

# Tower Tribune

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Fordson High School

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## Taking on Washington DC

By: Asmaa Abdouny

On April 21-22nd, a group of Fordson students traveled to Washington DC to contribute to a hands-on civic engagement lesson. This event was sponsored by National Network for Arab American Communities. The purpose of this trip was to showcase ways students can be civically engaged citizens. The Fordson students visited historical monuments such as the Library of Congress, House of Senate/Representatives, and the outskirts of the White House. Meanwhile, after visiting the monuments, the group of students met up with the United States Senator Gary Peters and Representative Debbie Dingell. Students were also given the platform to speak with their state representatives about issues that are relevant to them. Students walked for the "Take On Hate, March2Justice" campaign with a group of individuals from New York. Once again, our students represented their community and school with the pride, tradition, and legacy that embodies the Fordson way.

## Drop Dead, Juliet!

Drama returned to Fordson on Wednesday, May 13 and Friday, May 15 with the student production of Drop Dead, Juliet!. The one act play starring Hawraa Alwahah as Juliet, Noor Mougharbel as Shakespeare, Mehdi Darwiche as Romeo, and Rodney Dykes as Mercutio entertained the audience with the situation of Shakespeare's iconic characters rebelling against him with hilarious results. Bravo to the cast and crew for putting on this performance!



## Extra

### ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

BY: ALI FAKIH

Kassem Elsaghir is a runner and a highly motivated student. He is on both the cross country and track team. Elsaghir is a team player and runs the 400 meter dash, the 4 by 4, 4 by 8, and the 4 by 2 relays. His goal is to beat the 400 meter dash record before he leaves Fordson. Other than running, Kassem likes to volunteer and give back to his community. Many look up to him as a leader. *Here's what Kassem has to say...*

#### Who do you look up to?

*"I look up to the prophet."*

#### Why do you like to run?

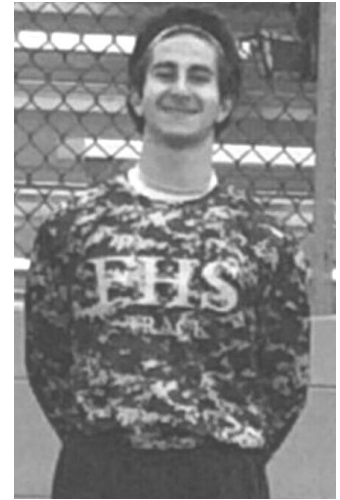
*"Running helps keep me fit and in shape."*

#### What do you hope to achieve from running? Is it something you want to continue doing in college?

*"I have looked into competing in college but it's nothing serious."*

#### What do you love most about running?

*"I love the competition behind it. I am pretty competitive and will do whatever it takes to get 1<sup>st</sup> place."*



### World Vitiligo Day

By: Khansa Alhaidi

Vitiligo is a chronic skin disease in which pigment cells die, causing white patches to form on the skin. For some people it makes them lose their skin color completely. Symptoms of vitiligo are loss of skin color in areas like the mouth, hair, and eyes. For people with darker skin color, the loss of pigments is more noticeable. As of right now, there is no known cure that completely returns the color back to the skin. However, there are treatments like ointments or light therapy that return some color to the affected vitiligo patient, though it doesn't work for everyone. Vitiligo isn't contagious or deadly. The issue with vitiligo patients however is accepting themselves as well as having to deal with the constant stares. A close friend of mine Miriam Hamad, who has vitiligo told me, "My skin color has been an important part of my identity, and I feel that as I lose color, I'm losing a major part of myself. It's also frustrating when doctors label my vitiligo as a 'cosmetic' disease. It's a lot more than that." The reason behind this is not enough awareness of the disease. Vitiligo organizations are trying to spread awareness and help find cures. One method they're trying to accomplish is make June 25th World Vitiligo Day. In order to accomplish this, they need to send a letter to the UN Secretary-General. By signing the petition found on [25june.org](http://25june.org) you can help make this happen. Spread the word and help bring awareness to this neglected disease!

