

Tower Tribune

Volume 218

Fordson High School

December 2015

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A New Year's Resolution
is something
that goes in one year
and out the other

Link Leaders Make Connections Through Leadership Conference

Mariam Alley

Twenty-three Link Leaders traveled to Lansing on October 30th to attend the Link Crew Conference that's held annually



across the nation. At this event, Link Leaders learned about the true meaning behind being a leader as well as how to lead. They were exposed to new techniques for establishing a deeper connection with their freshmen and how significant this relationship is. They were incredibly inspired by this eye-opening event.

Key Club Spreads Holiday Cheer to Local Senior Citizens

Recently, one of the Kiwanis advisors, Mr. Roger Frank, visited Heartland Nursing Home with two of KC members to giving cards to residents. While some members at Heartland, med Ahmed, VP-Mansour, sponsor, wanis advisor, Mrs. Dearborn Chamber board and Ms. Zriek



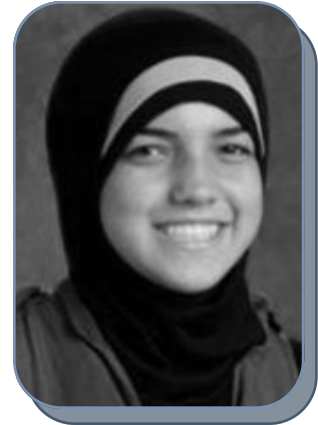
their upcoming trip to Costa Rica this spring.

As always Key Club members shined and did an outstanding job showcasing their pride, tradition, and legacy. The club wants to thank Mr. Frank and Mrs. Scaramucci for their support and Mrs. Yasmeen Ferris for her presence and help during the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce meeting.

the board members and other pass out handmade Thank-seniors and patients. bers were offering their ser-Key Club President Moham-Ali Fakih and Mohamad Ms. Zriek, and the other Ki-Rosa Scaramucci were at the of Commerce. The Key club presented to the chamber

Athletics

Congratulations to Jasmine Hamze, Allen Swaidan, and Israa Ali for being selected to the All-Area Cross Country Team



Fordson Swim Team Looks for Upperclassmen to Lead the Way

For the boys' swim team, the new season brings hopes of creating a stronger, larger team under the leadership of the new swim coach, Mr. Berry and returning coach Mr. Ferrell. Under the captain Ali Elakkari the team seems hopeful of winning the Crestwood relay meet in early December. Last year's discontent among the members about the unfairness of other teams being able to get points for diving has been resolved as there will be no diving, which gives the team hope to place! Though everyone is disappointed that Coach Wyka has left as coach, it opens up a chance for the team to change and grow. Coach Ferrell has already

taken advantage of this opportunity. Ferrell and Berry have created an organized system for practices, ordered new equipment, and are full of new ideas to help improve the swim program. A large

amount of freshmen have joined the team; many of whom are very experienced in competitive swimming. Most of last year's swimmers have comeback, and, combined with the new additions to

the team, it should be a great season!—Noor Fakh



Athletics

Girl's Basketball Preview

By: Israa Ali

The expectations for the Lady Tractor Basketball Team are high for the upcoming season. "We have some strong returning players and a lot of young talent that will contribute to the success of this year's team and hopefully for the next couple to come. I am looking forward to all our returning seniors: Jamiley Cheikh, Rana Elsamadouny, Ayah Massiri, and Mariam Charara. I'm also looking forward to working with freshmen guard Rana Elhousseini."

Good Luck Lady Tractors.



Boy's Basketball

By: Israa Ali

This year's Varsity Boys Basketball Team is looking up because of the many returning seniors including Aban Alsulami, Hassan Hachem, Yunus Shajrah, Amjed Jadallah, Ali Jomma and Marouf Hamade. With their leadership, Coach Abulhassan says, "the teams goals are to go undefeated in the city and win nothing less than a district championship through hard work, dedication and sacrifice." He challenges the team to win more than the 17 games they won last year. Come support the Tractors as they take on Dearborn High at Edsel Ford on December 22 at 6:00pm.

