

Tower Tribune

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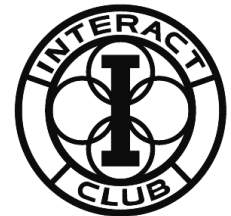
Serving the Children of the Dominican Republic Once Again

Zanib Hammoud



The Interact Club will be taking flight to the Dominican Republic once again this year! The trip is being organized by both Ms. Naura and Mrs. Ayoub. They also organized the very first trip back in 2015, making the Interact Club the first to travel internationally. With them they took flip flops, under clothes, socks, and school supplies. While they were there, they also bought enough food to last an orphanage an entire month. Ms. Naura and her cousin, who chaperoned as well, went out of their way and bought the orphans a pool. The trip lasts a week, and during this week people see the true colors of our students here at Fordson. Ms. Naura said "as a teacher, my favorite part was

watching our club members work with the needy and take in the sites. It was amazing to see how caring Fordson students can be." In order to fund the upcoming trip the interact club has been working diligently to make the trip successful. The club fundraised using two events. One was held at Brome on January 27th while the other will take place at Cherry Hill Lanes at 7:00 on February 17th. Be sure to stop by on February 17th to help the club provide the children in the Dominican Republic with essential needs they don't have access to!



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National Honor Society

Reem Aburukba

The National Honor Society sure has been busy this year, kicking the year off with their renowned student-led senior projects, the events have yet to stop. The year started off with the annual blood drive which has proven to be yet another success. The members were also encouraged to volunteer at the ACCESS Haunted House event which was an enjoyable experience consisting of setting up

sitioned from the season of scares and when the true service began to shine take the members downtown and helping and organizing care packages for ety also partook in the Amity Foundrive. There's also tutoring going on are also arranging visits with the VA from years past. Lastly, as an ongo-have taken it upon themselves to new students that have arrived from overseas. Speaking from personal experience, it's absolutely great getting to know the newcomers and we should all take part in that as a student body, not just as an NHS initiative. For any new volunteering opportunities, visit Ms. Mouhanna in room A222 or check the blog for updates! Anyone interested in joining NHS may apply at the end of their freshmen year and must have 30 community service hours to be eligible.



Editorial

North Carolina's "Bathroom Bill"

by Hanin Elhagehassan

Editorial

Anti-LGBTQ Acts have been proposed across the country by state legislatures. North Carolina successfully passed a law, HB2, in March that prohibits transgender people from using the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity. HB2 was in response to an ordinance approved in Charlotte; the ordinance was an attempt to stop discrimination against LGBTQ people in public businesses, this included allowing people to use the bathroom that aligned with their gender identity. There have been many laws passed in attempt to discriminate against the LGBTQ community, but Carolina has made their way into national headlines. Carolina lawmakers made a deal that if the law that protected the LGBTQ community from discrimination was repealed, they would repeal HB2 in return. But of course, the state legislature failed to go through with it and repeal the anti-LGBTQ law. The deal's collapse can be blamed on Republicans in the legislature who were adamant on pushing a "cooling off period" which would ban cities from passing laws that would protect the LGBTQ community after HB2 was repealed. This has been one of many major setbacks for the LGBTQ community; a community that has been suffering at the hands of conservatives for too long. Why should we be allowed to dictate how someone presents their gender or sexuality? Isn't America supposedly built on the idea of freedom and individuality? Or does that concept only apply to those who conform to society's norms? Transphobia is present in communities throughout America, including our own. I have no doubt that the stigma surrounding LGBTQ individuals has kept many from expressing who they truly are. We have to stop normalizing transphobia and by that I mean, quit it with the "assume my gender" or "Caitlyn Jenner" jokes. We have to stop using things like religion and upbringing to justify our ignorance and acknowledge the existence of LGBTQ people in our community.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

By: Reem Aburukba

The Harry Potter Series has come to a close, but that's not the end of the wizarding world as we've all come to know it. We've been able to rehash the past in the new movie, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", which is a prequel of sorts to Harry Potter. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is set in America in the year 1926, and Newt Scamander (the protagonist) has just misplaced his suitcase filled with a wide array of weird, unusual, and magical creatures. He does end up finding his creatures, but as the movie progresses a search for an Obscurial (a young wizard who has suppressed their powers) has begun, and Scamander no longer knows what is or isn't right in this world of "No-Mag's". The identity of the Obscurial is sure to be a shock for all viewers. This movie is filled with just the right amount of magic, action, and romance, and it'll be in theaters for a while, so go watch it! Disclaimer: I strongly recommend watching the previous Harry Potter movies and reading the books, but it's not necessary to understand what's going on.



