

TOWER TRIBUNE

Your School Your Voice

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Mr. Sion: The True Definition of a Teacher

By: Siham Saleh

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There comes a time in life when you move on from the past to pave way for your future. It is the things you say or do in your past that create a legacy that will never fade away. In Mr. Sion’s case he will leave great memories, both heartwarming and heartbreaking, and those memories will be held near and dear to our hearts forever. He was not only an amazing teacher, but a great role model. He contributed, and continues to contribute, so much to our community. He does all of this with an open heart and mind. It’s sad to say that after 39 years of pursuing his dream, Mr. Sion will be retiring. He may be leaving Fordson, but he will never leave our hearts. I had the utmost pleasure to be able to interview Mr. Sion about his career, his life, and his accomplishments.

What attracted you to the field of education?

From the time I was about 5, I was always helping others. I had a great kindergarten teacher who inspired me to want to be just like her—kind, knowledgeable and helpful. I used to help educate students in many of my classes that needed academic assistance or translations. So it was something I’ve always want to do.

What schools did you teach at?

I first taught at Salina as the first bilingual teacher, before the government mandated Bilingual Education. Then I taught special education classes at Ten Eyck, Howe Trainable Center, and Edsel Ford. After that I went to Maples to teach first grade for six years, then 6th grade and 8th grade. I then transferred to Woodworth where I taught for ten years in grades one through 8th. Finally, in 2000, I was asked to come to Fordson to teach history and citizenship classes to the Bilingual students. I’ve been here ever since.

What are some of your biggest contributions to the school, community, etc.?

I have participated in many events at school and in the community. I have performed in many musical events from performing the national anthem at community events to performing at Fordson’s talent show. I have generously contributed much money and time to projects in and out of school. I would have to say that my greatest contribution to school and community was of myself. The relationships with students, staff and community members will be a legacy I leave behind.

What motivates you to be the best (and do the best) you possibly can be/do?

Self satisfaction. Something isn’t worth doing or accomplishing if you don’t apply yourself and enjoy doing what you’re doing 110% of the time. I feel that each day of my teaching career has to be better than the one before. I have to not only be happy, but convey that happiness in what I do. Students motivate me to always do my best.

How do you feel about leaving Fordson forever?

It’s a bittersweet feeling as I leave. There comes a time when a person feels that good things sometimes have to come to an end, and that time for me is now. I am going to miss the staff and students as well as the environment of Fordson. Fordson is my home. I graduated from Fordson and always dreamed of coming back to teach here. My friends, family and relatives all graduated from Fordson. Fordson is a place where I have spent many hours in the past and now. The Fordson Staff is truly the epitome of what a family should be—togetherness in good times and in bad. The students are “my children,” and I treat them as such. I love them all and will miss them—the “hello’s”, “good-byes”, the “thanks for the help”, and even the “I don’t like you’s,” (I know they didn’t mean it.)

Last but not least any quotes that we can remember you by? Anything to keep our heads and spirits high?

There are many. I like to take phrases from lyrics of different music or poetry. I can truly say, that the staff and students who I have encountered throughout my teaching career have made me what I am today. They were the “wind beneath my wings.” But a quote that always kept me going is a verse from Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken.”

“.....Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”

What do you plan to do after you rertire?

I will return to Fordson periodically to visit and to assist in some duties that will keep me going. I also plan to do some volunteer work—helping out at soup kitchens, hospitals, cancer centers, etc, and most of all, enjoying my grandchildren. Mr. Sion has left a mark on each and every one of us and he will never be forgotten.



Fordson Key Club Teams with HYPE in Local Fundraiser

By Haneen Ali



If your wallet was looking for a worthy cause to donate to and your tummy was hungry for a sub sandwich, then Good Times Cafe was the place to be on Saturday October 20th. Fordson’s very own Key Club International collaborated with HYPE Athletics to host a fundraiser in honor of HYPE’s financial situation. Hype Athletics primarily focuses on athletic participation and social services to ensure positive youth development in Wayne County. 20% of the proceeds raised that day went toward this worthy cause.

Volunteers energetically stood outside the café waving signs and gaining traction for this effort. This energy continued from 11 am in the morning until 11 pm that night. Rustling with conversation, laughs and smiles during the restaurants busy hours, quickly indicated that this fundraiser would be a success. Later in the day the restaurant's atmosphere began to calm down, but the spirits of the Key Club were still high. Two of the Dearborn Tractor cheerleaders came down to Good Times Cafe and entertained the restaurant goers with a cheer and then made their way outside to help bring in customers and possible donors. After a long and eventful day, the Key Club member’s hard work foreshadowed a success when the Good Times Cafe owner presented the Key Club with a check for \$270.00, in which they donated to HYPE Athletics. The Key Club ran the event with ambition, organization, hope and of course lots of laughs and yet again proved caring is their way of life.

