

Tower Tribune

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Fordson High School

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Toys for Tots

By: Reem Aburukba

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Toys for Tots run by Ms. Rida and the student government completed its donation process on December 17th. They collected many toys and items for the kids at Children's Hospital. The toys received far exceeded expectations, which made for a special day for the children in the hospital. Fordson students walked into Children's Hospital of Michigan with several bins filled to the brim with toys. They arrived just in time for the holidays and delivered the items to the children. Students received nothing in return except joy and happiness expressed through the smiles and laughter of the children. Fordson continues to be known for providing encouragement and service to those in need in the Detroit metropolitan area.



Clubs & Events

Michigan Shakespeare Festival Visits Fordson!

By: Marwa Hachem

Throughout our entire middle and high school years, we perceive William Shakespeare and his plays as serious and dull. The fact that they are very old and written in a foreign style continues this perception. However, Shakespeare touched the lives of many, which inspired people to perform his plays. On Friday December 5th, a group of talented actors from the Michigan Shakespeare Festival came to Fordson High School to perform *Macbeth*, a play studied by 11th graders.

Before the play started, the actors ran their lines and rehearsed their action scenes. Many of them, unfamiliar with Fordson's great architectural history, were amazed by its beauty and sophistication. Sean McClellan, who played Banquo, stated "I walked in and I was like uh... we're in a castle."

The play, *Macbeth*, starts off with a battle and results with Macduff being a traitor. The king then decides to make Macbeth the Thane of Cawdor. Prior to knowing that he's the thane, Macbeth runs into three witches. The witches tell him that he's going to be the thane and king. The

witches also tell Banquo that he's not going to be king, but his descendants will. Macbeth doesn't believe the witches until he is made thane. With this newfound ambition, and his wife's encouragement, he kills the king so he assume the title. Macbeth begins to believe he's become untouchable, but finds himself ambushed by an army. He's able to successfully fight them off until he finally faces Macduff. Macduff proves to be a difficult opponent, but Macbeth believes in the witches' prophecy that he cannot be defeated by anyone born of a woman. In a quick turn of events, Macduff is able to defeat Macbeth because he was "untimely ripped from his mother's womb." Macduff restores order to the havoc that Macbeth created.

The performance gave the audience a new appreciation for Shakespeare.



Fordson's Band-O-Rama

By: Zeina Elroumi

On Thursday, December 4, 2014 Fordson High School's band played at the Fordson auditorium. Their performance was a success. Under the direction of Mr. Guthre, the band looked and sounded like they had been practicing diligently for a long period of time. The songs performed by the band were "Let's Go Blue", "Let's Go Blue" Arabic, "Blues Thing", FHS Victory Songs, "Disturbia", "21 Guns", "Seven Nation Army", and "Know Your Enemy". Fordson's jazz band also performed some Christmas tunes like "Deck The Halls", "Up on The House Top", and "Jingle Bells".



Clubs & Events

Key Club Shows Support Once Again



Key Club members along with professional bowlers participated in the annual handicap bowling event in early December at Cherry Hill Lanes. Members cheered and assisted physically and mentally challenged adults for sev-



eral hours. The Fordson students continue to show support and encouragement for those people in our community who are in need of assistance.



The Leadership Seminar

By: Reem Aburukba



The Leadership Training Seminar, an all day event that took place during the school day in early December, was a program hosted by the Executive Board which enhances the leadership skills of Fordson's student class and club officers. This seminar, which was hosted by Ms. Rida, is supposed to help enhance the student body and help im-

prove our school. The students were given an eight page packet of activities that was completed throughout the day. The activities helped to strengthen their leadership skills and was intended to impact the students in a way that they could be more independent and help make positive changes.



In the Spotlight!

Fordson Principal: Youssef Mosallam

By: Reem Aburukba



Youssef Mosallam, a Fordson alumnus of '94 is a proud member of the Dearborn community and the principal of Fordson High School. His goal as Fordson principal is to keep the school and its students moving forward in every aspect possible. He believes that Fordson and its students can keep improving because of their commitment to excellence. Mr. Mosallam believes that the student body itself embodies Fordson and its values and we, as a whole represent, the Dearborn community. Mr. Mosallam and the staff are just there to guide us and make sure that we are heading in the right direction; the rest is up to us. However, Mr. Mosallam and his team are working together to make Fordson a safe place, with the new no headphones policy and the already present no hats or hoodies rule in place, he aims to make Fordson a safe and more secure place. They also aim to make our tests and class work as rigorous as possible to prepare us for the MME and ACT. Mr. Mosallam wants the students of Fordson to be proud of where they come from and what they believe in. He wants the students of Fordson to believe and have pride in themselves and to help them understand that they represent the Fordson community. Mr. Mosallam always emphasizes the Fordson motto which is: Pride, Tradition, and Legacy. He values the success in students' achievements because there are 2,453 students in Fordson and every one of them defines success in a different way. As Mr. Mosallam says, "Continue moving forward. Never settle for less and never be satisfied with what you have." That in itself will keep Fordson great and valued by the city, state, and most of all, its students.

