

## FORDSON COURTYARD UPDATE



On Saturday, September 28th, Fordson students and Rajaa Musleh of Picasso Design Group worked diligently for several hours on the construction of the courtyard. Students constructed an outdoor classroom and began preparations for a fountain. Students also engraved pavers during the day. We want to thank the Fordson students who willingly gave of their time to make the courtyard completion a closer reality. The Courtyard Project is currently in its third year of construction and the completion date is projected to be April of 2014. (Check out page 4 to see the surprise volunteer!)

### A NEW TRACTOR ARRIVES!

**Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. DelGiudice on the arrival of their new daughter, Juliette AnnMarie!**





## The Pep Rally!



**Fordson's annual Pep Rally brought students and staff together for an afternoon of fun and entertainment**



A crisp September morning brought an air of excitement to Fordson High School on Friday the 27th. The school bustled with anticipation throughout the day for the infamous football game against our city rival, the Dearborn High Pioneers, and, as usual, the coming of this day brought an anticipated event during Fordson's 5th and 6th periods: the annual pep rally!

This year's pep rally was an undeniable success; it featured all fall sports teams on the field, donning their jerseys and participating in a series of games and competitions. The band kicked off the event with "Seven Nation Army," riling up the crowd and setting an upbeat tone. The crowd was split into grades as usual. This year all grades were color coordinated: the seniors wore yellow, the juniors blue, the sophomores white and the freshmen, gray. The event kicked off with Mr. Mosallam's enthusiastic pep talk, made even more exciting this year due to the school's success on the ACT this past spring.

The games ensued on the field - a new competition being introduced this year: a pie eating contest. Swimmers and cross-country runners lost to a volleyball player, producing shock from fellow teammates. Box races and a tug-of-war were also part of the festivities.

The crowd was especially excited this year, due to greater participation in the actual pep rally as opposed to past years of being mere observers. Members of student council and the pep rally committee involved the students in the bleachers by playing games and offering prizes, including foam fingers, pom-poms, and t-shirts.

"We really worked hard to make it inclusive this year," said Julia Haidar, Student Council's Executive President and member of the pep rally committee. "We didn't want people to just sit and watch everyone else have fun. I think it was a success."

Though everyone loves pie and free Fordson merchandise, the central goal of the annual pep rally is to get the Fordson student body unified and excited for the school's biggest football game of the year-- and that it did. The game that night was a Fordson victory with a whopping score of 36-7. Many students said it was the best Fordson game they'd been to yet.

Ultimately, the pep rally is a tradition central to Fordson's fall and football season. At no other time are *all* students and staff on the field, cheering on their school with pride and enthusiasm. It brings the school together in a way that truly demonstrates what Fordson is: a family.

**By: Sarah Mokh**



## Join the Key Club!



On September 17, 2013 Fordson Key Club members helped out with the AAUW book drive sale. Students assisted with boxes, organized book selections, and transferred books from place to place. This school-related activity lasted all day.

*\*If you are interested in joining Key Club, meetings are held in the cafe at 2:30pm. Meetings run every Thursday for about 20 minutes. If you are interested please see Ms. Zriek for further information in room G207.*

## NHS Blood Drive

By: Essam Aljahmi



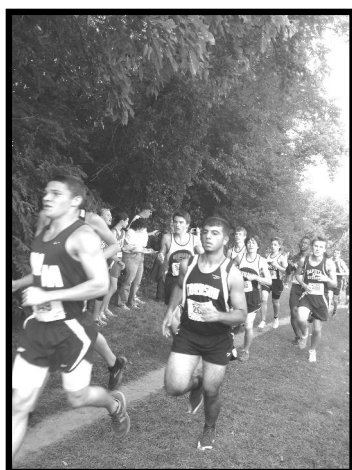
On Thursday September 12, 2013 NHS and the American Red Cross worked together to help set up a blood drive. The blood drive got off to a good start with a donation of 32 pints of blood. The goal for NHS was 36. Even though 46 volunteers had showed up, 14 were deferred. Many of the volunteers were nervous, and some almost fainted after donating their blood. After they donated blood, they received a snack to revitalize them. Many volunteers felt good about donating blood and felt even better knowing that every pint of blood donated was able to save up to 3 lives.

