

Tower Tribune

Volume 219

Fordson High School

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Fordson Key Club Continues to Give Back to Those in Need

On Thursday, December 10th Key Club members made over 20 blankets for children in foster care that have been physically and/or sexually abused. A representative from U of M Dearborn spoke to Key Club members about how giving back to those in need is such a vital component to living a purposeful life.

On Friday, December 11th, Key Club members traveled to Taylor, Michigan to help package food for Gleaners Food Bank with Kiwanis member Roger Frank. The Fordson Key Club continues to serve outside the walls of Fordson, helping those in need in our community.



Happy New Year

2016



On December 18th Key Clubbers passed out handmade Christmas and New Years cards to patients at Heartland nursing home. This has become an annual community service event that enriches the lives of both the senior citizens and the Fordson students.



Athletics

Boys Swimming

By: Nesreen Saad

Like many of Fordson's sports, boy's swim team is having great success this season. This year's top swimmers are Allen Swaidan, Kareem Davanzo, and Ali Elakari. Last year, the Tractors finished 4th in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference. This year, the Tractors finished 3rd at the Charger Invitational and are hoping to improve with each meet. Coach Berry and 1st year head coach, Adam Ferral, are



both looking to improve times leading up to the Western Wayne Athletic Conference meet. The team has an experienced group of upperclassman that are expected to bring the younger swimmers along during the year.

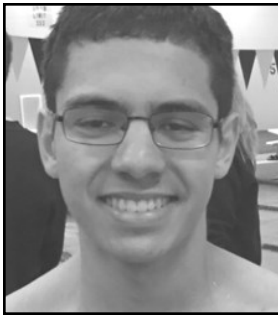


Athlete Spotlight

By: Noor Fakh

Kareem Davanzo, currently a junior, is a varsity swimmer and runner. He started playing sports in 8th grade but really started to take athletics seriously his freshmen year. His high school year consists of back to back sports as he does cross country in the fall, swimming in spring. With a busy schedule ages to take four AP classes. has been a huge part of his life, sports in college and instead goals. He believes his experience applied to his life and future learned. He enjoys being part of

the winter, and track in the like his, Kareem still man- Although playing sports he doesn't plan on playing will focus on his academic experiences from his sports can because of the discipline and respect he has a team and the pressure people put on him to perform well. Kareem said that "the pressure placed on me by my teammates, coaches, and myself drives me forward and pushes me to succeed." The positive experience he has had with sports allows him to be successful in all areas of his life.



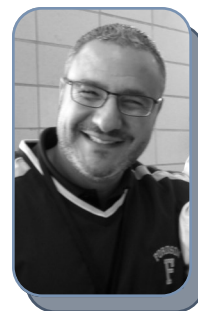
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"Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or a lifetime, is certain for those who are friends." ~Richard Bach

Reflections from Mr. Mosallam By: Riyam Mahdi

"I have so many memories of Fordson from before I was a student walking to the school on Saturday afternoons to watch the football games and from when I entered as a freshmen scared and confused. My memories have been many and full of great times and times of struggle, but no matter what, I have become a better person due to all my experiences as a Tractor. It was like a dream come true when I became a teacher and was coaching, and at that time, I did not think it could get better. But when I returned in 2010 as the principal, I realized that I was wrong, it did get better. My new position has given me an opportunity to look back at my career so far and truly understand how important it is to always reflect on where one has been and where one wants to go. It has also reminded me that we have to always work to make our community better and always look out for our neighbors. My memories at Fordson go back and forth between academics, community service, athletics, and definitely family. My memories tend to always reflect upon my first days and then my transitional days because we as a school have accomplished so much as a family. Fordson is dear to my heart and will always be and I definitely will never forget how I was carried off the court, but more importantly, I will never forget how 2500 students every day made me one of the happiest educators in the US!"



Tips On Dealing With Finals

By: Khansa Alhaidi

Don't stress!

Relax and try not to panic. Understand the importance of finals and know that as long as you do your best, you will be successful.

Create study guides for each final.

To ensure that you are studying all the material the exam covers, create individual study guides for yourself. This makes studying less stressful and disorganized. Plus, by writing down the information, you will be able to remember the material better!

Organize your time.

Create a plan that divides your time between each final. Make it official by writing it down and placing it somewhere visible (to remind you!).

Study days in advance

Don't wait to study the day before. Cramming will cause a person to stress out and will ultimately not have the best results. Rather, study a couple days before the exam and leave the day before to relax and generally look over everything.

Ask questions.

During class, when reviewing for finals, don't be afraid to raise your hand and ask a question. Chances are someone else has the same question.