Fordson Athletics

Success Continues for Boys Swim Team — David Tran



The boys swim team has had an amazing season with so much young potential and dedication coming in from the middle schools. This year's team had a great turnout, with 45 kids trying out and most of the team consisting of underclassmen (only two seniors). I spoke with Coach Ferrell, and he was excited to say that he sees this "young and potential team making it to the top three in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference." With their recent success and the fact that they placed 2nd at the Charger Relay, he certainly believes that this team will be heading places. Seniors Kareem Davanzo and Alan Swaidan, 4 year varsity swimmers, contribute to the overall leadership of the program. Kareem who is one of the top students in his class, is excited to see such new and inspired kids eager to swim and have a

great time. His goal is to get to Ann Arbor and leave Fordson with a bang!

Alan Swaidan who is also a senior, reflected on how he achieved his best time in the individual medley. He is a tri-sport athlete. His goal is to make it to more events and beat his best times to create a legacy in swimming here at Fordson. All of this excitement is very interesting, and their season is moving quickly. Go to their meets and cheer on your team! You will be amazed when you see the dedication and effort they put into making the swim team here at Fordson successful. Upcoming events can be found at:

fordsonathletics.com



Pure Fordson Wrestling by David Tran

The Fordson Wrestling team has been known for being district champs 4 years in a row. Now that is impressive. I got to meet the wrestling team one practice, and they are one energetic group of fellow students. I got to sit down and talk with the captain of the team, senior Hamza Mrech. Hamza has guided the team to a winning streak. His hopes for the future are to become a Civil Engineer at U of M Ann Arbor. The team placed 1st at Trenton, a challenging opponent, and placed 3rd at the Wayne County Tournament. There were also some individual accomplishments, Aseel Almudhala placed 1st at Wayne County and Hamza Mrech placed 2nd. It's tremendous that we see a lot of dedication in this amazing sport. The sport is all about hard work as a team and as an individual. Coach Jeff Ball tells me that this "was the best team I have ever coached." Juniors, Mo Zahwi, Ali Makki, and Khalil Makki, are varsity athletes on the Fordson Wrestling team, and they all agree that this is the best team they have ever been a part of.

All of this dedication and work may be excruciating, stressful, and intimidating, but this team will stop at nothing to strive to be the best and keep their title as the district champs. To be district champs is one goal, but state champs sounds like a better title for this hardworking team. Let's root for them as they go out there and win the title. This is Fordson Wrestling!



Fordson Hosts Technology Night

By: David Tran

On January 20, 2017, Fordson High School held a Parent's Technology Night for parents to come in and learn the basics of how to use computers, tablets, and smartphones. This occurred in the evening with the help of many wonderful Fordson teachers and staff. This night is the 2nd time Dearborn Public Schools has hosted this event, and once again, it was successful. The parents left Fordson having increased their knowledge of technology and how to use it for both school and personal use. Many parents today, even in our community, are not aware of the technology evolving around them, unlike their kids. The city and school district is doing an exemplary job in helping everyone, both students and parents, excel and succeed in the real world.

Fordson Athletic Teams participate in the WWAC (Western Wayne Athletic Conference). There are a total of 12 teams in the WWAC including crosstown schools, Dearborn High and Edsel Ford.

February Horoscope by Allaa Ridha

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

This month, there will be many new social opportunities. This could bring about new contacts and connections or friendships that are bound to last. The beginning of this year will be promising if you follow your instincts.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

This will likely be one of the busiest months, like expected. There will be pressure and the constraint of time, and like usual, following your intuition will get you through. You might feel shut out this month, but by following your positive decisions, others will follow your lead.

Gemini (May 21-Jun 20)

For the beginning of this year, right now could be a positive time. You will feel very upbeat and ready for the future. Your behavior will be infectious, drawing those around you. Perhaps a big cleaning would be a fresh and beneficial beginning for you.

Cancer (Jun. 21-Jul. 22)

While it may be difficult, this time requires you to be open minded. Fast change is to be expected, a quick and clear mind is needed. A flow of new contacts and substantial opportunities will present themselves, grasping them would be a helpful step for your future.

Leo (Jul. 23- Aug. 22)

The beginning of this month may bring the overwhelming need for you to step back from the fast paced world around you, instead opting to work on your own pace. That is normal and expected, yet you don't want to fall too behind.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

The month of new beginnings may bring the feeling of channeling your inner energies and improving your sense of well being. One way to go about this is starting a new fitness regime, or simply taking more walks. Overall, you'll want more fresh air.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

This would be a time for you to balance your life with its different duties and activities You're determined, and knowing your limitations. This month will highlight the strength of your mind. This month, try to put aside time to go out with those who matter to you.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov. 21)

At a time like this, there will be many opportunities to meet new people. Relationships with people will expand. Overall, your emotions and passions will be on a deeper level, and you'll feel more likely to take a stand in certain issues.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

An excellent time for you and your work. Being motivated, you will impress the people that count. Often what comes alongside these good times is the urge to overwork yourself. However, your efforts are well meant; yet, you don't want to reach that level.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This month stands to be a good start to a profitable time. Your contribution and efforts to your work is notable. You will feel content and proud of yourself, and your friends and family will feel the same alongside you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your friendships with friends and family will bring the new year to a good start. Putting aside quality time might be a little difficult, but finding the right amount will bring pleasurable time. Known for your humor, there will be quite some entertainment this month.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

This month may bring a tide of disagreements with loved ones. The fault will lie on both sides, yet being honest and openly discussing persisting issues will calm down the fizz. This month, try to be more open minded and less stubborn.

