

Campus engages with local emergency personnel

By **Qaeshon Clark**
Staff reporter

It was a brisk morning on September 11 in Winfield when I decided to go the seventy-seven steps at the request of my professor. I saw firefighters climbing the seventy-seven steps with members of our community.

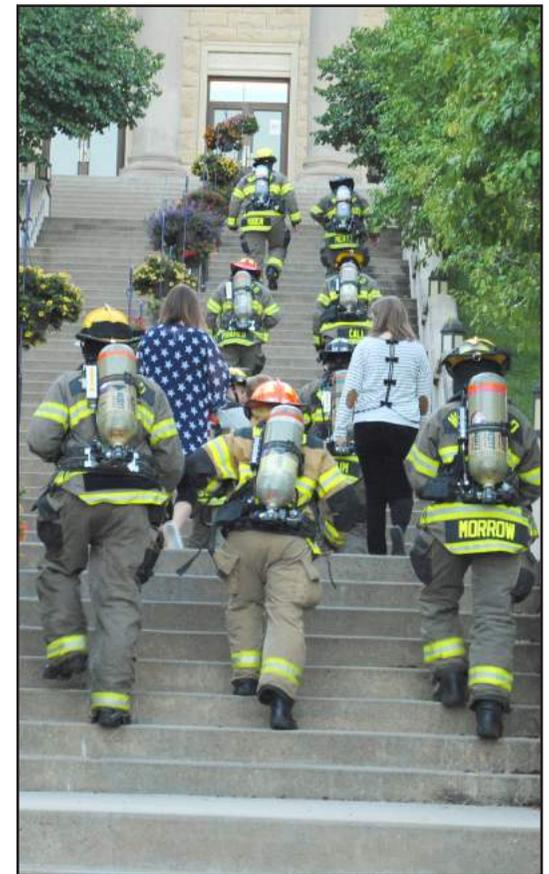
Standing among the group was a firefighter with the name "MERTS," attached to the back of his fire-proof suit. I approached the man, curious as to why they were doing this. Jacob Merts answered, "To let the people know that that they can finish the job."

Every September 11 firefighters across the nation choose to walk one hundred-and-ten flights of stairs to honor the lives lost in the bombing of the World Trade Center. Some were carrying over one hundred pounds of equipment during the time of the attack and continue to do so today.

The firefighters and community here in Winfield made it to seventy-eight flights in total. I cannot imagine how hard that would've been while carrying one hundred pounds or more of equipment, not to mention carrying it through flames, debris, and smoke. Those who risk their lives daily for the benefit of others deserve respect and recognition.

On September 11, 2001, three-hundred-and-forty-three firefighters lost their lives trying to save those affected by the attack. They will never be forgotten. Thank you for all of your services to us and our country and thank you to all the firefighters who are finishing the job now.

Qae Clark is a freshman majoring in communication. You can email him at qaeshonclark@sckans.edu.



TOP LEFT: Brian Kiprotich, undecided junior, is playing a game of bean bag toss with Phillip Lynch, Winfield Police Officer. They had a good time despite the competition.

Lauren Sieh/Staff photographer

TOP: Almost a dozen local firefighters are marching up the seventy-seven. They received support from the community during their incline.

Taylor Rodriguez/Staff photographer

LEFT: Two firefighters provide verbal support to one another while continuing to march. One held the hand of a local girl who didn't want to walk alone.

Taylor Rodriguez/Staff photographer

BELOW: Justin Williams, Residence Director for Wallingford Hall, Phillip Lynch, Winfield Police Officer, and Jason Haunschuld, Campus Security Guard, enjoy a friendly conversation. There was a bright mood among the three.

Lauren Sieh/Staff photographer

