

Tower Tribune

Volume 220 **Fordson High School** February 2016

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#THEREALDEARBORN—PEACE MARCH



Monday, January 18th was the day students from Fordson, Edsel, Dearborn High, and Divine Child joined together to form a peace march to prove that the city of Dearborn doesn't only consist of Arabs as the media claims. In this powerful event, high school students managed to showcase that we, citizens of Dearborn, are diverse and are proud to be so. The march also signified that we are united and forever will be. This event was inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., a man who peacefully fought for harmony, diversity, and equality. These students were tired of the media scrutinizing Dearborn and wanted to diminish the stereotype. They believe the most effective and inspirational strategy to achieve this goal was through peace. - *Mariam Alley*



2015 Fordson Highlights

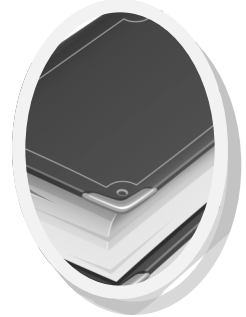
We've had a great 2015 school year and a lot has happened. In sports we excelled in basketball, football, track and field, just to mention a few. Our football team won a playoff game, and Abe Ajami reached 2nd place for the wrestling state championships. With our clubs and organizations we performed memorable plays and had a very successful talent show. Students from all schools and people from the entire community showed up. The auditorium was packed for these events. Fordson collected a mountain's worth of canned foods, 23,125 cans to be exact, in the Battle Against Hunger campaign, beating Dearborn High. We also donated over 3,000 pairs of jeans to struggling teenagers and helped make toiletry kits for the homeless in our community. We also welcome a new superintendent, Dr. Glenn Malekyo and said farewell to our beloved principal Dr. Mosallam. At the close of 2015 Mrs. Alcodray joined the Fordson family and is excited to become part of the Fordson tradition. — Khalood Altaresh

Organizations

Fordson Book Club

By: Ayah Chami

If you love reading and analyzing both classic and modern works of literature, then the Fordson High School book club may be right for you. Every week, the club meets and discusses the week's assigned reading in depth. To the point, in fact, where a member says, "My perspective on reading has completely changed. I can't read a sentence now without mulling over every word." After finishing a book, the club celebrates by watching the film adaptation and-you guessed it- analyzing that as well. On free weekends, the members of book club hang out at libraries and bookstores in places like Ann Arbor. They enjoy browsing through bookstores with multiple floors which is any book lover's dream. Ask any of them and they'll be sure to tell you that their weekends are totally *booked*.



Bringing Metro Detroit Teenagers Together Generation of Promise

By: Amanda Fahim

Detroit is one of the most segregated cities in America. For the past 26 years, the Generation of Promise has worked towards bringing areas of the city together through youth participation in a variety of programs. Generation of Promise provides a unique, remarkable experience for high school juniors across the metro area to explore the different cultures, opportunities, and people they otherwise would not encounter. It creates a positive, open network for local youths to discuss their experiences and connect with one another through sustained interactions. Generation of Promise's mission is to broaden the definition of community through empowering students to explore social topics and to strengthen leadership skills to make efforts towards diversity in their own communities. Current and past members of Generation of Promise rave about their involvement in the program. The Generation of Promise creates strong, diverse friendships and creates opportunities of exploration of social cultural differences. It gives students the skills to evolve as a leader, while creating deep-seated friendships with people who you would not generally meet in your community. Interested? Here's what you need.

- The program takes place all throughout your junior year; therefore, you must be a **SOPHOMORE** when applying
- You must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

To pick up an application (or if you have any questions), see Ms. Cantrell in ROOM A-100 before March 1st.

Fordson Welcomes Mrs. Alcodray

By: Nesreen Saad

As you all know by now, Fordson's new principal this year is Mrs. Alcodray. She has been working with the Dearborn District for seventeen years, seven of them as principal and two as assistant principal. She enjoys being a principal because it gives her an opportunity to give back to the community she belongs to, and she also likes to help students reach their goals. Mrs. Alcodray worked with students from Dearborn High, McCullough/Unis School, Henry Ford Early College, and now Fordson. Mrs. Alcodray enjoys being here and feels that Fordson has a great staff and student body. She also feels that she already belongs to the Fordson family! When I asked Mrs. Alcodray about her goals for Fordson she firmly replied, "My first goal is that each student finds purpose in their high school classes so that their classes have a tie to their career aspirations after graduation. Secondly, I want to see that all students leave here with a high school diploma. Third, for all students to have an adult mentor to guide them through their high school experience and to help guide them in their postsecondary ambitions." She also stated that the most enjoyable thing about her job is helping students find purpose in their high school education and leave Fordson with a postsecondary plan.