Show Your Artsy Side!

By: Marwa Hachem

One of the many significant features of Fordson is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunities it gives its students. Whether through joining a club, winning a scholarship, or participating in a sport, you are always guaranteed a great time and a new learning experience. Recently, an Art Club chapter has re-opened at Fordson and the club members are already ahead in the game. One major project they completed was painting frames around old Fordson alumni photos throughout lower B-hall, which not only ornamented this hallway but also builds on our motto of “Pride, Tradition, and Legacy” throughout the school year.

A new board was elected a month ago and with their new ideas, they are hoping to flourish further, not only to gain more members, but spread creativity throughout the school. They’ve already started to collaborate with NHS to create anti-bullying murals around the halls. Their purpose is to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for anyone entering Fordson’s halls and to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard - if not through words, then through pictures.

The board is made up of President Hadi Cherri, Vice President Marwa Hachem, Treasurer Fatima Taj, Secretary Hiba Dagher, Leadership Representative Nour Jamalaldin, and Social Media Representative David Tran, who are led by AP Art Teacher, Ms. Curtis. One thing David Tran mentions in describing the club is “we are a group of student leaders who do our best in creating more leaders. We welcome any student with any art background, and together we will advance forward with even more ideas to positively reinvent the great foundation that Fordson was built upon. I can’t wait to make art club well known and active!”



THE FLINT WATER CRISIS (YES, IT HASN'T ENDED)

by Hanin Elhagehassan

Despite the large media coverage last year, not much has been done regarding the water crisis. The origins are hard to determine due to the many contributing factors; it all really began back in April 2014 with Michigan's Emergency Manager Law which gives the state the power to appoint emergency managers (emergency managers have many powers over cities/districts with financial problems). One of the emergency managers, in an attempt to save money, signed a plan that would switch Flint's water source from Detroit to the Flint River. People eventually began to notice the water's color and smell; citizens complained but they were ignored.



Evidence was hid by the DEQ and EPA. So, a team from Virginia tested the water and confirmed that there were high levels of lead. Flint water was also found to contain strains of E.coli and legionella bacteria (cause of Legionnaires disease that led to 12 deaths). Finally, Obama declared a "state of emergency" in January of 2016. After that, Flint made headlines for a couple of months. People donated water bottles, famous politicians, and celebrities spoke about the crisis. The exposure shed some light on the issue, but it did not do much. Only about 600 pipes have been repaired to this day. On December 8, Congress passed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. This act provides funds up to \$170 million; the funds go towards medical care for citizens and fixing up water infrastructure.

The government is making an effort, but people remain skeptical. How can we blame them for being suspicious of a system that put them in that kind of situation in the first place? And by situation, I don't just mean the water crisis. Flint has been financially distressed for years. Police forces are cut, classrooms are overcrowded, etc.

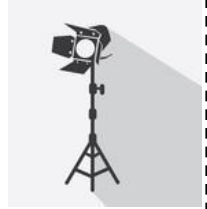
What can be done to help? In reality, donating a pack of water bottles did more toward making you feel good about yourself than it did for Flint because quite frankly, a pack of water bottles is far from enough. A lot of the damage done (mainly on the citizens and particularly the children) is irreversible. To help, you can donate money through many different organizations like:

<http://www.unitedwaygenesee.org/civicism/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=5>

<https://www.change.org/p/rick-snyder-stop-making-flint-residents-pay-for-poisoned-water>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By: Nesreen Saad



This month's student spotlight goes to Mohammed Hamid. Mohammed is a very honorable and hardworking student here at Fordson. He recently got accepted to Harvard, is top of his class, and is a great example to all Fordson students. The following gives us some insight into what makes Mohammed tick.

What classes are you currently taking?

Some of the classes I am taking right now are AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, and AP Statistics.

What are your favorite school subjects?

My favorite subjects would definitely be the different branches of the natural sciences: biology, chemistry, and physics. I am very intrigued by all of the workings that make life possible, and hope to further study these topics in college as well.

What is your favorite school club?

My favorite school club would definitely be the National Honor Society. It combines academic excellence with community service, challenging students to learn how to manage their time. In addition, it gives members the opportunity to meet and interact with people across Southeast Michigan from many different walks of life.

What are your favorite sports?

My favorite sports would have to be tennis and basketball. I find the rush of playing both to be exhilarating, and watching both sports at their most intense moments (Wimbledon and March Madness) is just as exciting.

What do some of your hobbies include?

In my free time I like to play sports, read books, and watch television shows and movies. In terms of books, the best I've read are *The Hobbit* and *The Kite Runner*. My favorite television show has always been *Dragon Ball Z*, and I absolutely love *The Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* movies.

What is your dream job?

If I could have any job in the world, I would want to become a correspondent on 60 Minutes.