Meet with teachers and/or friends.

Days before the exam, meet with a teacher and get extra help in topics you don't excel at. Also, try to meet with a group of friends for a study session. Be prepared to ask questions. However, leave a day or two before the exam for independent studying.

Get enough sleep.

Don't stay up till 2am studying, but rather study earlier in the afternoon to ensure you get a good amount of sleep. Staying up later and sleeping less will cause you to lose focus during class and the exam.

Eat a good meal.

Get food in your system, so you aren't hungry during the exam. You think better when you have eaten. Same goes with water. Make sure you drink plenty of water, so you don't dehydrate or feel weak.

Take your time.

Don't rush your way through the exam. Make sure to read each question and answer clearly. If you don't know a question, skip and come back to it.

Teacher Spotlight- Ms. Rida

By: Reem Aburukba

What made you pursue teaching in the first place? "I initially wanted teaching in the first place, but I did my Bachelors in political science and sociology then got a Masters in the art of conflict resolution. During my Masters I started to sub and eventually started to get assigned long term positions at Fordson and Woodworth. I loved every minute of it, so as soon as I finished my Masters I went for my teaching certificate. I finished it in less than a year and I've been in this field since."

What's your favorite thing about teaching? "The relationships I build with my students. It goes beyond the teacher-student relationship."

What do you like to do in your free time, any hobbies? "So many, I love to plan events for my family to bring them together. I crochet a lot. I also love to cook and read."

Who's your biggest role model? "My role model is my mom- she taught me everything from patience, to the meaning of family, to how to be a lady."

Who's your biggest hero? "My hero in my life is my dad- never in my life have I met a person so sacrificing and so hardworking."

What's a quote that you live by? "My dad always told me, 'It's better to go to sleep at night the oppressed than the oppressor.' And I live by that."

**Did You Know?**

By: Fatima Elmoukahal

- In Japan, letting a sumo wrestler make your baby cry is considered good luck.
- Nutella was invented during WWII, when an Italian pastry maker mixed hazelnuts into chocolate to extend his chocolate ration.
- Barry Manilow did not write his hit "I Write the Songs".
- Peeps Lip Balm is something that exists.
- In 1986, Apple launched a clothing line.
- In the Chinese zodiac, 2016 is the Year of the Monkey.

Martin Luther King Jr.

By: Reem Aburukba

As Martin Luther King Jr. Day approaches, the meaning of this day is easily losing significance among many people across America. In a time when discrimination is on the rise and unjust actions shown on the news dominate the attention of American Martin Luther King Jr., a symbol of discrimination in the United States. an era of racial prejudice and this take part in the civil rights movement flame of segregation and make way for or white. King was unique because of get the message of equality across. He boycotts all over the country while also



citizens, it seems time to remember peace, equality, and anti-Martin Luther King Jr. was born into would soon influence his decision to that would go on to distinguish the equality among all Americans, black the fact that he didn't use violence to staged peace marches, sit ins, and speaking to distinguished leaders. King's actions didn't have immediate results, and many younger people were agitated by the sluggish progress that they were making and began to use violence. Their violence pushed King's cause back by a lifetime it seemed. King discouraged this behavior and distanced himself from these actions and continued to protest peacefully. He lead two peace marches to the White House and caught the attention of President John F. Kennedy. Martin Luther King Jr. caused a revolutionary change in American ideals and morals because he said that he had a dream and his dream was that, "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on January 18 and that is the day we remember the man who gave his life to the cause of equality and the end of segregation.

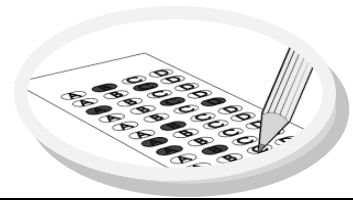
An Editorial on Racism Today

By Mirvat Chammout

Dealing with racism in our community has become increasingly more difficult. Muslims today are being judged more often than previous years, and I know that some of you are having trouble dealing with this. I'm terrified to turn on the TV because if I see any news about an attack or threat, I'm afraid it will be blamed on Muslims. It isn't fair that when a group of people commit heinous deeds, an entire religion is judged on their actions. Many people today are ignorant and are unable to see the true beauty of Islam. Have confidence in yourselves because you have nothing to be ashamed of. Be proud to call yourself a Muslim and don't let anyone put you down. We all understand that the people who cause fear do not represent us as a whole. Sometimes ignoring what people today are saying is easier said than done. I constantly hear Donald Trump judging Muslims on TV, and it scares me to think that the public may actually agree with him. However, I do believe that everyone has the right to freedom of speech and religion, but I don't believe that anyone has the right to judge others. Even though these experiences have hurt us, they have also made us stronger. Never give up on what you believe in.

