayed, small forward and post player Sukania Mourtada, and Jasmine Allie. Also returning to the team will be junior Mariam Faraj, and some new players including junior Noor Moukdad, who is a very talented athlete. The girls have been working hard, with two a day practices twice a week and long nights on one a day practices. "Pain is weakness leaving your body" is our motto every practice says Coach Wedad Budop (Woody). I think that says a lot about the team's attitude this year.



2013-14 Boys Basketball Preview

The Fordson Boys Basketball team this year will be led by Captain, and 3 year varsity starter Moussa Harb who was an important contributor to Fordson's district championship team last year. Seniors Hassan Doghman and Amin Haydous will be asked to step up and fill important roles this year. Senior Merwan Ghadih and junior Mahmoud Hazime will man the center position for the Tractors.

The strength of this team is length and athleticism thanks to the addition of Abdallah Jaffal, Jonas Williams, Muhammed Zahr and Hef Mashrah from the JV team. Jamil Sabbagh will be expected to be the defensive stopper.

Overall, the expectations for this team are high. Thanks to the outstanding work ethic and dedication from the seniors of 2013, anything less will not be accepted.



The Fordson Boys Basketball Team will be looking once again for Moussa Harb to lead the team to a district championship.

Fordson Athletics on Twitter

Staff, students, and community members can follow Fordson athletics on Twitter. Updates, scores, news, and highlights will be provided. Follow us at the following address:
@fordsontractors



Original Work

Book Review: Fahrenheit 451

By: Sara Alqaragholy

WARNING: Minor Spoiler Alert

Written during the 1950's, a time when television was the biggest fad and suburban lives were ideal, Ray Bradbury takes a stab (a pretty huge, but realistic, stab) at what may be our future in his book, *Fahrenheit 451*.

Bradbury tells the story of a fireman, Guy Montag, who burns down households and arrests people for the possession of books. Set in the distant future, society is run by the media. Televisions override thinking and virtual families replace real ones. Conversations about philosophy are looked down upon and imagination is thrown aside. Books are banned completely.

All the readers out there must understand when I say

that it hurt me emotionally to picture books engulfed in flames and the precious words of beloved authors disappearing forever. Even if you are not a reader, you can imagine how horrible it would be to constantly watch television and have no thoughts of your own. Although we love to relax and watch TV pretty often, it is unthinkable to go about our lives robotically with no change. Who would want society to dictate every single one of our emotions, every shred of our creativity?

I see our reality reflected in parts of *Fahrenheit 451*. We might as well be the characters in the book if we continue with our obsession with technology. I do not, however, see that literature is dying. Creativity is existent in our minds; we just have to uncover it. Authors like Bradbury give me hope. The ending of *Fahrenheit 451* made me believe that no matter how the environment around us attempts to subdue our true selves, we will always conquer oppression if we choose to be persistent.

EAST COAST ADVICE FROM A FORDSON GRADUATE

By Amal Choucair

High school proved to be a major turning point in my young adult life as it will show to be for many of you as well. Being able to look back on my last four years and say I regret nothing would be far from the truth; however, I am proud to say that I hold lessons with me from my experiences and schooling received at Fordson. After a long and hard four years as a high school attendee, I feel that I have much to offer to everyone that remains at Fordson, including short cuts, advice, and tips on how to succeed throughout these very crucial times.

One of the most important things to remember while in high school is to not

get caught up in unnecessary things (fads, rumors, drama, etc.) as this will only lead to negative attention which you should avoid. Choosing whom you associate yourself with says a lot about you. Be sure to opt for the right friends that will have a positive influence on you in general. Another big deal to keep on the back burner is that high school is NOT the real world! You may feel as though you have it rough while attending school only to realize afterwards that it was a free ride, the real world isn't a closed environment. Reward and punishment is different outside of high school.

An additional tip is to do well in your academics, as if you haven't heard that enough; it will prove to be as important as everyone makes it out to be in the long run. You should always be one

step ahead and plan for your future, whether it's going to college, vocational school, or the military. A solid plan will be essential after your high school career is fulfilled. Setting goals for yourself, in school and out, is also a good way to have a better chance at success. Plan for short-term and long-term goals. Develop good habits throughout your high school days, and you will find yourself making the right choices in everyday situations.

