

# THE FINDLEY FOCUS

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

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*"Aim high! Believe! Dream Big!"*

## Mark your calendars!

February 18th—3rd Grade to Opera Iowa

February 19th—5th Grade to Civic Center

February 18th & 25th—Conferences

April 7th—2nd & 3rd Grade Fine Arts Night

## WE ARE A PBIS SCHOOL!

(Positive Behavior

Intervention and Support)

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

RESPECT Learning

## Arts Advocacy Day

On Wednesday, January 28th, the entire 4th grade traveled to the capitol to perform during Arts Advocacy Day. Arts Advocacy Day is a day in which organizations, teachers and students lobby for the importance of the arts within our schools.



## Welcome Findley Student Teachers!

We appreciate the partnership we have with surrounding colleges and learn a lot from our preservice teachers: Ms. Anderson (Ms. Campero's class), Ms. Kelderman (Ms. Osborne's room), Ms. Wilson (Ms. McDermott's room), Mr. Gonzalez (Ms. Hall's room), Ms. Kohley (Ms. Budreau's class), Ms. Starmer (Ms. Wilcox's room)

## Winter is here!

Please make sure your child dresses for these cold, winter days. Students will be outside for recess when the weather is 15 degrees or warmer. Students may play in the snow when wearing snow pants, waterproof boots (with a change of shoes for inside), mittens, and a hat.

## PARENTING TIPS from Nurse Cynthia

### PAY ATTENTION TO NUTRITION:

Nutrition makes a big difference in how your children grow, develop and learn. Good nutrition is a matter of balance. Provide foods from several food groups at each meal. Emphasize foods that are less processed, such as whole grain breads and cereals and fresh fruits and vegetables. Review your child's diet with your pediatrician for suggestions.

### READ TO YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY:

Start by the age of 6 months. Reading to children shows them the importance of communication and motivates them to become readers. It also provides a context to discuss issues and learn what is on your child's mind.

**FINDLEY'S MISSION:**  
*Creating big dreamers and high Achievers!*

**Findley School Goals:**

Increase reading proficiency to 73.4% and math proficiency to 78%, exceed 95% attendance, increase opportunities for family involvement, use arts integration strategies to access core curriculum, and provide students with pathways to college.



**National Report  
Highlights Findley's  
Success through the  
Arts**

A report released today by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities found big gains in schools taking part in the Turnaround Arts program. Findley Elementary School in Des Moines was one of the first eight schools to participate in the program and to be studied in this report. The independent report was conducted by the University of Chicago, Silk Strategic Arts, and Booz Allen Hamilton.

Among the reports highlights about Findley Elementary School include:

- Math proficiency increased by 11.4 percentage points since 2011, which is 7.5 points higher than the overall district increase.
- In reading proficiency, Findley students gained 2.5 percentage points between 2011 and 2014.
- 100% of Findley teachers surveyed agreed that the arts contributed to heightened ambition of instruction and overall improvement of the school environment.

Starting this year, the Turnaround Arts program was expanded to include five DMPS schools. In addition to Findley, Cattell, Madison and Oak Park elementary schools along with Harding Middle School are now part of the program.

To read more, visit <http://bit.ly/1DJ0xHc>.

**FREE COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

If you haven't signed up your child for their FREE College Savings Account from Des Moines "I Have a Dream", please email or call Heather Isaacson to do so. You will need a parent email address and your child's social security or tax ID number. *A one-hour parent orientation earns \$30 into your child's account!* We will hold more orientations throughout the year, so please watch your email and the newsletter for more information! Heather's contact information: 515-971-3705 or

**CONFERENCES**

**Conferences will be held on Wednesday, February 18th  
and Wednesday, 25th from 3pm-8pm.**

Come connect with teachers and celebrate your students progress. Light snacks and childcare are provided. During conferences, you may also set up your student(s)' free college savings account. We will also have a tax expert here to help Findley families with their 2014 taxes for free.