

Happy New Year!

Serving Becomes Focus for Fordson Students

Fordson staff and students were able to donate hundreds of new and unused gifts to Children's Hospital of Michigan last month. December marked the 4th year of this event which continues to grow and provide an abundance of joy to sick children in Michigan. The continued spirit of giving and serving over the past year has helped Fordson become a leader in promoting community service in and around the Detroit metropolitan area.



During the month of December, under the leadership of Amanda Durfee, Fordson Students surpassed all expectations through their generous giving. Students were asked to bring in new toys, books, and games to benefit the Children's Hospital of Michigan. The donations were then distributed to hospitalized children a week before Christmas. Fordson students were able to brighten the day for many children who were struggling with sickness and healing. Students passed out gifts, but more importantly they provided companionship. Thanks to the generous donations from Fordson staff and students, recovering children were able to experience joy and comfort in the midst of their illness.



Key Club Bowl-a-thon!

Fordson Key Club members attended Cherry Hill Lanes on Sunday, December 1st from 11:30-2:30 for the annual bowl-a-thon event held by the Kiwanians. The service consisted of encouraging and assisting special needs individuals to enjoy the annual bowling event. Professional bowlers were at hand and once again members shined!



Key Club Members Help Out During Christmas

On Friday, December 20th Fordson Key Club members worked hard making Christmas cards for seniors citizens at the Heartland Nursing Home. While passing out cards, the Fordson students interacted with the seniors, heard wonderful stories, and listened to Christmas carols being sung. On Saturday, December 21st, the Key Club members packaged food to be distributed to community members in need. The event took place at the Gleaners Food Bank in Detroit.



Sports

Student Athlete Spotlights

Hefdadeen Mashrah, a junior athlete at Fordson High School, was interviewed about this year's past football season.

Below are the questions and answers from our male athlete.

1. What was the highlight of your season?

The highlight of my season has to be the last game we played against Monroe. Monroe vs. Fordson is a very big rivalry here. Going into the game we knew it was going to be tough considering we were away and the people there are very hostile towards Fordson in general. We were able to come out with the win but more importantly we all came together as one family with one heartbeat; that game brought us closer together than ever before.

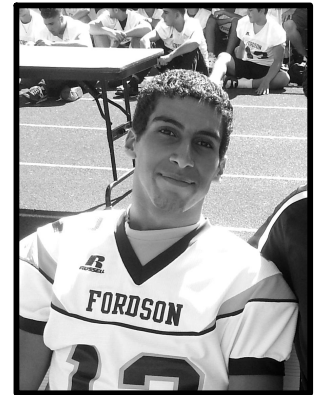
2. Overall, how would you rate your performance this year? Do you feel yourself improving year to year? What do you think is the key to a successful team?

Overall, I feel as though I stepped up this year. My coaches did not really expect much from me but I think I exceeded their expectations. Since freshman year up until now I have improved a great deal and so have my teammates. We have great chemistry with one another and it shows no signs of diminishing. The key to a successful team is trust. Our players must trust each other to have each other's back, our coaches must trust us to make plays when needed and more importantly we need to trust our coaches with everything.

3. Now that basketball has started, are you going to forget about football? Which do you prefer to play? Why?

I try to get better every day and now that basketball began I see it as an opportunity to get faster and quicker for football. Also, many of the football players make up the basketball team so this season could further build our chemistry with one another. Basketball is a very fun, competitive sport. Having a small team allows you to make a bond with everyone that cannot be broken. Be that as it may, my heart resides with football. No feeling can compare to playing under the lights with the people you grew up with and have come to think of as family.

By: Deena Atoui



Say hello to **Israa Ali**, Fordson Freshmen, who has become the Girl's Cross Country team's Most Valuable runner during the 2013 fall season. Driven and motivated, Israa says that this sport isn't just a physical sport, rather it is more of a mental challenge that one must overcome. Israa joined the Unis Track team during her 7th grade year, and then joined the Woodworth Track team in 8th as a long distance runner, sprinter and hurdler. However, the Fordson Cross Country experience was completely different. The Cross Country team here at Fordson is a family, she noted. The more serious competition lies between the runners. Through her hard work and dedication she does off-season training and conditioning to increase her speed and decrease her 5K overall time. Why might she choose running you might ask? Well, to Israa, running took a huge toll on her life, and became a part of who she is, and who she will become. "Running has motivated me to become more competitive even in the classroom," she said. Her words of encouragement for those who run and even those who don't are "No matter what people may tell you, you know what you're capable of, and you can push your limits

and reach your goals if you set your mind to it." Israa has bigger goals of one day making it to states, and ultimately nationals.