Fordson Mid-Winter Break = February 12th-15th (Friday-Monday)

How to Not Be Bored During the Mid-Winter Break

By: Marwa Hachem

It's that time we've all been waiting for—another rewarding, relaxing break. If you're like me, you get too hyped up for it and then end up not doing anything. Well, not this time. With my advice, you can easily turn this bland four-day vacation into an exciting, "let's do it again" kind of break.

Number One: Hang out with your friends

Spend a day with your friends just to appreciate them and have fun! This could mean going to a restaurant or even heading out to play laser tag. Your friends can even meet up at your house afterwards and hold a small bonfire if the weather allows it. The possibilities are endless! There are so many great experiences you can have with your friends.

Number Two: Exercise

Get out an old yoga mat and begin activating your mind, spirit, and body! You could go to the gym or simply work out at home. Or, you could spice up your routine by playing games on a Wii (example: Just Dance or Wii Fit). Not only will you feel yourself getting stronger, but your brain will feel relaxed and refreshed. Twenty minutes a day (at least) and you'll be looking (and feeling) better in no time!



Number Three: Decorate items

Now that you've got some time on your hands, you can take some items and decorate them using paint, Washi tape, little gems, bows, etc... My favorite things to decorate are binders, pictures, frames, and my laptop! You could get inspired by Googling pictures or watching tutorials on YouTube. If you want to go to extremes, you could even redecorate your room!

Number Four: Learn something new

Another way to exercise your mind is through developing new skills. This could be learning a new language, playing a new instrument, or even baking something you haven't tried before. Learning something new exposes your brain to new ways of thinking and remembering (which is really good for school if you ask me).

These are just a few ways to keep you from being bored during this break! Whether you choose to accomplish all of them or even just one, you'll be guaranteed to have fun while doing so! Happy break!

The Last Stand — Shoosh Says Goodbye After 33 Years

By: Hammoud Sobh

Mr. Shooshanian's iconic reign will come to end after a remarkable 33 years. In an interview with Mr. Shooshanian, I inquired how he will keep his memories of Fordson alive. He was a tremendous mentor to students and athletes. When asked how many sports he coached his response was "football, softball, tennis, track, and volleyball." Here at Fordson High School he was the athletic director for 23 years. When asked what his retirement plans were, his response was as calm as the words "relax and travel." Mr. Shooshanian was an outstanding football coach when he helped lead the 1993 football team to a state championship which is still talked about today.

His education played a vital role in his success throughout his college years at Western Michigan where he got his Bachelor's Degree, and at Eastern Michigan where he got his Master's Degree. Mr. Shooshanian wants to let all the teachers and students know that they will be dearly missed, and he was honored to be a part of this school. He wants to make sure that we "keep the Fordson tradition going." As he leaves the school, the memories stay in his heart as he says that he "will always be part of the Fordson family."



Presidential Did You Know?

By: Mohammed Hamid

- President Ulysses S. Grant was given a speeding ticket for riding his horse too fast down a Washington D.C. street.
- The 2nd U.S. President, John Adams, and 3rd U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, who were famously political rivals, died on the same day, which happened to be July 4th, 1826.
- President James A. Garfield was not only ambidextrous, but could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other at the same time.
- President Woodrow Wilson did not learn to read until he was 10 years old, yet still is the only president to earn a Ph.D.

A History of Valentine's Day

By: Marwa Hachem

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14th every year. But when was this decided and how? In around A.D. 486, Pope Gelasius (head of the Christian church) banned the celebration of a religious holiday that he found unreligious. Instead, he replaced it with a festival that makes people meet and interact with each other to fall in love. It was named after the Christian saint of love, Saint Valentine, because of what happened in his life. Before it was a holiday, the story said that Emperor Claudius II established a law that said no young man could marry in order to ensure there were enough young people to join his army. When Saint Valentine found this out, he disagreed. So, he secretly decided to perform marriages for young men and women. Soon, the emperor found out and killed Valentine on February 14th. Near his grave, an almond tree exploded with pink flowers, which the citizens thought represented a sign of love.

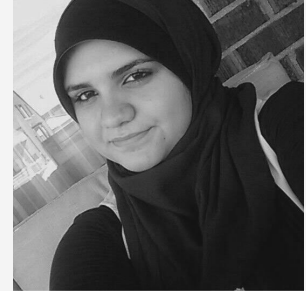


An Editorial on Bullying Today

By Mirvat Chammout

Bullying is a serious dilemma in school today, but people don't recognize how severely it can affect someone's life. You don't know what the victim is dealing with outside of school and bullying them makes their life even harder. Bullying can affect the victims so much that they become too petrified to come to school. There are many types of bullying including cyber bullying, physical, and verbal bullying which I find the most common in school today. Bullying happens to all of us. Most of us have been bullied at some point in our lives. It's often a surprise that bullying does not go away when you get older. Bullying can be an enormous scar in one's life. Even though bullying can leave deep scars, the experience can make you become a stronger person in the end. If you're being bullied by someone, tell an adult! I know that it's hard to talk about it but I promise it will help. Don't let people say you're a snitch, because you're not if someone is hurting your feelings. I learned the hard way that if you don't deal with a problem right away, it will escalate into something you don't want happening. Stand up for yourself and show people what they say about you doesn't matter or hurt, even though it might. They may say you are ugly but you know that you are truly beautiful! Your opinion of yourself is the only one that matters.