SPORTS

Tennis Recap

By: Amal Choucair

This season, the Boy’s Tennis Team proved to be one that learned to grow as the season progressed. With an overall record of 3-2-2 in the WWAC, the Tractors had good showings at their league tournament coming in 4th and managing to place 6th in the All-Area tournament and 8th at Regionals. League wins included victories against Belleville, Crestwood, and Robichaud.

In her first year as the boys head coach, Mrs. Wright says she told her team to always "finish strong". She considered this season a learning experience and had much help from both assistant coach Layal Unis and the natural leaders on the team who had no trouble "leading themselves" without being asked to step up. This isn’t Coach Wright's first trip around the block, she is also the head coach of the Girl’s Tennis Team and she believes that both teams play at different levels with different strengths. This year’s team consisted of 7 freshmen who "brought heart" while the seniors brought their experience, and this made for a collective and cohesive group of talented players. Standout senior Mo Charara had strong showings in doubles as well as juniors Jaad Alharakey and Sammar Amalarey. Coach Wright plans to take on the role of both boys and girls coach next season. Congratulations on a successful season and good luck next year! (See picture on page 4)

Fordson Football

By: Amal Choucair

Fordson football never fails to impress. They play their hearts out while enjoying the sport they work all year for. This year the Tractors went 7-3 getting knocked out of the first round of the playoffs with a 24-14 loss to Dearborn. Although they lost their final two games of the season, coach Zaban says his group was "a pleasure to work with" and they made the season "fun and exciting." Even though the team was injury plagued towards the end of the season, they were true competitors in every game, and coach says he is "extremely proud of the kids for giving their all no matter the circumstances." With a senior heavy team, there was no shortage of leadership and influential players including Kassem Makki, Kamel Faraj, and Ali Faran. The underclassmen also displayed great heart and proved that the team is in good hands for years to come. Jamil Sabbagh, Hady Bandar, and Hussein Kadouh are a few key players to Fordson's future success on the field. Every player should be swollen with pride to wear a Fordson jersey each Friday. Congratulations on another winning season Tractors! (See picture on page 4)

Soccer Summary

By: Reema Baydoun

I was honored to meet with Mr. Saab, the Boy’s Soccer Coach, as well as an Arabic teacher, to discuss his season. He has been the coach for three years now, and says that it has been a pleasure to be a part of such a strong soccer program. The Junior Varsity finished off 10-2, and their losses were only of one-goal deficits. The Varsity team finished the season with an impressive record of 11-3-3. In Addition, they were league champions! This season, for the first time in over a decade, our FHS soccer team beat crosstown rival, Dearborn High. Coach Saab was ecstatic, and said that such a long period of losing to the same team would never happen again. He says “No team is allowed to come to Fordson High school, play on our turf, beat us for ten years in a row, and walk away with another victory. It won’t happen again. We have a better team, and it will be very competitive in the future. There is something that Fordson has, that other schools don’t, it’s the Fordson spirit.” FHS soccer has become so successful, that people are asking to come to our school just to be a part of the soccer program. Mr. Saab says that new students come to him every year, asking to join the team. They all want to be a part of such success. When I asked him about the most important aspect of the game, he undoubtedly said it was the defense. “We have a strong defense, but we have to work on making it better. We believe that defense wins games.” The secret to their success is the hard work of the players. They start practicing in July, two months before school starts. They are a group of players with dedication and heart. “It’s about discipline and reputation,” Mr. Saab says. He and Coach Bazzi are focused primarily on disciplining the players to create a good reputation for the Fordson Family. In response to the negative stereotypes about Fordson High School, he says that they are completely false. “Despite what people think, we rise during the national anthem, respect the referees, and play fair games.” The coaches, players, and staff have created a strong team, but they still hope to become better. “We want to improve our forwards and strikers,” says Coach Saab. He wants his team to go far in the playoffs, and hopefully become state champions in the future. Off-season, he is working on getting sponsors to pay for uniforms. He has created an account for the soccer team that holds \$1300 by visiting local businesses. The money in this account will go towards the gear and equipment needed for the team. We are proud to say that we have such a great program here at Fordson, and we are all looking forward to another year of FHS soccer! (See picture on page 4.)