## Accomplishments



Hefdadeen Mashrah recently broke the Fordson High School record in the 110 Meter High Hurdles with an amazing time of 14.42 seconds. "Hef" is pictured here with Coach Koz.

### "Hef" Sets the Record Straight with Van Patrick Award

As if breaking the Fordson 110 Meter High Hurdles record wasn't enough, Hefdadeen Mashrah was honored with winning the Van Patrick Award for Male Athlete of the Year in Dearborn. His track record and Van Patrick Award are stellar accomplishments. Fordson has yet another student athlete to be proud of.

### National Business Professionals of America Winner!

From May 7th through the 9th, Business Professionals of America held its National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. There were over 5,000 students at the conference which allowed students a chance to network with some of the best business students from across the United States.

Fordson was represented by **Bashar Midani** who took **third place** in the nation in the **Fundamental Word Processing** competition. This is a phenomenal achievement for Bashar. We at Fordson are proud of his accomplishment. Congratulations!



## In the Spotlight!

### Alumni Spotlight - David Haidar

By: Mohammed Hamid



David Ahmad Haidar is a Fordson alumnus that exemplifies the Pride, Tradition, and Legacy that lives with every Tractor. He graduated from Fordson in 2009 and received the Brehm Scholarship. He graduated from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 2013, and is currently attending the Medical School there.

**Since graduating from Fordson, what are some of your achievements?**

*One of my favorite achievements while at the University of Michigan was becoming president of the Arab Student Association. Besides the fact that it was the first time I had ever been president of something, it was a very exciting opportunity for me to work with some close friends to bring together the Arab community and provide a safe space for all Arabs. It was a great*

*way to educate the campus about what it meant to be Arab while at the same time learning a lot about the many different backgrounds Arabs come from. One of my proudest achievements was actually learning how to Dabke, so now I don't make a complete fool of myself at weddings.*

**What made you want to go into medicine?**

*I was very interested in biology growing up, but I didn't know I wanted to go into medicine until I got to U of M and started doing research in an animal lab in which we studied the biological basis of addictive behaviors. The way the brain works and the human mind functions are still for the most part a mystery to us, and I really enjoyed working with others in an attempt to uncover these mysteries. Coupled with the fact that I really enjoy teaching and mentoring others, I figured medicine would be a great fit. You can apply your knowledge to help people, you can use it to teach others, and you could even dedicate your time to research - the ample opportunities to pursue different career paths in the medical field make it an ideal choice.*

**How did Fordson help prepare you for college and the real world?**

*Fordson did a great job preparing me for college in that I was allowed to take challenging AP and college level courses that helped me develop good*

*study habits and learning how to study on my own without being spoon fed information. Participating in multiple student organizations and sports in high school also helped me learn how to balance school, extra curricular, and social life. **Do you have any advice for current Fordson students ?***

*Get involved and challenge yourselves. It's always important to do well in classes, but to really be successful you have to learn to get out of your comfort zone and learn how to balance responsibilities. Joining organizations or playing sports goes a long way in developing your character as a leader and as a person, and the responsibility and sense of accountability you gain from these experiences also makes you a better student.*

**What is your favorite memory from your time at Fordson?**

*Tennis with Coach Forster was by far one of my most memorable experiences. From having to endure day-long tournaments while fasting, having to run laps because we messed around too much in practice, to winning a regional championship for the first time in over 30 years - we struggled and succeeded together as a team. Honestly it feels more like a family, since most of us are still good friends to this day.*

### Student Spotlight: Shada Hijazi

By: Reem Aburukba

Shada Hijazi is an exceptional young freshman. She maintains a 4.0 cumulative grade point average while also attending DCMST. In addition, she participates in many clubs after school. She likes to volunteer at Woodworth with Peer to Peer and attends banquets for the ASU. Hijazi is a well rounded student who is able to balance all of these activities and take advantage of all the opportunities available to her. She dreams of working in the medical field as a pediatrician so that she can extend a helping hand to everyone in need. She expects the best out of herself. So it isn't surprising to know that she's one of the best students and people that you could ever get to know at Fordson. She can differentiate between right and wrong and is the perfect model of what a Fordson student is meant to be.

