

THE FORDS FORUM



Writings from the Middle School



(Image Courtesy of The Haverford School SmugMug)



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From The Student Council



A Letter From The Middle School President

Tommy Gowen(Form II)

Dear Middle School,

First of all, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve you all as your Student Body President. We have a great group of homeroom representatives and I am happy to say the student council is back and better than ever, after not having a student council last year due to the pandemic. The school store has gotten off to a great start this year and has proven to be very popular with the students. The Student Council and I have started the first middle school Kickball tournament. Students from all grade levels were put on teams randomly and named by their 8th grade captains. The tournament got off to a fun start as teams faced off during sports period in

window week. Our theme at student council this year is building a strong community through-out the middle school. Last year, we were deprived of the community aspect of Haverford due to COVID-19. This year, we are trying to build back the strong community that was in the middle school and create bonds throughout 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. To do this we need the help of all the students and faculty. Once again, I would like to thank you for letting me serve you as President and go Fords.

Tommy Gowen

Dec 1

A Letter From The Middle School Vice President

Grayson Morgan (Form II)

I am so thankful for the opportunity given to Tommy, Luke and I to serve all of you this year. The Student Council is working hard to organize charity events, raise money and resources, and support those in need. Our officers have had great success so far - we had communal and highly successful kickball matches, a strong Can Drive, and great Door Decorations. We also have more fun events that we are working on - our current favorite being the idea of a dodgeball match (yes,

it is possible that you will be given the chance to throw balls at your teachers). I am so happy that I am able to continue to serve the Middle School.

Thank you all, and go Fords!

Grayson Morgan

Dec 1

Getting to know Mr. Casertano

Keith DiMarino (Form I)



Q: What made you want to be the headmaster at The Haverford School?

A: I always knew that I would love to work at a school. When I worked at St. Albans (his school before Haverford) I realized I enjoyed doing a lot of different things in a school community. Early on I loved teaching, coaching different sports, and serving as an advisor. The variety of running from one thing to the next was a lot of fun. I then moved into the Admissions Office for four years before moving onto the Development Office. I really enjoyed all of these experiences but I still loved being a student advisor, coaching, and teaching. At Haverford, as the Head of School, I am able to participate in all of these elements throughout the day.

Q: You were a volunteer teacher in Guatemala city for 3 months in 2010. Can you tell us about this city and what they are going through?

A: St. Albans School would take students down to a school in Guatemala city every spring for community service work. Guatemala City has one of the largest dumps in Central America and the Western Hemisphere. There are thousands of people who work every day in the dump packaging recyclables that they can sell. Children of parents working in the dump often stay with their parents all day. It's a really unhealthy and dangerous environment for a child. The school in Guatemala was started as a school for students whose parents worked in the dump so that they [the students] can have a full day of education and not be exposed to

Fords Forum Word Scramble

Hello contestants, and welcome to to the Fall 2021 Fords Forum Word Scramble! The objective of this competition and newspaper tradition is to find the marked letters in this issue of the paper and unscramble them to find a hidden word or phrase. To compete, all you have to do is find the letters and unscramble the message. Once you have the message unscrambled, contact Sam Putter, Harrison Cross, and Mrs. Nelson through email and tell them you have the message. If you are the first in your grade to do this, or the first teacher to do so, you will win a prize!

The letters may appear anywhere throughout the paper, so be thorough! There are a total of **7** letters you must find. The 7 letters combine to form **2 words**. Each letter will appear bolded and underlined. It might look something like **T**his (The example is not a part of the Word Scramble).

Getting to know Mr. Casertano (Cont.)



to all of its dangers. The school also provides the families with food and the children with a number of health resources. I was working with students who were in second grade. They learned some life skills as well as some habits that would help them succeed in school. It was an incredibly meaningful experience.

Q: You were a varsity lacrosse, varsity hockey, and JV soccer coach. Does this mean that you are big into sports?

A: I'm not sure that I would say I'm big into sports. I loved playing sports growing up and learned many valuable lessons from my experiences on the fields and rink and from teammates and coaches. I believe in the importance of athletics as part of the larger educational experience. I believe the fields and courts are just another set of classrooms and the coaches are just teachers in a different context. As someone who was a teacher and coach, I really enjoyed interacting with students in different contexts and building relationships with them in different areas of their lives. I love watching Haverford School sports at the Middle and Upper School levels but I'm not a very good pro sports fan or sports participant at this point in my life.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Haverford so far?

