

# THE FINDLEY FOCUS

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

MARCH, 2015—VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7

BARBARA ADAMS, PRINCIPAL

3025 OXFORD STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50313

(515) 242-8407

FAX: (515) 244-7410

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

## Mark your calendars!

March 5th—Kindergarten and 1st Grade Scrap Arts Music

March 6th—4th Grade Scrap Arts Music

March 13th-22nd—Spring Break (No School)

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



## District Art Show

Congratulations to Jackson Nyugen (1st), Kentray Foster (2nd), Natalee Steward (2nd), Matthew Hohl (3rd), Taylor Weese (3rd), Diego Correa (4th), Sarai Dominguez (5th) and Piercin Blocker (5th) for having their work chosen and on display at the the DMPS Annual Art Show at Capitol Square Mall downtown. The show ran from February 19th through February 24th and featured over 500 pieces of artwork from across the district. Students viewed their artwork either with parents on opening night or on a small field trip with Mrs. Hesse and Mrs. Hall.

## Iowa Assessments

During the week of March 30, students in third, fourth, and fifth grade will be taking the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as ITBS). The tests provide a picture of our students' progress in reading, math, and science. These results help determine how Findley students are performing relative to other students in Iowa and across the nation.

One important way we prepare students to do their best is to help them set goals. First, each child will identify a goal related to effort and positive attitude. Our students know that effort and determination are key factors in achieving success. We expect that each child will meet this goal based on our daily emphasis of pride, focus, and scholarly work.

Teachers will also meet with each student in order to discuss individual, academic goals. Fourth and fifth graders will review results from previous years and decide how much growth is needed to reach their target. Our whole school will come together to cheer on our 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and offer words of encouragement. Following the testing period, teachers have celebrations planned for all students who try their best and achieve their goals.

Your support at home makes a great difference in your child's success. Please see that your child gets plenty of rest, arrives at school on time, and is present all day. Thank you for helping us make this important week a celebration of everyone's dedication and hard work!

## "Healthier New Year" Tips (continued) from Nurse Cynthia

### MONITOR YOUR CHILDREN'S "MEDIA"

Monitor what your children see and hear on television, in movies, and in music. Children are affected by what they see and hear, particularly in these times of violent images. Talk to your children about "content". If you feel that a movie or TV program is inappropriate, redirect your child to more suitable programming.

### DO A "CHILDPROOFING" SURVEY OF YOUR HOME

A child's eye view home survey should systematically go from room to room, removing all the "booby traps" that await the curious toddler or preschooler. Think of poisons, small objects, sharp edges, knives and firearms, and places to fall.

**Due to inclement weather, conferences have been rescheduled for March 11th. Please call (515) 242-8407 if you need to change your scheduled time.**

## FINDLEY'S MISSION:

*Creating big dreamers and high Achievers!*



### Synergy Jazzes it up in February

On the 20th of February, Synergy Jazz put on a great show for the entire student body. Students learned about rhythm and improvisation throughout the show and participated by acting out the instruments and using call and response! It was a wonderful way to kick off the weekend

### Traffic Guidelines for Dismissal

- All classroom teachers will escort walkers and riders out to the front of the building.
- Walkers will wait near the building for siblings. They will leave using stairs, sidewalks and crosswalks. No one will cut across the grass or parking lot.
- Oxford Ave is a one-way street heading north at dismissal. The lane along Cambridge is reserved for buses and daycare vans.
- Students who ride home will come down to the Oxford sidewalk and move farther north (nearer to the playground than the parking lot). Teachers will help load students into cars.
- Students will only be allowed to enter cars in the school lane. The left lane will remain open for flow-through traffic. Please help us by pulling up to the curb on the school side of the street for loading and unloading. We will not allow children to go out into the street or cross the street to get into a car.
- There will be no student pick-up along Hull Ave.
- Please be respectful of our Findley neighbors and take care not to block driveways.

**School dismisses at 3:30. Thank you for your cooperation and patience.**

***We are focused on keeping our children safe at all times.***

## 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



### Dance and Cheer Perform at North High

The entire Dance & Cheer club made their way to North High School this past Friday to show off their skills at North's basketball game. Club members "shook it off" and wowed the crowd with their talent. Members also performed for the entire school for February's PBIS Celebration.



### Band and Orchestra

Mr. Beyer and Mrs. Beyer have been working hard with 4th and 5th graders throughout the week and especially on Wednesdays. Over 70 Findley students are involved in Orchestra or Band this year.



### FINDLEY DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS:

## Suessical the Musical

**Thursday, April 30th, 2015**

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in this fantastical musical extravaganza at the North High School Auditorium. *More information to come in the April newsletter.*