## In the Spotlight!

### Athlete Spotlight - Hussein Awada

**By Marwa Hachem**

Although in recent years he's never been much of a Fordson athlete, Hussein Awada, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, proves that he still has whatever it takes to represent his school in the best way possible. This year, he is on the baseball team. He has taken on the positions of pitcher and outfield. He answered a couple of questions below.

**Which sports are you in and how many sports have you joined since the beginning of the school year?**

*"I've joined track and I'm currently in baseball."*

**What influenced you to join the FHS baseball team?**

*"Baseball can relate to life in many ways*

*and can teach me responsibility. It's also one of the many sports I've been practicing since the age of 6."*

**Describe baseball in three words.**

*"Influential, inspiring and amazing."*

**How does the sport and your team help you become a better athlete?**

*"They represent me as an adult and have a big impact on my responsibility. I've learned a lot from them so far. Now, I feel I grow as an athlete day by day."*

**Are there any other people in your life that motivate you to give it your all in the sport?**

*"My coaches for JV and Varsity- Coach Proctor, Coaches Jeff and Jason Ball, and Coach Hamood. I will never find a better coaching staff."*

**What's the best thing about baseball?**

*things even when they don't think that they can do it...or that what I am asking for is too difficult.*

**What do you enjoy about Fordson (considering you came back again)?**

*The students and staff at Fordson are wonderful. They are very welcoming and treat you like family right off the bat. I haven't found those qualities everywhere I have worked.*

**If you weren't an instructor, what would you have liked to become?**

*When I was completing my graduate degree, I took a Renaissance Art class and absolutely loved it. If I was interested in changing careers, I would probably look into being an art historian or docent at a museum somewhere.*

**What special talents/hobbies do you have?**

*I'm not sure if this counts, but I'm a huge fan of Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, Star Trek, and almost any superhero franchise out there. I'm looking forward to the JJ Abrams reboot of Star Wars since Episodes I, II and III were so disappointing!*

*"It teaches me responsibility. And, it isn't an easy sport. It's a struggle for me and that's a good thing because I challenge myself through it."*

**How long do you plan on playing baseball at FHS?**

*"For the next two years of high school (until senior year) and I plan on having a good experience next year on varsity."*

**Do you have a favorite quote that inspires you?**

*"Yes, 'Giving up is the last thing that's supposed to be in your mind. That's just a sign of weakness,' which was told to me by one of my coaches."*



### Teacher Spotlight - Mrs.Schumm

**By: Mohamed Ahmed**

Out of the many wonderful staff we at Fordson cherish, Mrs. Schumm is definitely one of them. Mrs.Schumm is a world history teacher and actually has a unique story at Fordson. I've had the honor of interviewing this outstanding individual and here is what she had to say.

**Alma Matter?**

*I attended Hillsdale College for my undergraduate degree; I then earned my teaching certificate from Madonna University. Finally, I have a Masters of Liberal Arts from Central Michigan University*

**Why did you choose to become a teacher?**

*I always loved history and school, and it seemed like a natural fit. I knew I wanted to be a high school history teacher by the time I was a junior in high school.*

**What is your favorite part of your job?**

*My favorite part of the job is working with students and helping them to achieve great*

**What is one wish that you have?**

*Sometimes I wish that I could clone myself to help me get everything done that I need to get done in any given day...especially in May!*