A: I love working at an all-boys school. I think all boys schools allow students to engage deeply in ways that they might not have if girls were present. We give students the confidence to step outside their comfort zones and take risks - academically, artistically, athletically, socially, and emotionally. Two examples of this at Haverford are the popularity of the performing arts and the tradition of Upper School Reflections, where students talk about who they are in very honest vulnerable ways.

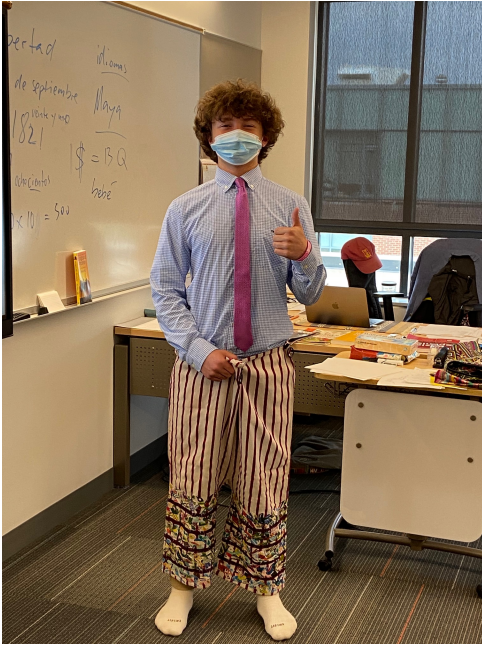
Q: What was your favorite thing to do when you were a kid?

A: I liked meeting new people and interacting with many different people over the course of the day. I wasn't somebody who had just a few friends that I did everything with. I liked acting in the play and making friends through that activity. I liked playing sports and making friends on my teams. Also, I liked working hard and having fun in the classroom with my classmates. At Haverford, I love that you all are students, artists, and athletes rather than just one thing, which was often the case at my schools.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: As a kid, I really loved adventure and fantasy books like the Chronicles of Narnia series, which are the first books that I can remember my parents reading to me before I went to bed. I remember loving the Lord of the Rings books and the movies. I also really enjoyed reading history books and biographies, learning about people, the lives they lived, the reasons why they made their decisions, and the impact that they had in history.

Pictures Around Campus



Pictures Around Campus Cont.



Severinghaus Cool Finds: The Sinking of the SS Titanic by

John B. Thayer

Mr. Newman



Imagine an eagerly-anticipated family vacation, traveling from France back to NYC – you and your parents on the maiden voyage of a high-tech transport, luxuriating in comfort, surrounded by good food and top-notch entertainment. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, tragedy strikes the vessel. Your comfortable family trip turns into a nightmarish fight for your lives. And nothing will ever be quite the same again.

While it may sound incredible, this is exactly what happened to seventeen year old John B. Thayer more than 100 years ago. John, his mother, and father were on the ill-fated trip of the RMS Titanic in 1912.

A few days ago, Ms. Slack handed me a book and said, “Take a look at this?” The book was *The Sinking of the SS Titanic* by John B. Thayer. What makes this book special? It is a firsthand account of the sinking of the largest and most well-appointed ship known to man at the time. Even more interesting, the author was a Haverford School student. He survived the sinking of the Titanic, and at age forty-five wrote an account of that fateful night.

Holding a rare primary source is always special, and because of the connection to Haverford, this firsthand account of one of the most massive tragedies of the 20th century felt very personal. The ship was said to be unsinkable so when it hit the iceberg, no one imagined it would sink. Thayer repeatedly comes back to this theme, even after he hears the ship’s designer say that the ship would sink within an hour of the glancing impact with the ice. In under thirty pages, Thayer describes the shift from confidence, to confusion, and ultimately desperation as he, his family, and his fellow passengers struggle to survive. I found it hard not to hold my own breath as I read of his daring plunge into the freezing water, as the ship finally went under.

The Sinking of the SS Titanic is a quick read, and provides an amazing insight into this young man’s rare and tragic experience. His experience and memories are part of our history. In the midst of tragedy, John displayed many of the values that Haverford has enshrined in our Walk of Virtues; courage, perseverance, selflessness. Find it, and other daring true stories of adventure, on the shelves of the library.