By: Fordson Tower Tribune Staff



(Former) Teacher Spotlight:

Former Fordson history teacher Mrs. Patricia Baron volunteers her time in Fordson's classroom providing expertise and life time experiences.

By: Sajad Abood, Jaafer Albattat, Nora Albidhani, Mona Chahrour, Farah Joni, Hussein Makki and Yosra Nasser

How many years did you teach and where?

"I taught for 42 years, science for 15 and history for 27 years. I taught at Eastern High School, which later became Martin Luther King High School. Later I moved to Dearborn and taught at O.L. Smith, Maples and Fordson. While teaching at Fordson, I had Mr. Mosallam as a student!" Mrs. Baron also had Mr. Gurk as a student teacher.

What inspired you to be a history teacher?

"I have always had a passion for history. History has influenced America. There are very exciting parts to it."

Who is your favorite sports team?

"My favorite sports team is the Fordson Tractors. I have never missed a football game. I also was a tennis coach for FHS for many years."

What is your favorite sport?

"I like all sports. Softball, tennis and bicycling are my hobbies. In softball I played shortstop and pitcher, but my throwing arm was hurt when I fell off a horse."

What was your first job?

"My first job was at a movie theater selling candy."

What was the first car you ever owned?

"A 20 year old Mercury that I sold for \$25.00."

Why did you decide to volunteer

back at Fordson and whose class do you volunteer in?

"I missed Fordson and felt that Fordson kids are the best!" Mrs. Baron volunteers in Ms. Ha's and in Mrs. Schumms classroom. "Her gift of storytelling has endeared my third and sixth hour students." says Ms. Ha.

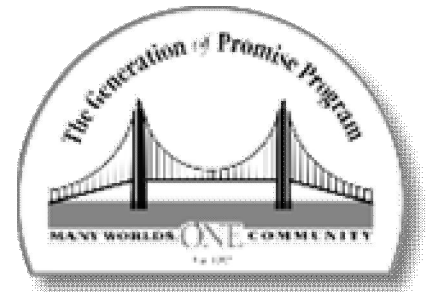
Where have you traveled?

"All 50 states except Hawaii. I'm going to Hawaii this summer. I have also been to Chili, Argentina, West Germany, England, Australia, the Panama Canal, Italy, China, Antarctica, New Zealand and Costa Rica."



Generation of Promise Visit to Fordson

On Wednesday, December 11, Fordson hosted a group of 12 current Generation of Promise students and two adult GOP facilitators as part of our 'Cultural Diversity' program day. Generation of Promise gathers students from the Metro Detroit area who have a wide variety of ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds in order to foster understanding. During their visit to Fordson, all of the students in this group wanted to explore Arab American culture to gain a greater awareness of cultural differences and similarities and to dispel any myths or stereotypes they held about the Arab American community. In the morning, Amira Alshouli and Hawraa Idriss, alumni members of GOP, gave a tour of Fordson, leading GOP members around the building and sharing some history of the school and the area. The students also met with Ms. Harb for about a half hour.



GOP students filled out evaluations after their visit, and it was obvious that students learned a lot about the Arab American community. Students affirmed how much they gained from their visit to Fordson, offering comments like:

- My perception of this group has definitely changed through my experience today. There are a lot of misperceptions about Muslims and Arab Americans, but now I know the truth behind them and can stand up against these negative stereotypes!
- Before today, I had stereotypical views towards Arab Americans because I didn't know anything about them. But now I understand certain aspects of their life and different issues that they deal with as a community.
- As a result of being part of this program day, I want to further investigate the challenges other racial, ethnic, religious and cultural groups face and how I can make a positive impact in my community!
- I thought I knew what I was going to be learning about today but I ended up learning much more than I expected!