**What is a quote you live by?**

*In the wise words of Yoda, Do or do not- there is no try."*

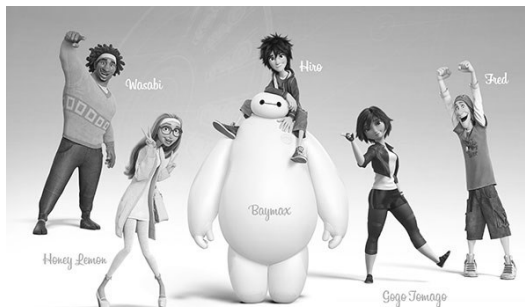


## Reviews

### Movie Review: *Big Hero 6*

By Reem Alshareef

Disney's latest animation has had Marvel and Disney fans alike in tears. *Big Hero 6*, a movie set in the multicultural city of Sanfransokyo, is about 14-year old Hiro Hamada, a boy who is brilliant and fascinated by robotics. He builds a revolution-



ary army of micro-bots, but once realizing that his prized inven-

tion has been stolen, he sets out on a mission of revenge, taking along a cute inflatable healthcare

robot and four techie nerds from Tadashi's school, inventing their own super-suits and creating a superhero team. *Big Hero 6* will leave anyone who watches it heavy with tears; but there's no doubt that you will leave the screen wearing a smile. A favorite of thousands of people, this is definitely a movie to see.

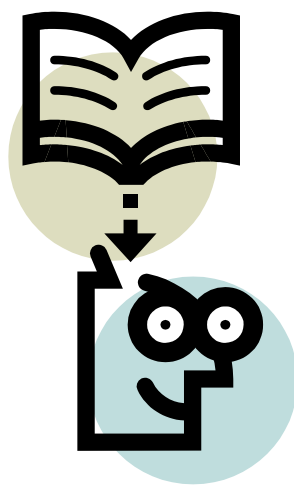
### Book Review: Little Bee

By: Aya Beydoun

Little Bee, by Chris Cleave follows the story of a Nigerian immigrant who goes by the name of Little Bee. Little Bee is seeking a place in Britain to get away from her Nigerian village that has been taken over by oil company workers.

The book also follows the story of Sarah, who had crossed paths with Little Bee back in Nigeria. The book switches point of view every chapter between the two main characters. Little Bee starts off with Little Bee in a detention center and follows her journey after she is illegally let out to find Sarah and her husband Andrew. Over-

all, Little Bee is a story of overcoming difficulties and learning to



cope with your fears. If you want to read a great book with an even greater message then be

sure to check it out!

Any student interested in joining the Tower Tribune Staff next year should see Mr. Bruce in room A-110. The Tower is looking for committed writers, photographers, and creative design students for next year.



## Original Work

### A Blessing Before Us

By: Mirvat Chammout

She is a blessing that everybody possesses  
 Some don't seem to recognize her at first, but she will  
     always be there,  
     watching over us, as our guardian angel.  
 The enchantment of her beauty captivates those around  
     her.  
     None can resist her soothing touch.  
 The magnitude of her influence in our lives cannot be  
     overlooked.  
     Redemption for our sins against her is crucial,  
     for she has an impact of where we go during our  
     eternal sleep.  
 She has bestowed upon us the most precious gift of all  
     and no amount of good deeds can compensate for this  
     gift.  
 We misjudge her actions and begin to disapprove of her  
     guidance,  
     without knowing her true intentions within.  
 She is the reason for survival throughout our lives,  
 for she has helped us over every obstacle we have en-  
     dured.  
     We are guaranteed safety knowing that  
     her watchful eye is never-ending.

### School Year's End

By: Fatima Rizvi

The end of the school year is approaching.  
     Everyone is excited for the end.  
     After a tough and arduous year  
     Students tend to condescend.  
  
     All the homework we submit  
     And the lectures to which we listen.  
     Are overwhelming many students  
     But they're part of our prestigious tradition.  
  
     The end is yet to come  
     With steadfastness we must abide.  
     And when we reach our final goals  
     We'll show off Fordson's pride!