Teacher Spotlight By: Mohamed Ahmed

This past month has been filled with joy and kindness. After all, that is what Fordson High School is all about. As the winter arrives, students and teachers have been giving back to the school and community through kindness. Out of the many kind teachers that work at Fordson, Mrs. Mikulak is one of the most caring. She is an amazing individual with great character. She comes in with a smile everyday ready to teach her students something completely new to them.....Spanish! For those who don't know Senora, she is Fordson's Spanish teacher and a proud faculty advisor for Key Club. That is why she has deserved this month's teacher spotlight!

Alma Matter?

I graduated from Wayne State University.

What is your favorite part of being a teacher at Fordson?

Working with students who want to learn and who care about my class.

What made you want to become a teacher?

I enjoy working with young adults and I like teaching about my heritage and my language.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

I would enjoy being a chef or owning a food truck and selling barbecue items.

Do you have any special skills/talents?

My special talents are cooking and entertaining.

Quote you live by?

"Hard work, diligence and perseverance pay off"

In the Spotlight!

Secretary of the Month: Hala Kesserouani

By: Ali Fakih

Mrs. Kesserouani came to Fordson in the beginning of 2011. It all started by a recommendation. Hala got a phone call from a dear friend asking if she wanted a job at Fordson. She accepted the offer and was hired a week later. She loves her job, but says it can be very stressful sometimes, but nothing stops her from getting the work done. Mrs. Kesserouani has had a very interesting experience with ups and downs, but overall she believes it is the best job at the best place.

How long have you been a secretary at Fordson?

"About 5 years"

What is the best/favorite thing about your job?

"The students, because they are all unique and different."

What was the greatest thing you have accomplished?

"An accomplishment can be different to many people, but my greatest accomplishment is raising 5 healthy, respectful, and nice young adults. Another great accomplishment is that I managed to keep a good relationship with the students at Fordson"



What motivates you to do a good job?

"Definitely the students, as well as the parents, I like everyone to be satisfied and happy."

The National Honor Society

By: Reem Aburukba



Ahmad Saad, the NHS vice president has been a part of the NHS club since his sophomore year. He didn't think that joining clubs would be that important during his freshman year and opted out in favor of concentrating on his grades. Of course, that was an admirable decision, but

he regrets the decision now and although grades do matter, he advises all of us to join a club as soon as possible. An ideal club is the National Honor Society and this club holds everyone to a high standard because they want the best out of their members, which is what Saad strives to be. He described the four pillars to me, also known as: Character, Service, Leadership, and Scholarship. While talking to him I realized that he exhibited all of these qualities and much more. Right now, he's working on his senior project which is planning trips to the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University. Saad also wants to stress the fact that when you join a club, you shouldn't join just to get it on your college application, you should join to help, because that's the sole purpose of the organization, to help wherever help is needed. Saad helps in every way possible and I believe that the NHS has shaped him into the helping and responsible person that he is today.

Finals Are Coming!

By Marwa Hachem

It's that time of year again. No, not the holidays! It's time for the finals! Get ready to be tested on EVERYTHING you learned since the beginning of the school year. No pressure, of course. For anyone (especially Freshmen) who wants to pass, make sure you follow these simple steps.

Study everything recently learned first. Study anything that you learned in the beginning of the semester later as the days get closer to actually taking the final.

Don't cram yourself! Study at a nice pace everyday without distractions so you won't have to study as much the day before your final.

Get rest! Many procrastinators decide to only study the day before the final and end up staying up very late, trying to memorize anything they need to learn.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHEAT SHEETS!!!!!!! If a teacher allows you to use a cheat sheet, do not hesitate on whether or not to make one. You may never know what questions a teacher might ask. Make one just to be safe.

Stay Positive! Thinking simple self-motivational quotes like "I know what I learned, I am ready" before a test can help relax you. If you think negatively, you will start stressing and wasting your time. Remind yourself that you are prepared.

By following these easy steps, you will be successful. Happy studying and good luck on your finals!!

Tips to Relax

By: Mirvat Chammout

Stressed about school? Have you had a lot of things on your mind and just want to unwind? Here are some tips to calm down and relax.