Volleyball Recap

By: Nesreen Saad

The volleyball season was a very successful one this year. They finished 9-1 in the WWAC and were division co-champs. Coach Carter stated, "Anytime you are division champs, it is a good year. We were like a family and our kids played with 'strength & honor'." He also felt that the team improved by working together as a team, hitting from the back row, having better presence at the net, and hitting and blocking in general. Coach Dakroub coached JV and was instrumental in helping the players develop better skills. The star players this year were Ayah Massiri, Diala Elhallak, and Rona Elsamadouny who were all city and all conference players. Also, Layla Sabrah who is a sophomore, was the starting setter. The coaches are really looking forward to next season.



Student Editorial

Open-Campus Lunch By: Ayah Chami

Every day in the Fordson High School cafeteria, there is a struggle to find enough chairs for each student to eat at a table. Students end up sitting on the benches lining the edge of the cafe, eating off of their laps, or standing up and eating.

A high percentage of students don't eat at all. Food allergies and personal preferences discourage students from eating cafeteria food,. Others resort to having candy or chips for lunch. This negatively affects their physical and mental health, and impacts school performance.

Open-campus lunch would give students the opportunity to leave school for the lunch period. It would result in less students in the cafeteria, creating more room for eating. It would also provide more healthy lunch options, accommodating students' individual choices and needs.

Some may argue that some students will abuse the privilege of being able to leave campus for lunch. However, open-campus lunch would not be a privilege available to all. Instead, permission to leave school for lunch would be granted to students with a certain attendance record and behavior track, providing a good incentive for students to behave better. Furthermore, it would teach students the responsibility of departing and arriving for places on time, a lifelong skill.

Having an open-campus lunch period is something that the Fordson High School administration should seriously consider. It would solve the issue of cafeteria seating, provide healthier options, and give students incentive and responsibility.



Art Corner

Examples of Tape Transfer



Reem Taha



Hani Jahaf



Generation of Promise

By: Anna Khreizat

In a time of racial crisis in which discrimination seems to have ravaged the nation, embracing diversity may be more important now than ever. This is exactly what the Generation of Promise Program (GOP) strives to promote. GOP provides a year long experience for high school juniors that teaches students to celebrate differences, rather than condemn them. Its mission is to instill a deeper appreciation of diversity in the youth of the future and create a generation of young leaders dedicated to eliminating discrimination and racism.

On November 11th, 2015, Genera-

'Cultural Diversity' program day, groups and explored different cul-

GOP Manager Amy Costello's Michigan and stopped by Fordson

derstanding of Arab-American, here, the group was given a tour of

Khreizat, Meera Abdullah, and Ze-

clip of the Fordson Football film "Faith, Fasting, Football," and given a discussion about the common stereotypes

and misconceptions towards Arabs and Muslims with Coach Zaban and 'Take on Hate' members Ali Fakih and

Mohamed Mansour. The group also explored different cultural aspects of Arabs, including how to perform the

Dabke Dance.



tion of Promise hosted its where members broke up into tural and ethnic communities.

group decided to visit Dearborn, High School to further their un-

Muslim students. During its time the school by students Anna

inab Elreichouni, shown a short

'Cultural diversity day' exposed GOP members to the true culture of Arabs and Muslims, and helped remove false generalizations they may have held prior to visiting Dearborn. One member wrote, "My perception of Islam changed. The media underestimates the religion and doesn't show what it actually is." It is programs such as GOP that we can thank for making a true difference in the world, one person at a time. If you are interested in becoming apart of the Generation of Promise Family, please speak to Ms. Cantrell for more information.

Student Spotlight By: Ali Fakih

Fatima Taj, sophomore at Fordson High hopes to one day find a breakthrough in medical research with the CDC. She maintains a high GPA and plans to apply to an Ivy League school. Taj plans on starting studying for her SATs now. She is highly active in various clubs at Fordson and also plays tennis. Here is what she has to say...

What is your favorite subject?

"My favorite subject is biology. I love biology because it helps me make sense of what's going on in the world on a molecular level. For example if there is a disease, studying biology helps pinpoint the specific causes of it and can even help with branching treatments".

What is something that motivates you?