Stride V.R. Review

by Jack Ford (Form I)



Stride is a high-octane, VR parkour game that has you running through rooftops, cityscapes, other futuristic environments, blasting down enemies with a pistol and avoiding obstacles as you go. The parkour aspect of the game is super unique, as you actually have to move your real life hands to run, throw them up to jump, grip your controller to climb, etc. After playing for a bit you get this flow that makes you feel like a master parkour-it, running through buildings and just barely grabbing onto ledges. On top of that, there are very minimal bugs and it makes for a really fun VR experience that you really can't get anywhere else. The biggest issue I have with this game is the combat. Stride has 2 enemies, snipers that shoot at you as you run and a drone that flies around and throws obstacles in your path. In theory, these are actually pretty good enemies for a game like this to have, the issue sadly is in the execution. The drone does basically nothing, as the obstacles are easy to avoid or can just be shot with the gun. The other enemy, the sniper, takes a couple shots to kill and makes you stop in order to take it down. This completely ruins the flow and fluidity of the game and is really annoying to deal with while trying to parkour. All in all, I think stride has the potential to be an amazing parkour game, but it has some fundamental flaws that bring down the game as a whole.



image courtesy of youtube.com



Image courtesy of google.com



Image courtesy of google.com

Sports News



Walker Hinckle & Henry Ingersol

Tom Brady is the first NFL player to ever throw 600 touchdown passes in the regular season. Mike Evans caught the ball, and gave it to a fan, not knowing that it was Tom Brady's 600 Touchdown Milestone ball. Tom Brady wanted the ball, so he decided to make a trade with the fan. The fan received two signed jerseys and a helmet from Brady, game-worn cleats from Mike Evans, along with season tickets for the rest of the 2021-2022 season and season tickets for the 2022-2023 season, \$1,000 at the team store, and 1 bitcoin (\$48,700). Then a few weeks later he threw his 700th touchdown pass (Regular season & Playoffs)



This year, the Los Angeles Rams are looking very strong on both offense and defense. Prior to this season, their roster contained Cooper Kupp, Jalen Ramsey, and Aaron Donald. After a great year so far, the Rams have added some depth to their roster, including Von Miller, and Odell Beckham Jr.

The Eagles have had a surprising season. Many NFL analysts expected them to have a poor season but so far they are 6-7 and fighting for a playoff spot. This is largely due to multiple players having great seasons such as Dallas Goedert, rookies Kenny Gainwell & Devonta Smith and Jalen Hurts. Although they are only 6-7 they have had multiple close losses against good teams like the buccaneers, chiefs, and 49ers. They also have a bright future with 2-3 first-round picks in the upcoming draft. Their defense has performed better this year after signing Steven Nelson & Anthony Harris. Rookie Zech McPhearson has also performed well. On the offensive side, Jalen Hurts has had a good season throwing and running. Drafting his former Alabama teammate Devonta Smith has also helped tremendously. Smith currently has multiple touchdowns and lots of yards. The eagles also came into this season with a whole new coaching staff, hiring head coach Nick Sirianni, defensive coordinator Jonathon Gannon, and offensive coordinator Shane Steichen.



Scalping & Scamming

Seth Virmani (Form II)

With the pandemic taking a toll, many people want to stay safe and turn to online shopping instead to ensure a risk free and safe shopping experience. Sites such as amazon and ebay are becoming more popular than previously. People can also sell items of any kind there. This includes makeup, video games and books. However these sellers can also take advantage of the people who are buying by marking up the prices of the items. Sometimes people don't know the average price of these items and will buy these items for a bigger price than they should have. Scalpers use this to their advantage. Many video games are also sold for more than they are worth. To be specific, the new PS5. Many ps5 units are being sold for a lot more than they are worth. The PS5's retail price goes for a whopping 500\$ USD. However due to scalpers the consoles are being sold for well over 800\$ and sometimes even more than that. The reason for this: COVID. When Covid hit manufacturing came to a halt and things became in higher demand with all these new variants. My desired items such as toilet paper and video game consoles became incredibly expensive and people took advantage of this. They sold the

items and made a ton of money off of them. This was horrible in my opinion.