Student Spotlight - Fatima Elhourani***By: Fatima Elmoukahal*****Middle School?** Unis Middle School**Hobbies?** Football and volleyball.**Favorite memories in life?** Meeting my friends.**Favorite classes?** Math and art.**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** I imagine myself as a traveling photographer.**Who has influenced you the most in your life?** My friends, family, and teachers impact my life the most.**Do you have a quote that you live by?** I do. It's "Life is a story, make yours a best seller."**Advice for incoming freshmen?** Work hard and try your best and you will succeed.**Chinese New Year**
By Nesreen Saad

This year, the Chinese New Year will fall on the 8th of February. Unlike many other countries, China's date varies from year to year. This is mainly because the Chinese New Year is determined by their lunar calendar. While our New Year represents only the change in year, China's New Year represents a new zodiac sign for each year. If you visit China during the new year you would be amazed at all the fireworks going off. The Chinese New Year is the world's largest annual usage of fireworks. Every inch of the sky is full of light and color. People also pass out red envelopes of money to younger family members, friends, and employees old and young. You may wonder "why red?" This is because red is a very lucky color in their culture.

Besides envelopes, homes and streets are decorated in red decorations. So, if you think of visiting a country like China, make sure to visit around the Chinese New Year to see and experience the most cultural time of the year.



Black History Month

By: Reem Aburukba

Black History month occurs throughout the month of February in which we commemorate and celebrate the achievements of prominent African American people in American history. Black History month began as just a week, not a month, in the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln as a way to honor these gentlemen for their contributions regarding the treatment, status (their freedom), and predisposed ideas people had of African Americans. Soon, “Negro History Week” evolved into not just a week for African American accomplishments, but a full month. Famed African-Americans celebrated during this month are George Washington Carver who developed over 300 derivative products such as cosmetics, milk, coffee, flour, etc. from the peanut plant. Another well-known figure is someone is the President of the United States, Barack Obama. Revolutionary athletic figures that have changed the way that we all play can be remembered as Jackie Robinson, Magic Johnson, and Michael Jordan. Without Michael Jordan, none of you would have those “J’s” on your feet and without good old Dr. Dre, no one would have decent music or decent headphones to listen to that music with. Black History month celebrates the achievements of all African Americans in history

Spring Play News

Think that you know what makes a superhero?

Well, the clients of Stanley J. Kirby Psychiatric Hospital may just change your mind.

Join reporter, Lois Lancaster, on her wild adventure with Dim Bulb, Speed Freak, and other amazing superheroes (in their own minds).

Insane with Power leaps into the auditorium with performances on March 15, 17, and 18.

Details on show times and ticket prices to follow.





Dearborn Public Library

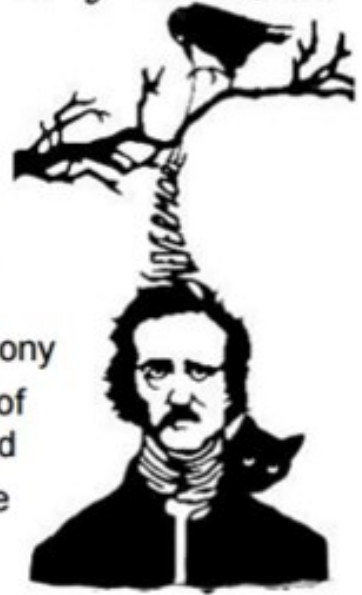
Dream Dreams

Big Read Kickoff

**Saturday, February 6,
2016, 2-4 p.m.**

Henry Ford Centennial Library

- Free tabloids, books, and light refreshments
- Music from Poe's day performed by Dearborn Symphony
- Dramatizations of his works including a performance of "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Tony Lucas of The Henry Ford
- Raffle to win a night at the Poe House, courtesy of the Dearborn Inn (drawing at "Meet Poe" event)
- Opening of the "Dreams" Art Exhibit, coordinated by the Artists' Society of Dearborn
- Poe craft for all ages

Do you know Poe?bigreaddearborn.org

**THE BIG
READ
DEARBORN**



The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

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