# Cross Country

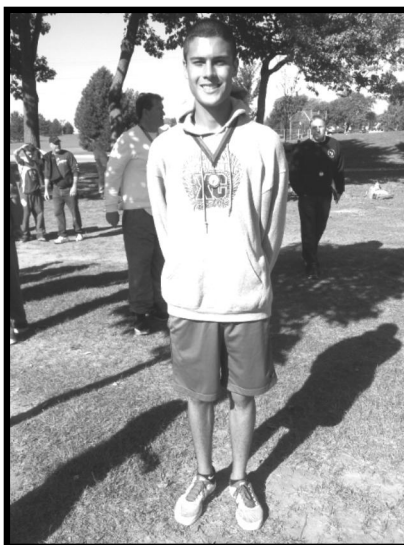
## 2013



*2013 Girls Cross Country Team*



11th Grader Hadi Akhdar



*Mohammed Faraj placed 9th at the 14th annual Falcon Invitational on Saturday, September 29th. He finished the 5000 kilometer race in 17:35, his personal best.*



Allen Swaidan and Aladdin Alqadhi compete at the Tommy Titan Race in Northville



Senior Mohammed Faraj

## Praying Mantis Caught Volunteering in the Fordson Courtyard!



On Saturday, September 21 at the Fordson courtyard, we found a remarkable little long-legged creature: a praying mantis! Among other active volunteers, the mantis played a vital role in rejuvenating Fordson volunteers' spirits. Many people took photos of the fascinating insect.

## A Fordson Graduate Looks Back:



By Marwa Hachem

Today, I interviewed a Fordson graduate named Mariam Hachem. I caught up with her and she answered a few questions about her high school experience.

**What year did you graduate?**

*"In the year 2012."*

**What university/college are you currently attending?**

*"University of Michigan- Dearborn. I'm currently studying biology."*

**What is your favorite memory of Fordson?**

*"I really enjoyed Senior Skip Day and freshman year."*

**How did you prepare for the ACTs?**

*"I studied the Kaplan Text Book. It was very helpful. Also, Language Arts classes prepared me for the essay portion of the test."*

**What advice do you have for all the freshmen?**

*"Take your classes seriously; pick your friends wisely."*

**What advice do you have for the Class of 2014 seniors?**

*"Study as hard as you can- take AP classes. Also physics and anatomy."*



## Teacher Spotlight



By: Mohamed Ahmed

There are many amazing teachers/staff here at Fordson High School. One of these individuals is the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Language Arts teacher, **Ms. Jamieson**. I had the privilege of interviewing **Ms. Jamieson** so that I and many others can learn more about her.

**Background Education?**

*I graduated from McDonald High School. I received my Bachelors degree in Secondary English Education in 2000 and my Masters Degree in English Education from Wayne State in 2005.*

**Favorite Hobbies?**

*I love reading, and cooking, and running, and throwing parties with the other teachers at Fordson!*

**Favorite Book?**

*That's almost impossible to answer..... Alice in Wonderland is probably one of my most favorite books, but that's too hard for an English teacher to answer.*

**Proudest moment as a teacher?**

*Proudest moment as a teacher is, every year seeing the progress that my students make, seeing how far they come in just one year with their writing skills and other abilities.*

**Years teaching, and where at?**

*I have been teaching for 14 years. I taught one year in Ohio before I moved to Michigan and this is my 13<sup>th</sup> year in Dearborn and my 10<sup>th</sup> year at Fordson.*

**Any favorite team?**

*Ohio State Buckeyes!*



# Editorial Muslim Women Pearls in Islam: Some call it oppression, I call it a shield. Editorial

By: Khansa Alhaidi

According to dictionary.com, a hijab is a traditional scarf worn by Muslim women to cover the hair and neck and sometimes the face. I feel this definition doesn't give the real meaning or the true beauty of a hijab. To me, a hijab is a scarf that Islamic women wear as a way of protecting themselves and covering their true beauty so that it is not shown to the unwanted eyes of by-passers. I was reading some articles on the hijab when I came upon a story about why Islam asks women to cover up.

The story is about a conversation between a non-Muslim man and an Islamic cleric. The non-Muslim man asks, "Why does Islam oblige Muslim women to wear hijab?" The cleric takes out two candies unwrapping one of them and throws them both onto the floor. He asks, "If you have to choose, which candy will you pick?" Like any other person, the man an-

swers, "Of course I'll take the wrapped one, because it's the clean one." After hearing the reply, the cleric gives him the answer. "Indeed. In Islam, we protect our women through hijab."