Image courtesy of google.com

DID YOU KNOW FACTS

Fruit loops are all the same flavor. The color really does not matter!

The empire state building has its own zip code!

The U.S. treasury once printed \$100,000 bills!

RIDDLES

1. What month of the year has 28 days?
2. What is full of holes but still holds water?
3. What invention lets you look right through a wall?

Answer: All of them

Answer: A sponge

Answer: A window

Guess That Faculty Member!



Have you ever wondered how well you know the Middle School faculty? Well, here's a chance for you to test your knowledge. Some members of the Fords Forum have gone to 4 faculty members and asked them a predetermined set of questions. Below, each of the teachers have been listed with the questions and their answers. If you are able to determine the unknown teachers correctly and share your answers with Sam, Brady, and Ms. Nelson, to have an opportunity to win a prize!

The first student in each grade as well as the first faculty member to submit all of the correct answers are eligible for the reward. Good luck!

Faculty Member #1

1. What college/university did you attend?

Answer: University Of Pennsylvania

2. Who is your favorite author?

Answer: Ben Grant (Haverford Alum.)

3. What is your favorite book?

Answer: El Amor de Beatriz

4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Answer: DaBaby

5. What is your favorite place on campus?

Answer: The Amphitheater

6. What is your favorite movie?

Answer: Coco

Faculty Member #2

1. What college/university did you attend?

Answer: Rutgers University

2. Who is your favorite author?

Answer: Cormac McCarthy

3. What is your favorite book?

Answer: Infinite Jest

4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Answer: Jeff Bridges

5. What is your favorite place on campus?

Answer: Centennial Hall

6. What is your favorite movie?

Answer: Raising Arizona

Guess That Faculty Member!



Faculty Member #3

1. What college/university did you attend?

Answer: Morehouse College

2. Who is your favorite author?

Answer: Elena Ferrante, Oda Eiichiro, and Alice Walker

3. What is your favorite book?

Answer: Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Answer: Will Smith and Viola Davis

5. What is your favorite place on campus?

Answer: The Library and Learning Commons

6. What is your favorite movie?

Answer: Gladiator — Are you not entertained?!

Faculty Member #4

1. What college/university did you attend?

Answer: Villanova University

2. Who is your favorite author?

Answer: Stephen King

3. What is your favorite book?

Answer: The Bible

4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?

Answer: Denzel Washington

5. What is your favorite place on campus?

Answer: Sabol Field

6. What is your favorite movie?

Answer: The Sandlot

The One Chip Challenge

Adonai Belete (Form II)



The **O**ne chip challenge is absolutely insane. Throwing up while your mouth is burning to death sounds really bad. It makes sense for it to be a dare because you're being tormented alive by a chip that is 2.2 million Scoville heat units (Scoville is the spiciness unit used for spicy food).

The Chip is made out of Blue corn, Sunflower/Safflower oil, Scorpion Chilies (2 million SHU), California Reapers (2 million SHU), and Sea salt making it a really spicy Pringle. One California Reaper is 880 times spicier than a jalapeño and One Scorpion Chile is 187 Jalapeños spicier. One jalapeño is 8,000 SHU. They aren't as spicy as the actual peppers because they usually don't include

the seeds, but the flesh instead dried, but the king of spicy peppers is still really spicy. The only thing spicier than the California reaper is Pure Capsaicin which can reach 16 million SHU. The original name was HP22B which isn't as threatening as the California reaper. They are also created artificially proving that anything can be artificial. Pure Capsaicin is nearly 8 times the spiciness of the California reaper and is literally a deadly dose making the one chip challenge seem like nothing. The one chip challenge may send you into a world of pain, but remember that there is always something worse.

Sudoku is played on a grid of 9 x 9 spaces. Within the rows and columns are 9 "squares" (made up of 3 x 3 spaces). Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square. Does it sound complicated? As you can see from the image below of an actual Sudoku grid, each Sudoku grid comes with a few spaces already filled in; the more spaces filled in, the easier the game – the more difficult Sudoku puzzles have very few spaces that are already filled in

SODOKU PUZZLES

9			1	4	8		3	
			2				6	1
	8	2	3	6				
4	2		5	7				3
8								5
3				8	2		7	4
				5	4	3	2	
2	7				9			
	3		6	2	1			7

"Pizza"

Andrew Witmer (Form II)



