

# Tower Tribune

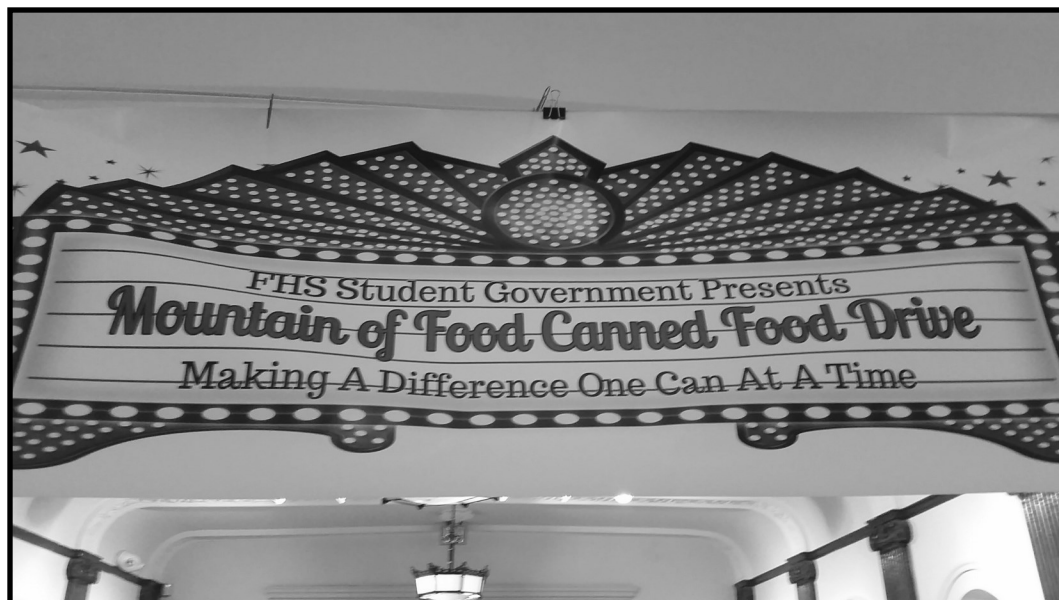
Volume 210

Fordson High School

December 2014

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### An "Uncanny" Success

The Fordson family showed its tradition of generosity once again. The Mountain of Food Canned Food Drive presented by the FHS Student Government helped out those in need in a big way. A literal mountain range of nonperishable food items appeared in the hallway by the Fordson tractor.

Ending on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the drive collected food and money totaling 24,371 items greatly surpassing the goal of 17,000. In the spirit of competition, the winning classroom collections were Mr. Fauz (3,695) and Ms. Naura (2,734). We congratulate Ms. Reda and the student government who organized this event to kick off the season of thanks and generosity.



### Fordson's Winter Clothing Drive

**When:** Clothing drive now through December 12th

**Where:** A-120A/Mrs. Wright-NHS-Fordson High School

**What:** Mittens/gloves, scarves, hats, and coats

**Who:** This drive will benefit GSRP Preschoolers and their families in the Dearborn Public Schools.

**FORDSON KEY CLUB****POP TAB COMMITTEE****Help Us Raise Money for Charity!**

**WHO:** Fordson Key Club Pop Tab Committee, a voluntary community service club.

**WHAT:** Objective is to collect as much as we are able of aluminum tabs from cans (pop, soup, energy drinks, other beverages).

**WHEN:** Beginning December 1, 2014 through February 2, 2015.

**WHY:** Tabs will be sold to a recycling center. The money raised will be combined with those collected in the other Key Clubs in Michigan and donated to a charitable project.

**HOW:** Collect as many pop tabs as you can and ask friends to help you out!

**Please turn pop tab bags in to Mrs. Mikulak in room A109.**

**Book Club**

By: Lara Nassar

Book club isn't just ALL about books. When I first joined the club, I met its president, Fatima Almusawi. Fatima was very welcoming and not only because she offered Timbits. We finished our first book two weeks ago, *The Book Thief*. Every week on Wednesday, the members of the club meet up and discuss what they've read so far in the book and are able to express their opinions about what they liked and disliked. Once the book was finished, we had a party and watched the movie that adapted from the book which was really fun. We also played games like Jeopardy and more than a few times, Fatima brings in different kinds of goodies for us to snack on!