Reflection: A Short Story

By: Lujine Nasralla

She stared back at me with the most beautiful green eyes. She sighed a little and her copper bangs ruffled across her forehead. She raised her hand and pressed her fingertips against the glass that separated us as a genial smile slowly spread across her face. She sat there like Aphrodite. She was once an impressionist. One that was loved by everyone. Like Aphrodite, the beauty was ascribed to her; it was a universal conviction that everything she touched would instantly turn beautiful. However, for every beautiful idol came the diatribes of those aloof ones. As I gazed back into the eyes of Aphrodite-reincarnate, a zealous fire ignites in her round eyes- round eyes that challenged me. I gripped the rock in my hand tightly and launched it at the mirror, splintering her face and sending my hypothetical self six feet under. Looking into the mirror again, I saw the real face, the one with purple blotches decorating the jaw and blue and black rimming those vacant green eyes. As if the reflection was tedious, I fell to the ground as cold, callous tears rolled down my damaged face.

A voice rang out; “Goodbye, warmth. This one does not deserve you,” it said in a condescending tone. Then a girl was screaming so loudly that my ears went numb. It was not until the piercing noise was disrupted by hyperventilating sobs that I realized it was all me- and I was all alone.

Medical Society Club

By: Zeinab Hourani

The existence of the Medical Society Club is all because of Mr. Mustafa, Mrs. Harb and the president, Mohamed Sharrara. The sole purpose of the club is to give students, who are interested in the medical field, a chance to explore careers before making a decision and delving into one. Many different activities take place as well. Guest speakers along the lines of doctors, dentists, pharmacists, physical therapists, and nurses pay a visit every once in a while. Questions and concerns of the students are usually aimed at them. Another great activity is volunteering. This may involve schools or hospitals, which is always rewarding. Do you enjoy career days? Well, here's some good news, the Medical Society Club has one! There are many benefits to joining this club and getting actively involved in the community is one of them. Students will be able to receive input from true professionals and get detailed information on schools and different careers in the medical field. If you are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field and having fun along the way, this club is for you. Elections were recently held, and people are more than welcome to still join the club. If you are interested, go to Mr. Mustafa's room (A118) every Wednesday after school!



National Honor Society Update

By: Linda Tiguert

Mrs. Wright highlights, “The success of NHS comes from the leadership of the board members and the commitment of the society.” National Honor Society members strive to serve the community and beyond by volunteering in blood drives, hunger walks, tutoring, Gleaners, and so much more. They have had very successful events this year that have transformed the lives of students, people in need, and the community. One of the events was the hosting of the Michigan State University president. It was a rewarding and phenomenal experience that benefited hundreds of students’ decisions and knowledge about the university. Another successful event was the Zaman Hunger Walk, where all the proceeds went to putting food on the table for many people in this community. NHS members do not only commit to volunteering at Gleaners every month and tutoring to benefit this community, but to events that help people on a larger scale. The annual Pasta for Pennies Event for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is coming up and Fordson has raised over \$15,000 so far. As we plunge into 2013, NHS will make just as great or even greater impact as they have in the past.

The Environmental Club

By: Zienab Dabaja

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The Environmental Club has a lot of activities that raises awareness for the many environmental needs in our community. Last year we organized projects to plant trees, clean the Rouge River and adopt a penguin. This year we are planning on doing some of the activities we did last year and some other exciting things as well. The next big thing we are doing is adopting an animal from the Detroit Zoo. Come to our next meeting to find out more. We meet every Friday at 6:45 AM in Mr. Seymour's class, room A210. The sponsors of this club are Mr. Seymour and Ms. Rabac. Join the fun, you won’t be sorry!

Quill Club

By: Rasheen Alhamadi

The Quill Club is gaining steam once again this year! For those of you who don’t know, the Quill Club is the one that puts together the poems, art, and writing of Fordson’s students to make a literary magazine. Last year’s issue was very popular and hopefully we have the same results this year. Elections will be held soon for the Quill’s board. The available positions are president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and the two editor positions. If you are a creative person that likes art, writing, or poetry, then this is the club for you. Meetings take place on Tuesday’s in Ms. Jamieson’s room. Hope to see you there!

Link Crew Convention

By: Rasheen Alhamadi

This year, Fordson’s Link Crew attended a convention at North Farmington High School. This convention had link leaders from about ten different schools. This was a day in which all link leaders could relax and just have fun. While we were there we met many other link leaders from schools all across Dearborn. All of the Link Crew coordinators also had a great time. They participated in all of the activities we did. For all of you students that are planning to apply to become link leaders, let me assure you that it will be a fun and rewarding experience. Once you attend the convention you will feel like a freshman again. I’m sure that next year’s trip will be even better.