I believe that this story makes clear why Muslim women wear head scarves.

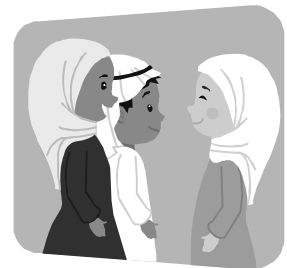
Women in Islam are treated as pearls. The cover-up is like a shell, only to be opened to show the real beauty that lies inside.

If a woman is free to dress as she wishes, why shouldn't she be free to cover up? Women in Islam are not oppressed. It is their decision to wear hijab, and it is their freedom to follow their decision, isn't it?

Why is it that it's called freedom to be naked but oppression when it comes to covering up?

The beauty a scarf holds cannot be explained. You wouldn't be able to explain the feeling unless you are wearing a hijab. It's the shield that guards us.

To me, wearing a hijab is probably the best thing a Muslim woman can do in her life. Some people would disagree with me, but that is because they haven't felt what it is like to wear a hijab. A hijab to me is true beauty. It is worth more to me than you will ever imagine. I wouldn't ever change my mind about this. It's what makes Muslim women the pearls in Islam.



## Earth's Last Moments

By: Hashim Kochak



I think I speak for everyone when I say that the summer of 2013 did not live up to the rumors we had been hearing in the spring. The animation movies did better than the action, horror, and drama movies, but could last summer's movies be hinting at the future of Earth and humanity? I mean we already have robotic body parts, replacement organs, and scientists are making progress in curing blindness and hearing problems. Known for their mechanical suits, "Iron Man 3" and "Pacific Rim" show humans making enormous advances in technology and interacting with robotics. Whether humans are wearing a battle suit that gives them powers or operating a one thousand ton alien defense

suit, we are still interacting with robotic engineering and depending on them more and more every day. But, humans becoming cyborgs isn't the only trend that we have seen this past summer. A total destruction of Earth could clearly be seen in "Oblivion" when all of mankind has fled in an exodus to a fleet of spaceships in outer space and the world is being controlled by a prism-like mechanical being. "After Earth" does not show the destruction of our planet but it shows a rebirth where everything has evolved to kill humans. "World War Z" shows a deadly zombie-like plague which breaks out uncontrollably across the world. "White House Down" and "Olympus Has Fallen" show the de-

struction of the United States. "This Is the End" may seem like a comedy but to fully understand a movie you have to look at the hidden message. Could an alien takeover be coming? Could a plague soon breakout? Could artificial intelligence outsmart us? Or could we as humans simply nuke ourselves into nothingness? Either way, the 2013 summer movies seem to show that we as humans are losing our humanist nature and that the destruction of Earth seems inevitable.

## Study Tips

**By: Aya Beydoun**

Everybody needs a little help in school. No one is great at everything, even the best struggle a little. If you're sick of failing tests or just really want to bump up your grades from a C to B or B to A, then this article can help. Below are some of my best study tips to help ensure you ace your next big test!

**Relationships:** Relating your topic to things you love is a great way to help you remember things. For example, those of you who know everything about Justin Bieber, but can't remember anything in your American history class, use something like this: Justin Bieber was born March 1, 1994. On March 1, 1781, Continental Congress adopted The Articles of Confederation. If you're just like music in general, trying changing the lyrics of your favorite song to match whatever material you're learning. I'm sure you all remember when Hannah Montana sang "The Bone Dance". It's a cheesy method but it works!

**Pace Yourself:** Let's face it; no one wants to read an insane amount of chapters for any subject. None of us have the time or attention span to do that! So if it's Monday and your biology teacher tells you there's a test on Friday, start studying little by little. Just 10 minutes of focused reading, and then a little note taking on things you don't already know once a day will go a long way. Why 10 minutes? Usually after ten minutes you may start to lose your focus. Lessening the load and starting early can really help.

**Get Extra Help:** If you *really* need that extra push there is one-on-one tutoring from older students available and there are other teachers in the school who are willing to help you if you ask. There is also a tutoring center available for those who are interested. It is held Tuesday through Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 in Ms. Saleh's room, D204. There are other students who are willing to help you as well. When choosing a study partner just make sure whoever it is you choose won't distract you. If that doesn't work, our generation is lucky enough to have the internet. There are a lot of great sites, but one of my personal favorites is KhanAcademy.org. This site has hundreds of helpful videos on a wide range of topics. If you're on the go, Khan Academy has apps for all your devices as well.