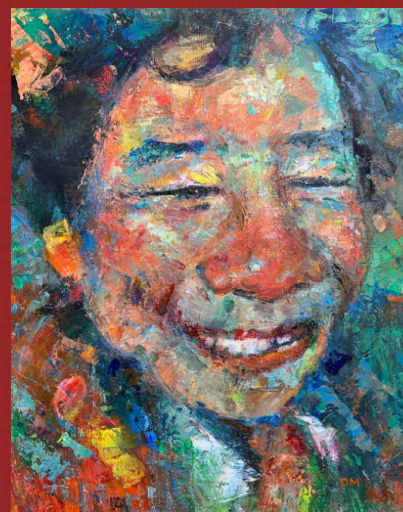
Pizza originated from ancient times and can be traced back to the Egyptians who ate flatbread baked in mud ovens. In my opinion pepperoni pizza is the best kind of pizza.

Pepperoni is air dried spicy salami. Pepperoni has different origins though coming from Italian American markets after World War I. Pepperoni pizza is much better than other kinds because it has more flavor than the others. The pepperoni adds more flavor than you find in cheese pizza, especially the big pieces of pepperoni. They make it spicy, peppery, and meaty. It can also be chewy in a good way. The pepperoni being chewy adds more texture to the pizza so it isn't cheese all of the time.

The pizza looks even better if the pepperonis are aligned properly in a grid. Cheese pizza has no pepperonis and therefore just looks plain. Cheese pizza just looks like a dough frisbee. Why would you eat that over pepperoni? Just looking at pepperoni pizza makes your mouth water. Pepperoni pizza is kind of iconic, every pizza you see has the red circles of pepperoni plus when you Google pizza, the first picture that comes up is a pepperoni pizza.

Even after I tried cheese pizza I thought that cheese pizza was bad. Although I like cheese pizza, I don't think it tastes as

good. Cheese pizza doesn't have as much flavor as pepperoni pizza, Cheese pizza tastes bland in comparison to pepperoni. On a cheese pizza the cheese is a little dripper and with pepperoni everything stays more on the crust. This is why pepperoni pizza is better than cheese pizza because it tastes better, looks better, and is more iconic.



From Mrs. Monroy

Stop Motion Movies

Max Sides (Form II)



Stop motion movies are complicated and require a lot of patients. A lot of movies use stop motion, two famous ones are the nightmare before Christmas and The Lego Movie 1 and 2. Stop motion is created by taking pictures for every frame of a film. A frame is an individual image that lasts a very short time. When you have multiple frames, they create a sequence, and the sequence will appear as a video.

Instead of C.G.I, older movies used stop motion C.G.I stands for Computer generated imagery and is commonly used to animate characters in movies or backgrounds. Some Examples are Avatar and pretty much every marvel movie. Before recent times, The editing technology and the knowledge to use it was either not common and good, didn't exist, or was too expensive for the production company to buy. So stop motion was the most ideal thing to use. But, now that S.G.I has become more mainstream, newer movies stopped using stop motion for this purpose.

There are seven main types of stop motion animations. Object motion, Claymanation, pixelation Stop Motion, cutout animation, puppet animation, and Silhouette Stop Motion.

Object motion is when you move objects in each frame. This is the most common type because it is the most diverse and animators can play with storylines and characters using objects that may be in our everyday lives.

Claymation is what it sounds like, Stop motion with Clay. The usual process to make these is that there are wires in your clay figures. Very unique figures and characters can be designed by the creator. This can give animators the ability to create the vision for their film.

Stop Motion (Continued)



Pixilation Stop Motion or Animation, is when one animates people. If you have ever made your common Object motion stop motion you know it takes a lot of time. Now just imagine what it would be like if your figure was a real person. Very frame the person must move only a bit. At first it may seem as a waste of time, why not just take a video with a smartphone. But if made well, it does make quite a unique and eye-catching film.

Cutout animation is when your figures are 2d and made of paper. When using a wide variety of colors and shading you can bring your 2d figures to life. What is Unlike the other forms is that you can cut different aspects of an image and add it to your figure.

Puppet animation is difficult because the strings used to move them are hard to hide. It is common that animators will call clay figures puppets. So true puppet animation is uncommon.