Last, but not least, take advantage of everything high school has to offer you. There are endless opportunities that can come out of your time at school. The multiple clubs, associations, and sporting teams available at school are a great way to form good habits, further educate yourself in different areas of life, and establish long-lasting re-

lationships with people that have the same passions as you do. Patience and perseverance are key to everyday life especially when dealing with the same people on a daily basis so be sure that these are qualities you possess. Through these tips and some common sense, high school will be a breeze that you will be sure to miss once it's over. Make sure that you regret little and take chances while in school that will benefit you in your future. Don't be afraid to go against the grain and stand among the few. With the right mindset everything is possible and good things will surely come to those of you that make the decision to better yourselves for the long run. I wish you all good luck in everything that is ahead of you and hope you take this advice to heart.

Original Work

Vagabond III

By: Alex Zapien

The sky grew darker as the journey continued.
The recollection of the past that gleamed across his eyes
faded,

There was still a long way ahead of him.
The discouragement of his surroundings looms through
its passage.

Trudging on as time passes,
The celestial sphere above remains shadowed by the
everlasting night.

The first task is now visible along the undetectable
horizon.
Tales of this beginning obstacle fill the air.

Who We Really Are

By: Khansa Alhaidi

We should always ask ourselves: Who am I? I think we should all take the time to ponder this question and think about who we really are. What makes you the person you are? What can you do to benefit others? Once you figure out who you are, then figure out what greatness you can offer the world.

Figuring out who you want to be is a choice entirely up to you, and no one can make it for you. Start thinking of the example you want to set for others. We all want to make a change in the world and be known for the good we have done. The only way to do that is to create a good image for yourself and positively influence others around you. It can all start now because tomorrow doesn't start when the clock strikes midnight - tomorrow starts today.

Introspection

By: Mohammed Barada

In the life of the man who sees no necessity in flamboyance of the manifestations, the poor are not necessarily poor, and the wealthy are more likely to be skin. Seldom does the complex environment provide satisfactory company, but perhaps part of the sleep mankind happens to be through is ceasing to recognize a deceiving illusion. We may not own too much, given there is no reputation-toxic limit to how much we own; but the truth of the matter is that we refuse to own just enough. We envy absurdity when we ourselves fail to show thankfulness or recognition to the so-called wealth we claim. And the most arrogant of our shallow species is that which lauds its own self even whilst being nothing more than a part-time burden to the natural world. There is only one source of true satisfaction, and that is in the provisions of nature. Could a temporary worldly pleasure possibly top self-satisfaction having noted that satisfaction from nature is immortal for nature itself is not a passing aspect, but rather a chanted mantra. Simplify your lives, for simplicity is the direction towards which happiness awaits. Nature is an image of a flower bud whose scent radiates beautiful permanence, regardless...



Announcing: AAUW Speech Trek Competition

When Star Trek's Captain Kirk said, "Beam me up, Scotty," he knew that he was moving into the realm of outer space. He was pretty sure that he would get where he wanted to be. Unfortunately, few women seeking to enter into the realm of upper level leadership positions have that security today. Speech Trek, a persuasive speech competition, affords students a platform upon which they may express their opinion on why so few women are able to climb the corporate ladder or be "beamed up."

All students attending Dearborn, Edsel Ford, or Fordson High are invited to display critical thinking and speaking skills in this oratorical contest called Speech Trek sponsored by the Dearborn Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) taking place in February, 2014. The topic is "Women at the Top: Why so Few?" The challenge is to discuss the reasons why so few career women are being advanced to high level decision making jobs. Students will prepare and present evidence in support of their argument in an original five minute speech. One local winner will be selected to compete via videotape at

the state level. Merit awards will be earned based on content and preset performance criteria.

Ms. Anne Gautreau, President of the Dearborn AAUW, is proud to have the Dearborn Branch offer Speech Trek for the first time. She commented, "This is an outstanding opportunity for young people to express how they feel about an important issue on so many levels. They will need to develop a clear point of view using their analytical abilities and reference sources while convincing the judges that they have made a valid argument in just five minutes!"