There are a lot of great ways to study, and though it may seem like a lot, it's completely worth the time. There's no better feeling than acing a test you thought would be impossible. Give these a try, and I'm sure the results will be more than phenomenal.

## Recommended Book of the Month

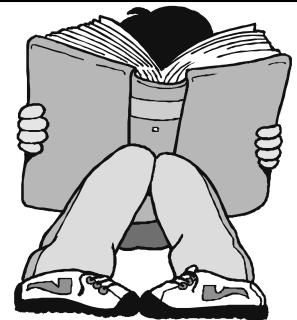
**By: Aya Beydoun**

Looking for the perfect book to read? Whether it's for SSR in class, a book report, or just for your enjoyment, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth is my Recommended Book of the Month. This book is unlike any other you've ever read and is guaranteed to grab your attention from the first page.

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian future Chicago, society is divided into 5 factions: The Abnegation, the Dauntless, the Erudite, the Candor, and the Amity. Each faction has its own members with the same views, living the same lives, and even dressing the same. For example, the Erudite represent the wise, and the Dauntless are the brave. Every year all the 16 year olds in the city are given a choice to remain in their faction, or to leave their family and friends behind forever in order to join another faction. Beatrice must decide where she's going, who she is, and survive the unthinkable. Remember: "**One choice** decides your friends. **One choice** defines your beliefs. **One choice** determines your loyalties- forever.... **One Choice** can transform you." –Veronica Roth

In this *New York Times Bestseller*, be prepared to expect the unexpected! This captivating read contains suspense and surprises from beginning to end. There's something for every type of reader: demanding mystery, TONS of action, a touch of romance, nonstop excitement, and genius comedy! It also includes a diverse array of characters with strong and passionate personalities. Simply put, it's like Suzanne Collins (author of *The Hunger Games*), Nicolas Sparks (author of many romance novels, like *The Notebook*), and James Patterson (author of tons of action packed exciting mystery thriller books) combined. Veronica Roth's way with words, and surprising plot twists will take you on an adventure so great, when you finish; reality won't seem so real.

So if you're looking for a good book to read, this is the one to pick! And if you really enjoyed it, there are two more books to the series: *Insurgent* (available now) and *Allegiant* (Which doesn't come out till October 22). Enjoy reading!!!





## Original Writing and Poetry

### Soul Searching

**By: Mohamed Barada**

Like a bird in a colorful jungle, the soul senses the urge to explore its freedom - even as the freedom may lie in the sealed household of fright. During the night, blessed the evening or cursed the morning, the bird may be at rest, but its wings linger in the winds of prime consumption, for only in the midst of hardship is the chest of lessons present. And the bird is well aware that flying is quite the gift. But, if only for a single minute, the wings stop, the flight comes to an end; as the unsinkable ship that sails across the sea of challenge will not frighten the waves away by stopping and waiting for the rescue of season-change. Likewise, the rainbow of human thought will withstand the terror in stormy weather and await the shine of colorful success. Many fail to understand the haste of tenacity, as if those who are ambitious are of a different species, for some tend to sit hopefully in memory of their lost-loves waiting for the flight of resolution, and still, they pity the mind gazing upon the infinite capacity of its nature. What is pitiful is that while those who answer questions out of knowledge feel they are exalted, those who ask the questions with imagination are extra-satisfied with the humble sight they carry. Much fewer are those who have imaginations ... As those in no man's land make wishes for heroic divinity, this minority of beaming-hearted, free-minded men see godly intuition in themselves. An imaginative scholar is the savior of nature, the knight of declaration. Only the wings of the bird know true winds.

Do not yield when your inexperience says you are incapable.

### Vagabond

**By: Alex Zapien**

Through the streets and through the park,  
he walks along the dimly lit cobbled stone.  
Seeking a new home is not the easiest thing to be done.  
A swallow of pride and a choke back of fear,  
These things necessary to moving forward in life.  
With a sigh and a step his journey moves on.  
In retrospect, past events could have gone better.  
A wonder of complete silence stirs thought of what happened then.

## Peer Tutoring

**Tuesday-Friday  
2:30—3:30  
Room D-204  
Get help in ANY Subjects!**

## Events to Remember in October!!!

- ♦ National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- ♦ Eid Al-Adha
- ♦ Happy Halloween!