Student Government Kicks Off November Canned Food Drive

The Mountain of Food Canned Food Drive sponsored by Fordson High School Student Government will be taking place in the month of November. Last year, Fordson staff and students collected over 6,100 cans that went directly to the Detroit Rescue Mission to be passed out to the needy in our community. “A Can a Kid” is the slogan for this year’s campaign. All cans will be collected during 2nd hour. The winning class will receive a \$300.00 classroom makeover and the 2nd place class will be given breakfast delivered by Student Government.

Key Club

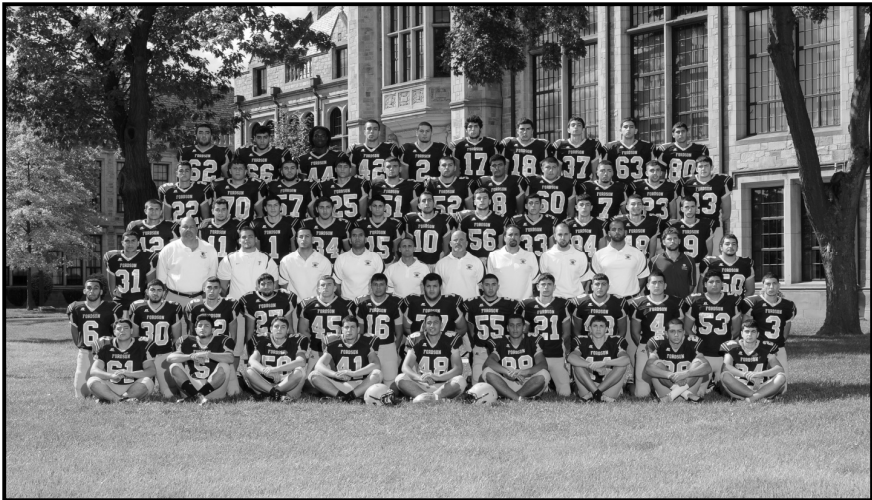


On Saturday, October 13th Fordson Key Club members collected donations at the Greenland Grocery Store on Warren Avenue in Dearborn. The Key Club collected \$261.00, all of which went to charitable organizations.

Fordson Fall Sports Wrap-Up



Mr. Saab and the Fordson Soccer Team finished the season with an impressive 11-3-3 record and won the Western Wayne Athletic Conference championship as well.



The Tractor Football Team completed yet another successful campaign with a 7-3 overall record and a WWAC championship.



Mr. Wyka and the Girls Swim Team had another competitive season and look forward to improving again next year.



Fordson's Varsity Volleyball Team enjoyed success on and off the court this year. They defeated Robichaud and Crestwood (crossover teams) in 3 sets each. They also participated in team building activities throughout the year. A canoeing trip and attending the MSU Big Ten opener were two of the main activities they enjoyed off the court.

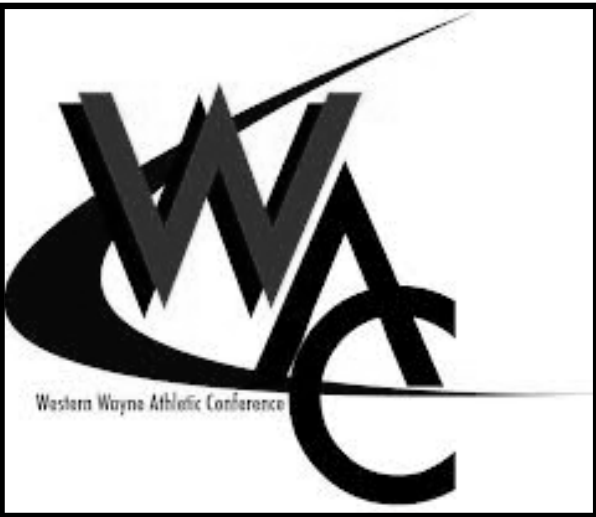


Mrs. Wright and the Tractor Tennis Team finished the WWAC season with an impressive 3-2-2 record. In the league tournament they finished 4th and at the Regionals they came in 8th overall.

The Boys Cross Country Team ended the season with a 3rd place finish at the WWAC league meet and finished in 13th place overall at the Regional meet on October 27th.



Mrs. Delgiudice and the Girls Cross Country Team improved overall 5K times and enjoyed another competitive season. She is excited about the future of the Cross Country program.



DID YOU KNOW...

Fordson competes in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference with 12 other Southeast Michigan schools.