Silhouette stop motion is a great way to make an gorgust film. It is done by using a blanket that is thin and hanging it so that it is vertical and wide. Then place a light on the other side of the blanket. After, put the figures and landscape on the side with the light. Remember that there is little shading so make sure that it can deliver a clear image.

Stop Motion can be tedious but if you're not a huge movie company "Disney", then stop motion is a great way to bring your imagination to life, or at least to a screen.



Artwork By Mrs. Monroy



Making Mistakes

Mrs. Monroy (Faculty)



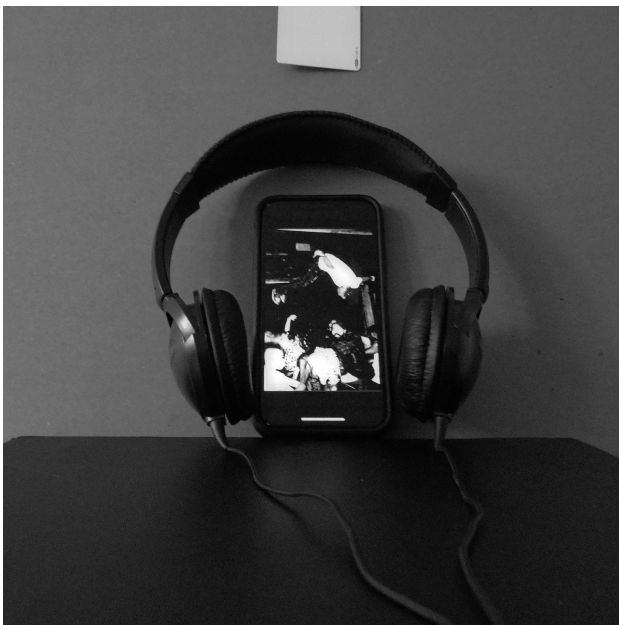
I was inspired by the former head of Germantown Academy. Once I asked him, “How can you be so humble?”, and he replied, “Because I made a lot of mistakes.” He is one of the most inspiring people to me, and the most humble and modest person that I ever met. If a person like him in such a position admitted to a lot of mistakes, why should I be afraid of making my mistakes?! That is why I would like to share my mistakes when learning English in the hopes of inspiring others to see mistakes as a process of the learning experience. As a second language learner of English, I still make mistakes today, even though my English is at a proficient level. It's not easy for me to publicly admit my mistakes, because I see myself as a perfectionist. Fortunately, over the years, I learned along the way. Now I can comfortably share my mistakes, particularly with my Chinese language students who I know won't judge me in a wrong way because of the empathy we all embrace. Previously, I shared how I employed “empathy” in my classroom, and I continue to implement empathy throughout my classes. With empathy in mind, I encourage my students to take risks in speaking Chinese, to make a lot of mistakes, and to correct their

mistakes by themselves eventually. I often tell them, “If I'm still making mistakes in English after all these years, why do you even care about your mistakes today?” However, don't get me wrong, I do still get a bit upset when I make grammatical mistakes. For example, after proofreading an important email, I finally hit the send button. Later, I would find typos and grammatical errors, which would make me feel a little upset because I really wanted things to be perfect. Over the years, I made lots and lots of mistakes before I could advance my English to a higher level. But I learned to move on quickly, because there are more important things to do than dwelling on my minor grammatical mistakes. In trying to be a role model to my students, I hope they can approach the Chinese language the way I approach the English language. It's exciting to learn a second language because there are always new things to learn. A second language helped me to shape my perspectives, be more open-minded to different cultures, think critically, appreciate the beauty of different races and cultures, and, most importantly, be a lifelong learner.

Form I Art



Form I Art



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Anantvir Othie

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to join our club today!

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Tommy Gowen	Jay Tyson
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Editors' Note

Dear Reader,

As the editors of the Fords Forum, we would like to thank our writers for creating many wonderful articles for the paper in this first edition. We have a wonderful team of writers from all three grades, sixth, seventh and eighth. We have had a lot of fun working with them on their articles and hope to continue this great work with the second edition. Of course, we are still welcoming any new writers. If you would like to write for the paper, either send a quick email to either Sam Putter or Harrison cross, or come join us during lunch on any Wednesday in the maker space. Thank you.

Thank you,

Sam Putter, Harrison Cross, Mrs. Brown, And Mrs. Nelson