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# The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

April, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 8

*April hath put a spirit of youth in everything!* — William Shakespeare

Mark your calendars...

- Monday, April 2nd — PTO Meeting, 6-7PM, Findley library
- **Monday, April 2nd — Friday, April 6th — Iowa Assessment Testing for grades 3-5**
- Wednesday, April 11th — John Deere Financial Family Books with Breakfast, 7:45-8:30
- Wednesday, April 11th — John Deere Financial Sign Ribbon Cutting Celebration (families welcome), 9:00
- Friday, April 20th — Kickin' It at the Curb
- Tuesday, April 24th — Findley Family Fine Arts Night for Kindergarten and First Grade



## Iowa Assessments

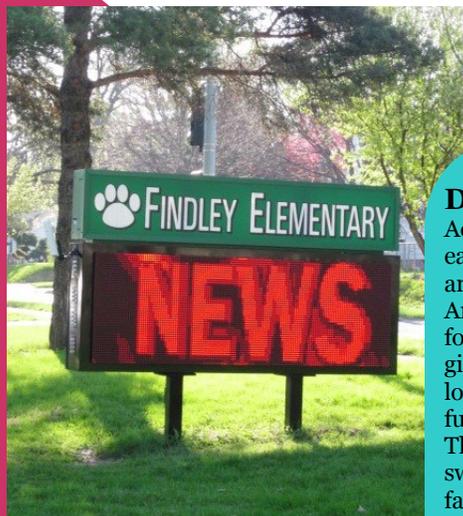
During the week of April 2 -April 5 Findley students in grades 3-5 will be taking the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as ITBS). This is an important assessment that will demonstrate the growth in academic achievement for each Findley student in the areas of reading, math, and science. It will also provide Findley staff with information about our current strengths and areas we need to continue to improve upon for the next year.

Each student is setting an effort goal and an achievement goal to ensure their success on the assessments. Goal setting is a research based strategy that has a direct correlation toward increasing a academic student's success. Please talk with your child about both goals and encourage them toward meeting these goals. Some ways you can help your child is by making sure they are well rested, arrive to school on time, have appointments scheduled outside of the testing time, and eat a healthy dinner and breakfast. We will provide your child a healthy snack before the testing times.

Findley students and teachers have worked hard every day this year to ensure that your child is getting the best education possible. This is just one of many indicators that will allow us to celebrate the hard work and growth that your child has made over the year. —Mrs. Owen

## THANK YOU, JDF!

Thank you John Deere Financial for the new electronic sign located on the south side of the building! This was a major donation made by our business partner, JDF. Findley appreciates the efforts and actions John Deere Financial puts forth daily in order to foster a highly effective relationship. In just one year JDF has donated every student their school supplies for the year, every teacher received \$100 to use toward classroom supplies, multiple JDF volunteers read with students daily, and the upcoming family Books with Breakfast event will be sponsored by JDF. These are just a few of the many actions that Findley students, staff, and families appreciate. Thank you John Deere Financial!



Fifth-grader Gabby L. poses with her portrait of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo at the DMPS District Art Show

A Note From Nurse Cynthia:

### WELCOME SPRING!

With our warmer temperatures this month, we are outdoors more, and we need to stay safe. First, practice "safety on wheels". Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up for the ride, with children in the back seat in age appropriate child safety seats. All bikers, skaters and skateboarders should wear helmets and other appropriate sports gear. Second, do a "childproofing" survey of your home. To conduct a "child's eye view home survey", systematically go from room to room, removing all the "dangers" that await the curious toddler or preschooler. Think of poisons, small objects, sharp edges, knives and firearms, and places to fall. Please stay safe every day! Cynthia Fuson RN.

### Did you know...?

According to the American Dietetic Association, or ADA, eating breakfast on the day of a test improves concentration and is associated with higher academic achievement. The American School Counselor Association, ASCA, reports that foods such as eggs, cereal and whole-wheat toast can energize your brain to help you think more clearly and focus for longer periods. Whole grains have fiber to help you stay full, and adding protein will boost energy. The ASCA reports that high-sugar foods, such as sodas and sweets, provide a jolt of energy that disappears fast, soon after the test has begun. Scholastic suggests avoiding fatty foods that may make you feel sluggish and sleepy. It's hard to ace a test when you drift off during it!  
Read more at [www.livestrong.com](http://www.livestrong.com)



## Conversation Corner

In this part of our newsletter, you'll find some questions and conversation starters for families to use when talking to their children about what is happening at school.

**Third Graders** have been learning about natural resources, as well as a variety of power sources. Ask your student what some examples of natural resources are!

**Fourth Graders** are making judgments and forming opinions. Ask them about some recent judgments they've made or opinions they have.

**First graders** are learning about the features in non-fiction books that help us learn the information, such as different types of print and labels. The first graders are also starting to write research reports. Ask what their topic is!

**In the Art Room**, all Findley students have been working with clay. Ask them what they know about the ceramic process.

**In the Music Room**, Fourth Graders have been learning the recorder. Ask your student what belts they have earned!

## Kdg and 1st Grade Fine Arts & Family Literacy Night

On Tuesday, April 24th, our Kindergarteners and First graders will have a chance to display their hard work in art and music classes and share in fun activities with their families! A meal will be served and family photos taken to make the night an event not to be missed!

For more information, please see the notes sent home with your Kindergartener or 1st grade child.

We were so pleased with the success of the other events this year, and are looking forward to the Kindergarten/1st grade event in April!

## Get Outside and Play!

According to the National Wildlife Federation website, [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org), spending time outside raises levels of Vitamin D, helping protect children from future bone problems, heart disease, diabetes and other health issues, exposure to natural settings may be widely effective in reducing ADHD symptoms, children's stress levels fall within minutes of seeing green spaces, and nature makes you nicer, enhancing social interactions, and value for community and close relationships.



## We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior  
Intervention and Supports

**RESPECT Self**

**RESPECT Others**

**RESPECT Property**

**RESPECT Learning**

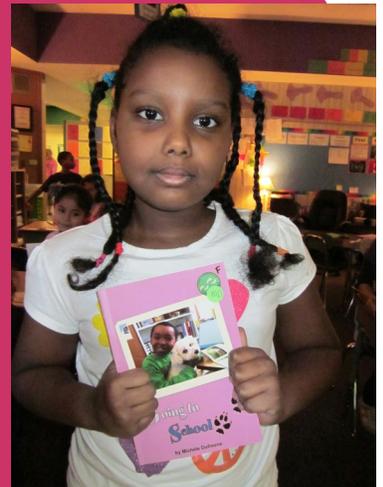
## Book Review

Waad Abdella, a student in Mrs. Ryan's third grade class, thinks that you should read this book!

**Title: Going to School**

**Author: Michele Dufresne**

You should read this book because it is about two dogs in a car going to school. The dogs' names are Bella and Rosie. They get afraid at first but find that it is not bad. My favorite part was when the teachers came and started taking pictures of them with the dogs. The kids wrote stories and the dogs really liked them. I already said too much. Read the book to find out what happens next.



## Fourth Graders and the Endangered Tree Octopus

4th graders learned about making judgments using an Internet website on the Endangered Tree Octopus. Mrs. Wieser shared about this poor endangered creature in the Pacific Northwestern US with both classes. You can go to the website at <http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/> and see what judgment you can make. Ask a 4th grader about their opinion! In the picture, 4th graders are shown with the judgments they wrote as both classes made their own "Tree Octopus trees".