(As you can tell, she's a great president). Book club started out small but has many plans in the future. Last year, they read to children at Oakwood Elementary, and they are planning to continue this year because of how much fun they had with the kids. Also, they plan to raise money for a book drive. Not only that, but book club is planning on collaborating with the Joyful Heart Foundation to raise money for a domestic abuse shelter and visiting victims who currently reside there. For anyone interested in joining, come to room C204 on Wednesdays with a copy of, *And The Mountains Echoed*, by Khaled Hosseini or talk to the book club sponsor, Ms. Chami, about joining.

**Athlete Spotlight: Hussam Alsalman**

By: Marwa Hachem

The football team celebrated another amazing season this year. Some players, like sophomore Hussam Alsalman, were moved from JV to Varsity. Hussam was interviewed based on his experience this season.

**What's the best thing about playing football?**

*"The experience and feeling of competition, the adrenaline, the goal we set to be the best, the thought of putting your heart out every day to get better, and to have fun with not your friends but your family on the field."*

**By how much did you improve since the beginning?**

*"At first, I was capable of showing my skill at practice but now I am capable of showing it in the games. I am looked to as a leader rather than a follower."*

**Who or what is your motivation?**

*"My coaches motivate me to push myself to be the best I can. My family used to take me to Fordson games when I was younger and told me that one day that would be me and here I am playing defensive tackle for the Fordson Tractors. My friends motivate me because we're always by each others' sides picking one another up when we fall down. We defend each other and play for each other."*

**What does being an athlete mean to you?**

*"An athlete is someone who works their hardest to be the best while enjoying what they do."*

**Teacher Spotlight**

By: Mohamed Ahmed

Many teachers donate their time and care to Fordson High School. Mrs. Zriek is no different. Zriek is an amazing staff member at Fordson High School due to her kindness and contribution to her students and staff. For those of you who don't know her, she is a Language Arts teacher here at Fordson. Additionally, she is a staff advisor for Key Club (one of the notable groups we have at Fordson). She is also definitely a "go-to" person when in need of assistance. As a result, Mrs. Zriek truly deserves this month's teacher spotlight!

**Alma Matter?**

*I went to Lowrey Middle School and then graduated from Fordson.*

*I then went to HFCC for a year and transferred to U of M Dearborn graduating with a BA in education. Finally, in 2011 I graduated from Wayne State University with a masters in bilingual education.*

**How long have you taught at Fordson?**

*I have been teaching at Fordson for 6 years.*

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

*When students come back to visit after graduating and /or to the next grade level letting you know how you positively impacted their lives.*

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

*A lawyer, fashion designer, or cosmetologist.*

**Do you have any special skills/talents?**

*I can't think of anything but most people tell me I'm easy to get along with, social, and easy going....would that be a talent or special skill?*

**Quote you live by?**

--"You will never achieve what you want until you leave what you desire, and you will never reach your goals until you have patience with what you hate." -- Imam Ali  
And .....

*Truth might be bitter, but its outcome is sweet; falsehood appears to be sweet, but it is poisonous in its essence." -- Imam Ali*

**The National Honor Society**

By: Reem Aburukba

The National Honor Society (NHS) is a national club known all across America. This club, as described by Lena Bazzi (president of the NHS), benefits you as an individual. Bazzi makes sure that the NHS is on track and doing what is right to benefit both the school and the community. In order to broaden the minds and perspectives of her NHS club members and the Fordson student body, she has also wanted to get the club involved in activities outside of the community. The NHS has senior projects for their 12<sup>th</sup> graders and Bazzi has already planned, organized, and gone through with hers. Bazzi was one of three masterminds, the others Dena Bazzi and Siham Saleh, behind the first college fair held at Fordson in years. The NHS senior members have been given their senior project as a requirement to fulfill by the end of this year. Although Bazzi has already completed hers, more seniors are on their way to fulfilling that goal. Some senior projects that are coming up are events such as career day and Pasta for Pennies. Most are events that have demanding and requiring leadership roles. After you complete your project, you earn the NHS sash to wear on graduation day at the end of this year. Applications for NHS begin at the end of your freshman, sophomore, or junior year.



## Students Helping the Community

### American Legion: My Week as a Lobbyist

By: Mohammad Abdulghani

The American Legion Michigan Boys State was a weeklong program from June 15-21. It took place in Midland, Michigan and was a simulation of the Michigan government. People ran and were elected as representatives in the Michigan House of Congress and senators in the Michigan Senate. I had the position of a lobbyist. As a lobbyist, I talked to numerous representatives and senators to support issues that helped my city such as a beach protection bill, recognizing the Sasquatch as a state animal, a new funding bill, a car policy bill, etc. Many of the bills I advocated for were successful and passed.