Interested students are encouraged to contact the local

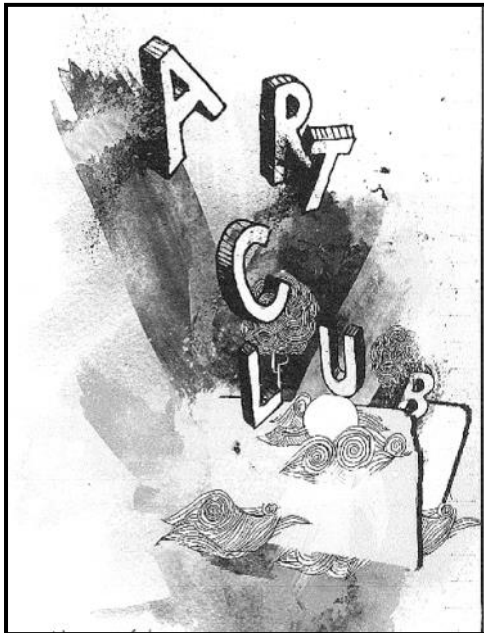


AAUW Speech Trek Liaison, Mrs. Rosa Scaramucci, at rosams13@gmail.com for further information and application deadlines.

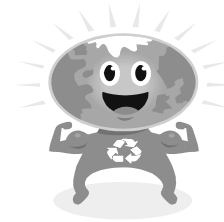
Scholarship Opportunities

- Fran Anderson Michigan PTA Scholarship. Deadline January 15, 2014 information online at www.michiganpta.org
- Vetowich Family Foundation Scholarship Program. Deadline May 20, 2013 Financial needs scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 to \$3,000 for each of the four years the individual attends college. Applications can be found in the counseling office.
- Michigan Education Association Scholarship. Deadline February 28, 2014 information in the Counseling office or online at: <http://www.mea.org/mea-scholarship>
- William G. Coyne Scholarship Program. must have family enrolled in Credit Union One for a minimum of 6 months. Deadline May 1, 2014. Information online at cuone.org
- MCWT Foundation scholarship for women pursuing education in the Michigan technology industry. Deadline January 31, 2014. Information online at www.mcwt.org
- The Rotary Club of Dearborn offers two Web-based scholarships totaling \$5,000 named in memory of Hugh M. Archer. Deadline December 31, 2013 -- information in the counseling office.
- GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program. Up to 40,000 scholarship deadline 01/09/2014. Apply online or get information in the counseling office
- Rudy Anaya Scholarship awarded to anyone interested in a career in Law Enforcement through the Wayne County Detectives Association. Deadline March 31, 2014. Information and application in the counseling office.
- The U.S. Department of State's provides competitive merit-based scholarships for U.S. secondary school students (age 15-18) to study for one academic year in select countries. More information in the counseling office.
- University of Michigan-Ann Arbor is offering scholarship for Southeast Asian Studies in Filipino, Indonesian Vietnamese and Thai. Information in the counseling office.
- Planning to attend Lawrence Tech? Take advantage of their Scholarship, Deadline February 22, 2014. Information in the counseling office.
- Michigan Oil & Gas Producers Education Foundation Scholarship, Deadline April 2, 2014. Information in the counseling office.

Fordson’s Art Club meets every other Friday in Ms. Curtis’s Room, F-204. Please see Ms. Curtis if you are interested in joining Fordson’s Art Club.



GO GREEN WITH FHS ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB!



When: 1st and 3rd Friday’s of each month

Where: A-210 (Mr. Seymour)

Time: 6:45 am

Library Guidelines for Students



During the school day, students may print assignments only during their lunch hour. Students must have an official, signed pass from their teacher and must stay the entire lunch period. The schedule of extended hours and days when the media center is closed for lunch can be found on the library doors.

French as a Foreign Language!!!

Tu as combien dans ta famille? Qu’est-ce que tu fais comme sport? Tu aimes étudier?

Do you know what I just asked you? If you would like to know, all you have to do is choose French as a foreign language. As a 9th grader, it is a fun way to meet your World Language requirements while learning the French language and culture.



December 23—January 5

Enjoy Your Break! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Fordson High School was a much smaller place in the 1950’s when this aerial photo was taken. Fordson has since had two major additions to accommodate over 2400 current students.