### When the River Stops Running

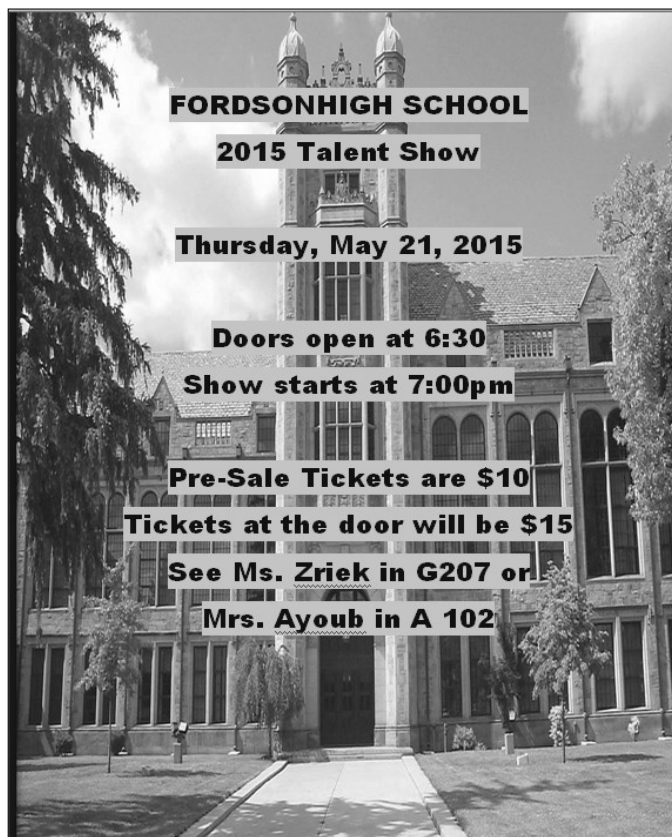
By: Alex Zapien

Traveling with the river's course, the discoveries made  
 Do not end where they stop keeping up. A river that carries itself  
     endlessly, leaving those behind it.  
  
 And yet, along the way, flowing through the masses of deposited garbage.  
 Diapers and buckets, toy boats and bottles, shorts and engagement rings,  
 Wrappers and beer tabs, combs and banana peels, pantyhose and car tires,  
 uncashed checks and cold medicine, shoes with and without matching laces,  
 and a limited supply of cracked watches. Banks as rich and green as ever.  
  
 The river continues to move on. And when you spend your whole life  
 moving on, sometimes it just feels like you're never going to get anywhere if you  
     don't, at some point in your life, dig your heels in and stop letting go.



Recently, Fordson was recognized as an official Michigan Evergreen School. Fordson staff and students have made a commitment to becoming a high school that is environmentally friendly and has initiated programs that help conserve resources.

Below are more photos from the Fordson play, *Drop Dead, Juliet!*



Student Government Presents

# STAFF VS STUDENT

## CHARITY BASKETBALL GAME

**Tuesday May 26th @ 6pm- Big Gym - Tickets \$5.00**

**TEACHER ROSTER**

- Mr. Mosallam
- Mr. Farhat
- Mr. Mustafa
- Mr. Hadi
- Mrs. Alodray
- Mr. Abulhassan
- Mr. Abazeed
- Mr. deBruin
- Ms. Budop
- Ms. Zriek
- Ms. Fawaz
- Mrs. Saab
- Mr. Berry
- Mr. Jenks
- Mr. Zaban
- Mr. Proctor
- Mrs. Durfee
- Mr. Hammoud
- Mr. Odeh

**STUDENT ROSTER**

- Micheal Hazime
- Sarah Hamze
- Abdallah Jaffal
- Mariam Faraj
- Hef Mashrah
- Reema Baydoun
- Muhammad Zahr
- Halla Kadouh
- Jonas Williams
- Amy Hammoud
- Jamil Sabbagh
- Nour Moukdad
- Tarif Sayed
- Rodney Dykes
- Belal Berry