Also, certain individuals including myself went on a trip to the Michigan capital in Lansing on the final day of the program. We held our meeting in the actual Michigan House of Representatives and our Michigan Boys State governor read our bills and

passed them. For this program, the Dearborn American Legion sponsored me. On October 14th, they honored me at their meeting and presented me with a Certificate of Appreciation for being an active participant in the program. I was the only person from Dearborn to participate in this program and I met students from all around Michigan in this Boys' State Program.



### Blue Hands United Fall Festival

By: Zeinab Beydoun



On Saturday, November 8th the class of 2018 volunteered at the Blue Hands United for Autism Fall Festival. This was a day for parents and children with special needs to have fun and spread the message of autism awareness. Blue Hands United is an organization in Dearborn whose main goal is the spread the awareness of autism. Their fall festival was located at the Hype Recreation Center. The students were involved in a series of activities that helped the community better understand autism. Students volunteered 8 hours of their time to set up and facilitate activities for the children.

## Sports

### Wrestling

By: Israa Ali

Fordson's wrestling team has once again returned with tough grapplers. Returning this season is state qualifier and captains Abe Ajami and Hussein Kdouh along with 55 young dedicated athletes. Coaching them will be Hassan Berry, Jeff Ball, Mohammed and Aboodi Baydoun. These coaches are former Tractors and were excellent wrestlers in their day. "Do you want your first tournament to be a lesson or a memory?" says Berry. The boys have been working hard for weeks to instill discipline, patience, good health, and an optimal weight. This team is sure to excell at leagues, districts...and possibly states. So come out and support one of the most promising teams Fordson has ever seen on December 15th at 5 pm in the big gym.

### Boy's Swimming

By: Noor Fakih

The boy's swim season coached by Adam Ferrel and Scott Wyka has begun with approximately 25 boys, including 6 to 7 key swimmers. Returning from the previous year are Ahmed Salim and Allen Swaidani. Coach Ferrel believes he has a good team assembled, even though they might be an especially young team considering it has an abundance of freshmen and first year sophomore swimmers. Hassan Abbas, a junior, who has been swimming competitively since 7th grade, believes that "it's a younger team that will start off with a lot of problems, but once we learn, we will be the best." Coach Ferrel seems to agree that with training this team will be able to earn a winning record of at least 7-5. Coach Ferrel believes that the best approach is to focus on technique development and on having high intensity training. Ali Elakkari is an all-around athlete and a possible candidate for captain of the team alongside Jad Elhussieni. Elakkari has strong ambitions for this year's season such as making states with his main event, the backstroke, and getting the team's record to an all-time high of 8-4, while beating DHS on the way. He says, "I'm thriving to be the best I can possibly be and to contribute as much as possible to my team." Let's hope he lives up to his word and that the team will have a great season!

### Powder Buff Volleyball Game

On November 6th from 5-7pm, the class of 2015 held their annual Powder Buff Volleyball Game. The junior boys faced off against the senior boys in a best out of 3 volleyball match. The juniors were victorious over the seniors. The juniors went on to play the girls' varsity volleyball team and were soundly defeated by the more seasoned girls' team. The girls went on to also defeat 6 members of the Fordson staff. It was a close contest, but the girls won by a score of 25-16. The event helped raise \$350.00 for the class of 2015.



## Etc.

### Christmas Traditions

By: Mirvat Chammout

It's almost that time of the year and people everywhere are getting ready for the holiday season. Adults are rushing to get the best deals in stores, parents are out shopping for presents, and children are making out their Christmas list for Santa. During this time of the year, it's important to spend time with family and reflect on the year that has passed. Most families spend Christmas together and have many age old traditions.

What are some of your traditions during Christmas?

"After my family and I open presents, we have a big dinner. Then, we sit by the fire and play board games."—*Mr. Laura, piano/choir teacher*

"We have a big dinner with our family and my rela-

tives come from overseas to visit and exchange gifts. Sometimes, we sing Spanish Christmas songs." —*Selena DeJesus, 11<sup>th</sup> grader*

"On Christmas Eve, we go to church for the late night service. We love going because of the candles and singing "Silent Night" with all the lights turned off. It's a magical night."—*Mrs. Kivi, L.A. teacher*

"On Christmas morning, after we have opened presents, my sisters and I have breakfast and watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." After, we sit together and have dinner."—*Nevein Srour, 10<sup>th</sup> grader*