- Listen to music: Listen to some relaxing music. The natural sounds of waves or rain will calm you down and set your mind at ease. Or turn on your radio and listen to some of your favorite tunes.
- Practice yoga: Yoga helps reduce stress with controlled breathing, stretching exercises, and relaxation.
- Take some time for yourself: Find some time to do something you want for a change whether it be watching TV, hanging out with friends, or playing video games.
- Sleep: One reason you might be so stressed is because you haven't been getting enough sleep at night. Go to sleep earlier than usual and see if it makes a difference.
- Eat a banana: Bananas contain tryptophan which converts into serotonin. Serotonin helps reduce stress and anxiety
- Take a break: Take a break from studying by grabbing a snack or doing something else for awhile. Studies show that taking breaks between studying helps you relax.
- Stop and smell the flowers: Certain odors can help change a person's mood. Keep a candle by you that smells like your favorite flower to help you relax.

Laugh: Laughter is known as the best medicine. Watch some funny videos on YouTube or watch a comedy.

Extra Extra

Fun Fruit Facts

By: Mirvat Chammout

- The peel of a banana can be used to stop the itching of mosquito bites.
- Early explorers used watermelons as canteens to carry their water supplies.
- Pineapples are not a single fruit, but a cluster of up to 200 fruitlets.
- Raspberries can be red, black, purple or gold in color.
- Apples float because 25% of their volume is air.
- Apple seeds are mildly poisonous but not enough to be dangerous to humans.
- The Romans were known to use strawberries for a long list of medical remedies.
- Add half a cup of lemon juice to your laundry to brighten whites.
- British sailors used

to eat limes to prevent scurvy.

That's why they were called "Limeys".

- Strawberries have more Vitamin C than oranges.
- Unripe pineapples are poisonous.
- Mangoes can be ripened quickly by placing them in a paper bag with a ripe banana.
- Peaches, strawberries, and raspberries are members of the rose family.
- In some parts of the world, trained monkeys are used to harvest coconuts
- Mangoes have as much Vitamin C as oranges.
- Eating an apple is a more reliable



method of staying awake than drinking coffee.

Did You Know Facts

By: Mohamed Ahmed

Which country waged war on Honduras in 1969 after losing a soccer match?

- A. Mexico
- B. El Salvador
- C. Costa Rica
- D. Bolivia

Cucumbers are made up of what percentage of water?

- A. 20%
- B. 40%
- C. 80%
- D. 95%

The paint on the Eiffel Tower weighs as much as?

- A. 10 elephants
- B. 5 elephants
- C. 6 ½ elephants
- D. 18 elephants

Where is the human heart actually located?

- A. Left side of chest
- B. Middle of chest
- C. Right side of chest
- D. In the toenail

When was the Peoples republic of china founded?

- A. 1949
- B. 1554
- C. 2000
- D. 1935

Answers b, d, a, b, a

Original Work

The girl who sleeps on

Speaking of the girl who sleeps on
as I wake--I
cannot see her
without a flower
slumbering inside her,
waiting to unfold itself,
to show itself,
to beg itself mercy
from an all-crushing world.

By: Alex Zapien

Sports

Girls Basketball Season

By: Reem Aburukba

The Fordson girls basketball season started in early December and will finish in early March. The season has begun slower than expected with an overall record of 1-5 for the Lady Tractors. The team, which consists of 6 seniors and 7 juniors, is highly experienced and is having trouble putting the pieces together.



Even though they are not off to a great start, Ms. Budop, who's been coaching the team for 2 years, believes that they can get on track and fix the elements that they've been lacking and eventually have a great season. If you want to see all of those wins that the girls basketball team will bring us, you should come out and support them. That will also motivate them to work harder while you have a fun time with your friends and family. Go Lady Tractors.

Fordson Graduate Comes Home to Teach

Once a Tractor, Always a Tractor is true. Mariam Beydoun is a Fordson graduate and is currently a Fordson teacher. Ms. Beydoun started as a Fordson Tractor in 2001 and was a graduate of FHS '04. She inspired and still inspires lots of students. Ms. Beydoun, who once wanted to become a lawyer, was convinced by her mother to become a teacher since she wanted Ms. Beydoun to maintain her job when she settles down and has a family. Inspired by her university professor, she agreed and worked at Edsel Ford for a while. She then decided to work at the school in which she graduated from. Her first year as a teacher, walking through memory filled halls, Mariam Beydoun laughs quietly to herself as she remembers her amazing years at Fordson. She realized that she would be making new memories as a teacher. As the years pass, memories grow and her love of Fordson grows even more. One thing Ms. Beydoun teaches her students, or as she likes to call them her children, *Once a Tractor, Always a Tractor*. As this inspiring teacher continues to grow memories and teach children, in her heart she will always be a Fordson Tractor.

-Reem Abouzeid.