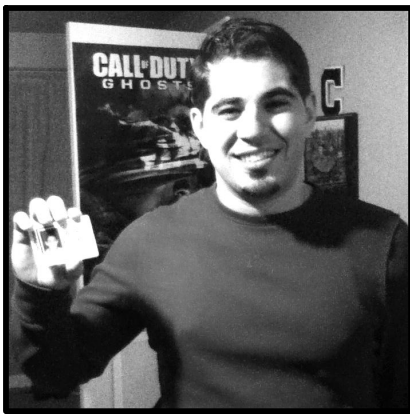
If you are interested in learning more about GOP and how to become a member of GOP, see current members Mohammad Abdulghani, Abbas Alhassan, Asraa Ali, and Mohammad Harp or Ms. Cantrell, Fordson's GOP sponsor.

A Flash From Fordson's Past

Graduate student returns to tell of his time at Fordson High School

By: Aya Beydoun

Anwar Beydoun graduated from Fordson back in 2008, and within his 4 years he accomplished incredible things both in the classroom and after school on the field. I sat down with Anwar to find out what it was like for him at Fordson and how he feels it affected his life.



What did you excel at academically during your time at Fordson?

“AP Literature, Creative Writing, History, and Psychology, that’s what I really enjoyed.”

Did you join any clubs or sports after school, anything that really stands out?

“Wow, that’s a lot. I did cross country, track, I played soccer, and I wrestled. As for organizations I was involved in NHS, Key Club, and the International Club. I also represented the class of, I was a senator

How would you describe your experience at Fordson in 5 words?

“It was an incredible experience.”

Would you like to make a shout out to any special teachers, anyone you feel really helped you?

“Well to the ones who are still there, definitely Mrs. Bertolis, because I’ve had her in middle school and in high school, she’s just great. Ms. Keith was

part of the biggest reason why I even got into literature and I became really good at it. She tortured me through drilling pronouns. Mrs. Kassem, was another incredible teacher. Mr. Alexander had a big influence on me, as well as Mr. Forester for psychology.”

How has your experience at Fordson helped you in the real world?

“You’re given a predisposition when you’re at Fordson and everyone labels you in a certain way and it’s not necessarily a bad thing and it’s not necessarily a good thing, but if one thing I’ve learned from that it’s the fact that at the end of the day you can go into your high school experience and graduate and still not know what you’re going to do with your life and you’re going to be completely fine. Even those that have figured out what they want to do early on end up not pursuing it, switching careers and vice versa. People who graduate not knowing what they’re doing will end up doing something great. So it helped me keep myself more open minded to what I can do with my life. If anything, Fordson taught me to be flexible with what I want to do.”

What are you doing now?

“Currently, I’m an accountant for a company that is one of the biggest distributors from anything you can come up with in terms of Mediterranean bread lines. I speak with representatives at Meijer, Kroger, and from Wal-Mart. I do all of the accounting, and all the banking work. It’s not necessarily what I wanted to do, but it’s a great first step for my life and hopefully I can pursue even more.”

Future plans?

“Get married, have a great job that pays anywhere from 50-80k so I can live a very... I just want to live a balanced life. I don’t want too flashy of a life, I just want to live a good life with whatever family I should have, and I’ll leave it at that.”

Original Work

Life

"If you were created for this world, you would have been created without death". What is it that you guarantee will excuse you from the hole your fragile body will have no choice but to inhabit? Verily, there is irony in this strange departure. I am underway in leaving and I seem to be interred in solitude. How so and where are those who have always been alongside me? Today, I remember clearly I was born alone but nothing of a large home or jewelry. How could I have failed to see that surely there are more bodies in the ground than on it? Why would I in particular be destined to stay? Invincible was I such that I could discard a simple illness to shatter my body or a sin of implosion to tickle my soul? Blindness was always said to be in the eyes; suddenly blindness is in the heart. I am in a state of utter confusion. I feel as if I am in a warm, muddy, closed box with no carcass to satisfy. Not my power, for I seem to have forgotten to bring with me what was before a powerful rank on my broad shoulders. I have lost my heart, yet my chest is yet to stop beating, for perhaps what used to be a clenched fist cannot defend what is already gone. As the scarce continues, I blame those who could not cure my blindness, but again and again I have proven my cowardice in failing to take responsibility. I quickly become sentimental such that nature as a whole is a cachexia. But I hear all sorts of silence and see all that is black in darkness. It appears I haven't but to return, and when it comes to my recognition that I bluntly have no escape-way or path consisting of mercy-pursuit, I cannot but ask whatever hosts this event for a second look at the world; a demand, of course, with no response. I can always ask whether this was the only journey to take or whether a pilgrimage in Mecca or Jerusalem yesterday could have taken me elsewhere today. I wonder if my morals would not have destroyed the emotions of one during an unforced greeting approach, would I be in the ground guilty or awaiting a reward. I make my comparisons then take my decision. What do I want to await on the day my flesh dries and heart stops? To whom will my allegiance or tributes matter before I say the final goodbye? Irony, is it not, that my hand will not wave, but shake and shiver in weakness? I am given this freedom to choose everyday. I can build my late, everlasting castle now or enjoy the pleasures of illusive minutes instead. I would prefer to drink vintage from rivers than die and transfigure continuously in devastating thirst. Always do I ask if I am ready for this day. As I quote: "Do for your life as if you live forever, do for your afterlife as if you die tomorrow."