"Something that tends to motivate me is that I know that I can do anything if I put my mind to it. Knowing that helps me strive hard and reach any goal I put my mind to".

What do you plan on majoring in, in the future?

"I don't have an exact idea on what I plan on majoring in, but I plan on focusing on the fields of biology or biochemistry".



Winter Break...What To Do?—Do You Have a New Year's Resolution?

Many of us are counting down the days until Christmas break; having all that free time not stressing out about homework, Mr. Hargraves's class, Ms. Memminger's tests or even waking up at the crack of dawn is all the more reason winter break is a cherished gift bestowed upon us. Whether you have something already planned or you're just looking forward to going home and relaxing, here is a list of things to do over break:

- 1. Sleep! Go ahead, throw away your alarm clock, sleep in, catch up with your dreams. No judgement here.**
2. Go to the movies with some friends. See what's playing and eat a ton of popcorn.
- 3. Listed as one of the 99 things to do in Wayne County, you can go sledding down Middlebelt Hill over in Westland.**
4. Channel your inner child and build the largest snowman you've ever built or have the most epic snowball fight that will leave your hands numb for days.
- 5. It's never too cold to go ice skating, whether it's at Disc Arena or downtown at Campus Martius Park, grab a pair of skates and start gliding over that smooth ice.**
6. Speaking of downtown, you have not experienced the beauty of Detroit until you've seen the whole city twinkling with Christmas lights and frolicking horse-drawn carriages on Woodward Avenue.
- 7. If you're into traveling you can go on a Ski Resort in the Alps Mountains, spend the night at the magnificent Ice Hotel in Sweden, or you can keep it local and stay at a lodge and Spa Resort in Crystal Mountain, Michigan.**
8. And if the cold isn't your thing, you can always visit the warmer regions such as sunny Cancun or gorgeous Hawaii.
- 9. Throw a Christmas party! Invite all your friends, bring each other presents, eat all the Christmas junk you want. 'Tis the season to gain 10 lbs.**
10. Last, and most definitely not the least, cuddle up with a cozy blanket, a plate of soft cookies and watch all the Christmas movies Netflix has to offer. **Khalood Altaresh**

Resolution Revolutions

By: Mirvat Chammout

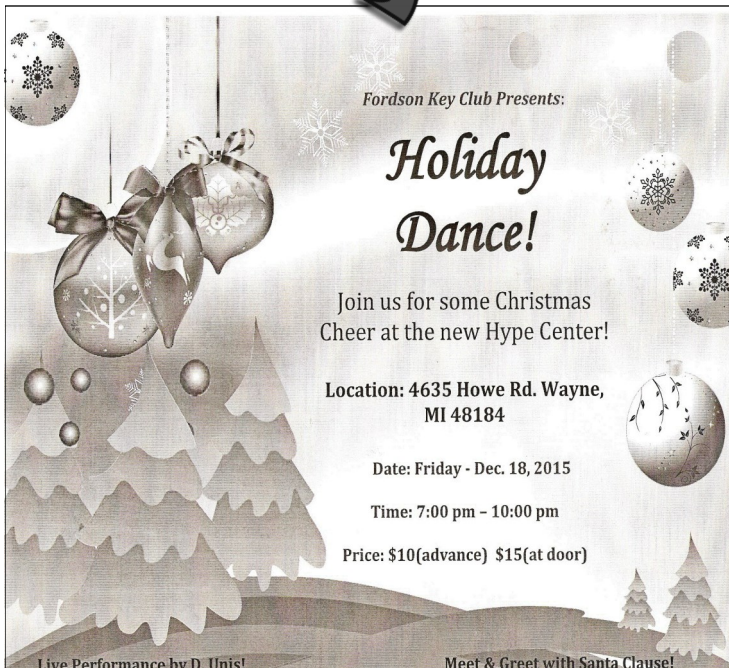
Tick-tock. The clock is counting down to the New Year. This is a wonderful time to reflect on the year that has passed and to look back on the moments that have deeply moved us. Several people enjoy creating resolutions during this time because they see the New Year as a fresh start and a chance to set goals they wish to accomplish. My personal New Year's resolution is to help make everyone's day better than the previous year.

What is your New Year's resolution?

