

**Tara Owen, Principal**  
3000 Cambridge St  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
(515) 242-8407  
Fax #: (515) 244-7410

# The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

February, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 6

*"The past is a ghost, the future a dream. All we ever have is now."* - Bill Cosby

## Mark your calendars...

- February 1st: Loads of Laundry Event, 6:00—8:00, East 14th
- February 2nd: PTO Meeting, 6-7 PM, Findley Library
- February 15th, 21st, 23rd: Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:00-8:00
- February 17th: Findley Fan Night at Varsity North Basketball Game
- February 20th: Presidents' Day, NO SCHOOL

## North Basketball Findley Fan Night



Findley continues to look for opportunities to involve families with exciting fun filled events. On Friday, February 17 at 6:00 Findley families are invited to attend the boys' varsity basketball game. All Findley families will get in free when they bring the flier that will be sent home the week before the game.

The Polar Bears will be facing off against Urbandale High School. There will be a halftime event that all Findley students can join in on the court. Enjoy a fun filled and free family event supporting North High School to another victory!

## Books and Breakfast Huge Success

Findley staff would like to give a big thanks to all of the families that attended Findley's first breakfast event! We served over 450 breakfasts to Findley families. Every student who attended received a book to share with his family. We would like to also thank the John Deere Financial volunteers who had breakfast with some of our Findley students. We plan to hold another breakfast in April. We have already started working with food service to cut down on the

lines. Our hope is that you'll arrive, receive your breakfast right away, and read a book while enjoying the breakfast. It was a great event to see so many families support their child's education at Findley!



## New After School ONE WAY Traffic Pattern



The one way traffic pattern was approved by the City of Des Moines last month. Many of you have already started heading north during the hours of 3:00—4:00 on Oxford. The signs should be posted by mid February. Thanks so much for all of your support to make Findley's pick-up as safe and smooth as possible for everyone!

-Mrs. Owen

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Teachers will be contacting you soon about your child's time for parent teacher conferences. Findley will hold their conferences on February 15, 21, and 23 from 4:00-8:00. During the conference teachers will share the growth your child has demonstrated throughout the school year. They will also share any suggestions they may have in order to continue supporting your child's educational and social growth. Please bring questions you may have about assignments, tests, friends or any other topic you may have questions about. Open communication between the school and family is a vital part of every child's success in school. We look forward to seeing everyone at parent teacher conferences!





## Welcome Ms. Tellinghuisen

Findley welcomes Ms. Tellinghuisen as a lower grade interventionist. Let's learn a little bit about her...

**Favorite Book-** *I'm a huge series reader and will read anything as long as it is in a series. Currently I am reading the Game of Thrones Series, but I can't wait to start the Hunger Game series as well!*

**What do you love about teaching?** *My favorite thing about teaching is that you never know what to expect when working with students.*

*You could have your entire day planned out on what you want to do, and one small little moment, or one Ah-Ha! moment from the students could change your entire day around. There is nothing more satisfying than watching a student succeed at something they were sure they would never understand.*



## Valentine's Day Celebrations...

Classrooms will be holding their Valentine's Day celebrations on Friday, February 10! Each grade level will be sending home additional information about their parties and activities that will be taking place.

### I Can...

Parents, as you come to conferences you might notice some really large sticky notes in the library. This year the state of Iowa adopted a new set of standards called the Iowa Common Core. What this means for students and teachers is that we are working really hard to teach students to think critically, and apply their knowledge to be successful in school and in life. As teachers are putting this into practice we are creating "I Can" statements to help our students understand what they need to do to pass reading unit tests. As we look across the grade levels and across the reading standards you will be able to see the work teachers are doing to help students understand what they need to know and do. Check out our work when you come to the book fair and ask Mrs. Wieser at the book fair if you have any questions!

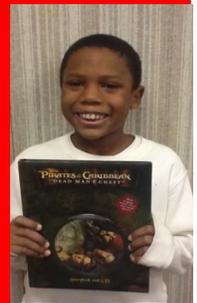
## Book Review

Teonjay Harris, a student in Mrs. Ryan's third grade class, thinks you should read this book!

**Title:** *Pirate's of the Caribbean—Dead Man's Chest*

**Author:** Disney

Teonjay says: "You should read this book because when you read it, it feels like you are in the book and it has a CD that comes along with it. My favorite part was when Jack found the Davy Jones heart. Read the book and find out what happened to Jack Sparrow. It is a good book!"



### Ask your child about...

**Kindergarten:** Kindergarten changed their data walls outside their rooms so now the Chicka Chick Boom Boom trees will feature the kids' scores weekly based on their spelling tests of sight words.

**Second Grade:** Second grade welcomed Officer Chris and his canine companion, Ives to Findley last week. Second graders read a story called Officer Buckle and Gloria, so they were excited to meet one of Des Moines very own Sergeants and his bomb patrol dog. We learned what it takes to train and take care of a patrol dog and what life is like to work on the police force. We even got to see Ives in action!



**Third Grade:** Third grade is wrapping up our 3rd literacy unit and getting started with I CAN statements to focus and drive our instruction and learning. In math we are concluding our multiplication and division unit. One of the fun strategies we use in multiplication and division is a game called HWAP. It allows us to learn our facts quicker while gaining a better understanding of the commutative property.

## We're Hoping for Snow!

The January Positive Behavior Support reward is a sledding party on Friday, February 3! The question is...will there be snow? No worries, if the snow doesn't fall we'll plan on celebrating all of the positive choices students are making with a beach party.