By: Mohammed Barada

Test your knowledge!

By: Mohamed Ahmed

How many of these questions can you answer correctly?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. What are most lipsticks made of?
a. fish scales
b. whale fat
c. burned plastics
d. wax | 3. What is the only food that does not spoil?
a. whip cream
b. carrots
c. honey
d. cucumbers | 5. What is the 1st product to have a bar code?
a. Tide detergent
b. Coca-Cola
c. Hershey's
d. Wrigley's Gum |
| 2. Almonds are members of what family?
a. apple
b. grape
c. peach
d. mango | 4. Who invented the scissors?
a. Leonardo Da Vinci
b. Benjamin Franklin
c. Thomas Edison
d. Galileo | |

*Answers can be found on
page 8*

Movie Reviews

Prisoners Movie Review

By: Rasheen Alhamadi

The movie Prisoners was by far one of the best movies I've seen this year. It's a thriller movie that's full of suspense and mystery. Hugh Jackman, better known as "Wolverine", stars as Keller Dover, one of the two fathers in the movie. He played the role amazingly, taking fatherly concern to a whole new level. The basic plot to the movie is that two little girls in a small town are kidnapped. The police have a suspect, but he's mentally challenged, therefore, not giving much help. Out of desperation, the fathers take things into their own hands. As usual, it's not easy to tell who the kidnapper is and soon, you'll begin to suspect everyone. Of course, there are also a bunch of unexpected events that keep you confused throughout the movie. But the ending is one that no one will see coming. There are a few intense scenes that may require a solid stomach, but this movie is totally worth watching if you have some free time. It'll keep your eyes glued to the screen and your nerves on edge.

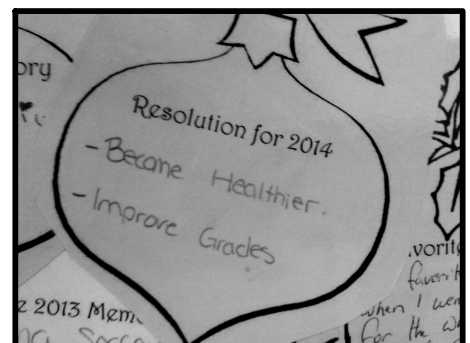
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire Movie Review

By: Rasheen Alhamadi

Catching Fire was one of the best movies of 2013. It was incredible to watch and kept me at the edge of my seat the entire time. Everyone who has seen it can agree that it was better than the first. The reason for this is the fact that the new director basically used the book as the script so it really resembled the book. The advancements in technology for the second movie made it just that much more thrilling. The audience watched the tributes train with holograms and watching TV on holograms. This addition to the film gives a futuristic feeling, which keeps it consistent with the book. Even if you have never read the book, you will still love this movie and the characters just as much. The environment the characters are placed in this time is extremely intense, so you never know what might come jumping out from around the corner. This uncertainty is another thing that makes the movie interesting. If you haven't read the book, you'll never know who will die next and who will live to the end. The depth of the characters and the roles they play keep the audience guessing about the next scene. Catching Fire is a dystopian movie that is both action-packed and thrilling. Overall, Catching Fire is a must see!