- * "My next monumental goal in my life will be retirement, which I hope doesn't happen anytime soon and I never wish my time away. I try to enjoy every record of my life and I still enjoy the students here and coming to Fordson every day." ~Mr. Eckert
- * "My resolution is to have time for the people who need it." ~Mr. Laura
- * "I want to run a 10K next year and I won't let my knee surgery hold me back." ~Mr. Proctor
- * "I want to improve on my grades because I was slacking off in the beginning of the semester. I also want to become a better writer because I have to write essays in Language Arts." ~Kassem Bazzi 9th grader
- * "I know how to play piano but now I want to learn how to play guitar because I love music." ~Ammar Alkumaim 12th grader

Play Highlights & Movie Review***Dramatic Highlights******By Susan Hatem***

*Fordson High School's resurrected Dramatic Arts Club performed their second play, **Murder by Ten**. The play took place on a deserted island where ten people have been invited because of their aptitude for stupidity. As the visitors begin to realize the reason for their being brought to the island, the whole trip turns upside down as each one is killed in ridiculous ways. The mystery is a "whodunit". Was it Peppy Sparks or Judge Slayer? The audience who checked out the play during one of its performances on December 2-4 found out. Following the cast's crazy antics, the audience was engaged throughout the comedy. If you missed this play, be on the lookout for the spring play.*

**Key Club Hosts Holiday Dance
at HYPE Center in Wayne**

Fordson Key Club Presents:

Holiday Dance!

Join us for some Christmas Cheer at the new Hype Center!

Location: 4635 Howe Rd. Wayne, MI 48184

Date: Friday - Dec. 18, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Price: \$10(advance) \$15(at door)

Live Performance by D. Unis! Meet & Greet with Santa Clause!

Coming Soon from a Galaxy Far, Far Away***By: Assorted Star Wars Geeks***

Star Wars fans young and old are looking forward to Friday, December 18th with great anticipation as the seventh installment of the Star Wars saga opens on that day. There are students who have had their tickets for at least a month to make sure that they have a front row seat for this historic movie moment. When asked why they are so excited about going, there is a wide variety of responses... a new Sith Lord, the return of Han Solo, fantastic new gear, the diversity of the cast, and amazing trailers. Whatever each fan's individual reason is, the high expectation comes down to the fact that "it's Star Wars"! Give in to the Force and see this film!

Extra***Follow Up on a Fordson Graduate***

By: Nesreen Saad

The Fordson Tower was able to spend some time with a recent Fordson graduate in hopes of figuring out the impact Fordson had on her after graduation. We interviewed Aleen Bazzi (2014) and found out how her Fordson experience influenced her.

What is your name?

Aleen Bazzi

When did you graduate?

I graduated in 2014.

What did you do in Fordson that helped you the most now?

One of the most important things I did in Fordson was taking honors and advanced placement courses. These are the classes that will help you develop essential study skills and create a solid work ethic. You learn a lot about yourself when you take classes that challenge you to exceed beyond what is expected of a typical high school student. This is how you will understand what type of learner you are, there are so many different ways of learning things, you just have to find what works best for you.

What do you recommend to students that are in Fordson now?

I wish that students understood how important it is to stay involved; join an after school club, do some community service or become a part of a sports team. The memories you create by investing a few hours of your time are priceless. Every so often, even if you don't like sports, go to a game. Even if you can't dance, go to a school dance. Hang out with your friends more. After high school you probably aren't going to have the time to do these things, take advantage of the opportunity while you can! I was always involved in high school and I tried my best to make it to all the events I possibly could. Looking back at it I'm so happy that I did. High school is an important milestone in your life, when you think about your time in school it's nice to have something memorable to reflect on.

What was your favorite high school memory?

My favorite high school memory was senior skip day.

What afterschool activities did you participate in?

Throughout high school I was part of so many different clubs. Key Club is great for community service opportunities. I joined tennis and track which were really fun, it's always nice to be a part of a team. Student government was probably one of my favorite clubs because it really gives you a chance to be involved in organizing events for your classmates. Even if you aren't elected to be a part of the student government, you can always attend the meetings to stay involved.



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