SAT 2016**By: Nesreen Saad**

As many of you know, Fordson has recently changed their testing from the ACT to the SAT. Although colleges accept both tests, Michigan switched to the SAT because it is more aligned with the common core. This year the SAT will also be changing their format, content, and structure. The new SAT, which will be administrated in the Spring of 2016, will prioritize content that reflects the type of math and reading that students are going to encounter in college and future work years. The new SAT will also make the essay portion optional, although many school districts are retaining the essay. Scoring will also vary from the current test. The current test scores range from 600-2,400 and the new test scores will range from 400-1,600. The first students scheduled to take the new SAT will be students graduating in 2017. For more information about the new SAT visit: <http://sat.ivyglobal.com/new-vs-old/>

**Ways to Beat the Winter Blues****By Ayah Chami**

Make yourself an ice cold glass of lemonade. It'll take you straight back to the good ol' days of summer and will taste amazing. You can make it from scratch, or if you're taking AP classes and barely have time to breathe, go for Country Time instant powder.

Get some exercise! Get on an elliptical or treadmill, or head over to the Civic Center to swim in the indoor pool. You can get your endorphins flowing, putting you in a good mood instantly, and it'll make you feel as if you're in Lake Michigan in June instead of January. Plus, it'll help you get rid of the layer of fat protecting your abs.

Create your own mini-summer. Put on a big floppy sunhat, some cool shades, and turn on a summer-themed movie. (When in doubt, always go for *High School Musical 2*. Don't lie, we already know you know the soundtrack by heart.)

Travel. Florida, California, even Ohio has warmer weather than Michigan and can bust winter blues in a matter of minutes after crossing the state line.

When all else fails, embrace it. Play in the snow, if there is any. Drink some hot cocoa. Buy yourself a cute winter coat, put on some mittens and a scarf, and lick a frozen flagpole. (Actually, no. Don't do that.)

Movie Review

Expelled

Written and Directed by Alex Goyette

Expelled is yet another high school comedy about a teenager who does one prank too many that gets him, you guessed it, expelled. Throughout the entirety of the film Felix, played by famous youtuber and viner Cameron Dallas, goes to great lengths to prevent his parents from finding out. From hacking into the dean's computer, creating a fake 4.0 report card, and drugging his teacher in order to avoid a parent-teacher conference, this trouble maker will stop at nothing to avoid getting caught. Felix is assisted by his tech savvy best friend Danny and his equally, if not more, deranged delinquent older brother Ben who busts Felix out of jail after escaping a prison-like boarding school.

Though his elaborate and far-fetched schemes entertain, they also render a similar film in mind. It's safe to say that *Expelled* is an obvious imitation of the comedy classic: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Both Felix and Ferris display a charismatic persona and frequently speak directly to the audience. Additionally, both characters use a stand-in mannequin to fool their dimwitted parents. Felix, much like Ferris, also has someone pretend to be his father and uses technology to keep his parents from knowing what he's doing. Finally, just like the John Hughes classic, the rebel outsmarts the mutually despised principal and all is well with the world.

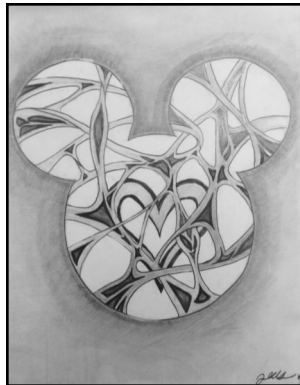
Although very similar to a great classic this film lacks an influential message, contains dull characters and a mediocre cast. Yes, social media celebrities possess enticing personalities and make great youtube videos and 6 second vines but they simply don't have the proficiency to star in a 90 minute film. You might as well save your time and rewatch *Ferris Bueller's Day off*.

-Khalood Altaresh



The Artist Spotlight

James Kaczmarek is a self taught skilled artist who specializes in simple yet extraordinary pencil drawings. His enthusiasm for the craft has long been existent since he was a little kid and has perfected his talent to be able to create a wide variety of drawings from people to animals and even random objects. Most of his drawings display intricate designs and impressive details that immediately catch your eye. Don't believe me? See for yourself:



James finds his inspiration in spontaneous ideas and objects. They say art is an expensive hobby, but for James, all he needs is a nice sharpened pencil and a blank page. You can find more of James's art in the Fordson Quill which will be published in June 2016.

-Khalood Altaresh