Students Speak Out About 2014 Resolutions

Before the break, students were asked to write down their favorite 2013 memory and 2-3 items in their life they would like to improve upon for 2014. There were many great memories and hopefully the students will all be able to make new ones by living up to their resolutions this coming year. The most common resolution was to attain a higher grade point average and to live healthier lives through diet and exercise.



Fordson Crossword Puzzle

By: Mohamed Ahmed

Across

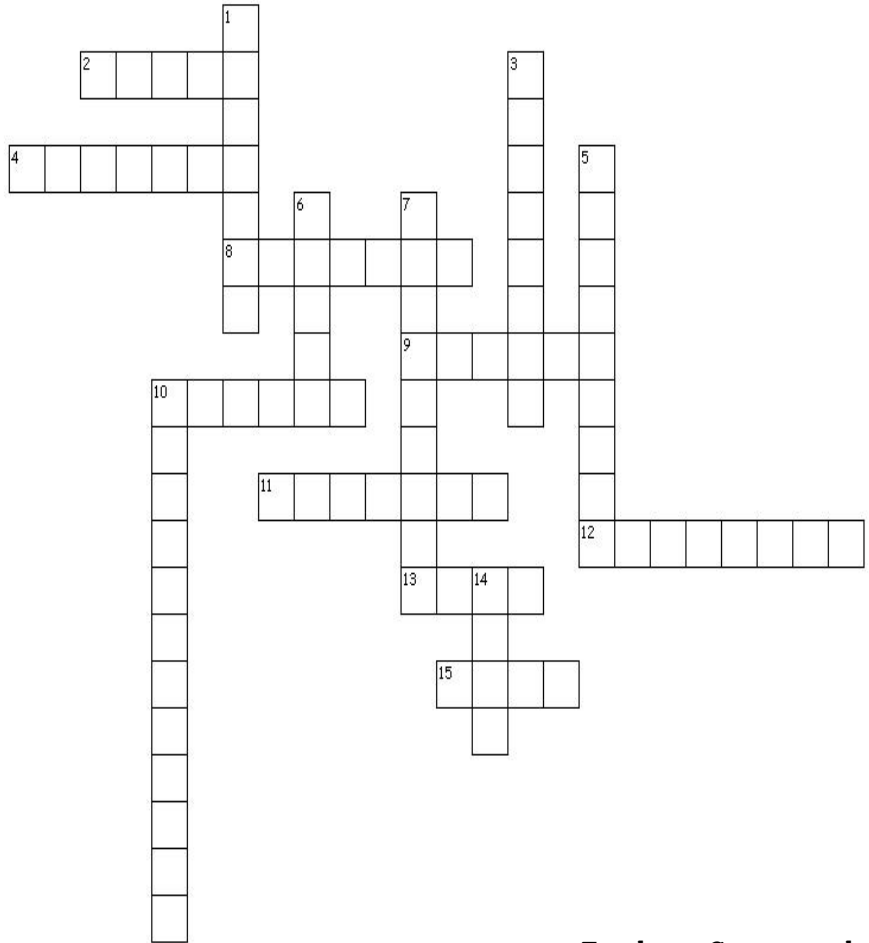
2. Fordson's famous exterior attraction is the _____
4. Fordson is the first _____ dollar school to be built in the nation
8. Fordson's mascot is The _____
9. Fordson has Pride, Tradition & _____
10. Fordson might have an underground _____ that leads to Lowrey
11. Where Fordson's fireplace is located at
12. The city Fordson is located in
13. The year the Sophomores graduate
15. The year Fordson was built

Down

1. The rock/mineral that is used to build Fordson
3. The principal of Fordson is Mr. _____
5. Fordson was named after _____
6. Fordson's colors are _____ and Blue
7. Fordson's tower was used in which war?
10. Fordson's newspaper is called the _____
14. The year Fordson became a Michigan Historical Site

Answers for Test Your Knowledge:

1=A, 2=C, 3=C, 4= A, 5=D



Fordson Crossword Puzzle Answers

- Across**
2. Tower
 4. Million
 8. Tractor
 9. Legacy
 10. Tunnel
 11. Library
 12. Dearborn
 13. 2016
 15. 1928
- Down**
1. Granite
 3. Mosallam
 5. Henry Ford
 6. Maize
 7. Worldwar2
 10. Tower Tribune
 14. 1998