"Most of my little cousins like to sleep in front of the tree on Christmas Eve. We then open presents and make hot chocolate."—*Aurionna Anderson, 9<sup>th</sup> grader*

### **What to Read: *The Maze Runner***

By: Ali Fakh

It's getting cold outside and many of you are often bored. You should grab an interesting book to make the use out of a dull day. A suitable book to read is *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner, an exciting novel about a young teenage boy named Thomas. Thomas awakens in a place known as the Glade with no memory of his past. The Glade is surrounded by a maze and there is an undiscovered escape. Many like Thomas have attempted but failed miserably. Thomas' curiosity has led to questions that no one has an answer for. Everyone is suspicious. Soon, a girl arrives at the maze, which is unusual since only the male gender inhabit the Glade. She brings news that she is the last one ever to be sent by the Creators. Thomas now will do the unstoppable to get out, with the help of the other boys in the Glade.

### **Fordson Teams Up with Focus Hope**

Several 11th grade students here at Fordson recently visited the Gabrielle Apartment Complex in Highland Park and delivered 82 food boxes to low income senior citizens. The students volunteered approximately 4 hours of their time. Fordson students have been delivering Focus Hope food boxes every month to the same senior apartment complex since 2001.



## Original Work

### A Necrosis Psychosis

By: Alex Zapien

The forests sway sublunary as the stars alight,

A lonely figure crosses through the night,

Ever so slow and slight he turns from left to  
right,

What was that sound, who was that fright?

Winsome step from dappled deer,

An unexpected gentle touch from air so clear,

Oh so sharply you wait and strain to hear,

For surely there is nothing here to fear.

As it approached with sickles bare,

It stopped to think for a moment's share,

Who was this traveler without a care?

Who dared to tread a daemon's lair?

The creature stalked its hungry wish,

But not with intent to prepare a dinner dish,

Insatiable it settles upon a simple swish,

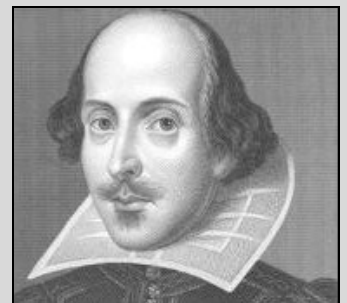
No matter the result, there always will be a  
bigger fish.



### The Bard Comes to Fordson

On Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Shakespeare makes an appearance in Fordson's auditorium in the form of his play, *Macbeth*. The Dramatic Arts Club is sponsoring the event. An audience of 150 students will watch as a troupe from the Michigan Shakespeare

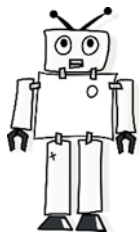
Festival presents this drama full of ambition, murder, and guilt.





## Join Fordson's Robotics Team!

**Are you into constructing, designing or even planning?  
Do you like competition and team work? Then you  
should join The Fordson Robotics team!**



See Mr. Miller in room D110 on Thursdays for more information.

### DID YOU KNOW FACTS?

By: Mohamed Ahmed

The first sailing boats were built in what country?

- A) Japan
- B) Egypt
- C) Greece
- D) Austria

Which is the only state that grows coffee?

- A) Illinois
- B) Georgia
- C) Louisiana
- D) Hawaii

The least used letter in the alphabet is?

A) "X"

B) "Q"

C) "Z"

D) "V"

Halley's Comet (which comes every 76 years) will enter Earth around what year?

A) 2072

B) 2020

C) 2062

D) 2043

The average lifespan of a squirrel is?

A) 9 years

B) 5 years

C) 3 years

D) 11 years

ANSWERS ARE: B - D - B - C - A

### The Quill Club

The Quill Club needs submissions. The Quill Club, in case you are unaware, is Fordson's own student-run literary magazine. We collect and compile a multitude of brilliant works of art, poetry, and short stories crafted by the strikingly talented students of Fordson into a professionally published anthology truly reflective of the Fordson student body's literary and artistic capabilities. To achieve this noble goal, we actually need to have student's submit their pieces.

The deadline for submissions has yet to be determined, but will most likely be in early

spring. We would like to start as early as possible, amassing as large a volume of wonderful work as we can. There are folders posted on the doors of all the English Language Arts teacher's rooms labeled "Quill Submissions". If a student wants to ensure that we get their piece or if it does not fit in the folder on the door, Mrs. Durfee is our club sponsor and can be given submissions in between classes or after school.

President of the Fordson Quill Club,  
Alex Zapien