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The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

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Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right! — Oprah Winfrey

Mark your calendars...

- January 5th: PTO Meeting, 6-7 PM, Findley Library
- January 16th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, NO SCHOOL
- January 26th: Bring your family to breakfast, 8:00-8:30 PM
- January 26th: Family Night hosted by John Deere Financial, 5-6 PM

Fourth and Fifth Fine Arts Showcase



Findley students were able to show off their considerable talents in December. Fourth and fifth graders celebrated their Family and Fine Arts Night by displaying their visual art all around the building. Fourth graders impressed with Catrina sculptures and paintings of peaceful winter cardinals.

Fifth Graders studied Frida Kahlo, and hung portraits of the famous Mexican artist, along with playful watercolors of children making snow angels. The art provided the perfect backdrop for the musical programs they performed. Fourth graders sang songs and played instruments that reflected the many holidays and traditions observed this time of year. Fifth graders rocked the house with a short musical about Elfis, the elf impersonator. A new part of the evening involved a family bookmaking activity and getting family photos taken. Both grades were able to take their acts on the road and visit our business partner, John Deere Financial. Findley students serenaded JDF employees over the lunch hour. Both choirs were a phenomenal hit! A big thanks goes out to everyone who made the events possible, especially our multi-talented fourth and fifth graders!

-Ms. Olson, music teacher

-Mrs. Dougherty, art teacher

Warm Winter Wear

Winter weather in Iowa means cold temperatures, howling winds, and dressing in warm clothes. Please check on your children as they go out the door in the morning.

It is very important that they have warm winter coats, hats, and gloves or mittens. When it is cold outside, dress in layers. The layers keep a small cushion of air between them and the extra insulation keeps you warm. When you go inside where it is warm, you can take off layers until you are comfortable. Also, hats are key in keeping kiddoes safe and warm because much of your body's heat is lost through the top of your head. Following these simple steps will ensure that you have a fun and safe winter outdoors!



New After School ONE WAY Traffic Pattern



As many of you know, our after school traffic pattern has room for improvement. I appreciate everyone for using the pick-up lane and walking to an end stop sign when crossing to the other side of the street.

Findley's number one priority is to keep every student as safe as possible. Because of this goal, I have shared with the city that we can do better. They have agreed to give us a trial period to turn Oxford into a one way street heading north between the hours of 3:00 and 4:00. Cattell implemented this one-way pattern and stated it significantly improved their pick-up traffic. I realize this will be a tough change in the beginning, but I believe after time it will create the safest possible environment for our students and families.

Findley's phrase this year has been "Through the work we do together". I believe if we all work together we will create a smooth and safe pick up experience for everyone. Please feel free to call or flag me down to help answer any questions. We will send home a note with every student when the date has been set by the city to begin our trial period. Thanks for your continued support of Findley Elementary!

-Mrs. Owen





Findley Super Stars

Findley students are representing our schools in so many positive ways, both in and outside the classroom. Justin Wygle and Kennedy Stegall, fourth-graders, were recently members of the cast of *A Christmas Story*, North High School's winter play. Justin played the

part of Randy, while Kennedy played one of the school children. Bravo!

Fifth graders Taryn Anderson, Adam Madison, and Jarod White made it to the

district Quiz Bowl finals in December! These students, involved in the GT program, answered questions on all sorts of topics and did Findley proud!



Technology News from Mr. Starr...

Findley students are using technology more and more in their everyday learning! The computer lab is now completely outfitted with laptops for technology class and classroom use. We now have a mobile netbook lab that can travel around the building. In January, we are looking forward to using 30 new iPads. We are excited to explore their uses and how they can assist us in reaching our academic goals!

Delightful Things Happened at Findley in December!

December Kids of Respect enjoyed pizza with the principal on the Wednesday before break. Be watching for their faces on the Respect posters in the hallway by the office!

Earlier in the month, students without office referrals

enjoyed a special game time with hot chocolate served by Mrs. Owen and Mrs. Anderson. For December, all students

without office referrals had a candy cane delivered to their room! All Findley students enjoyed a special celebratory sing-along in the gym on Wednesday before break.

Findley students respect self, others, property and learning, and that is something to CELEBRATE!



Book Review

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

Title: **How Smudge Came**

Author: **Nan Gregory**

Asha says: "You should read this book because it is a really sweet book. Its pictures are nice. It is about a girl who found a dog and hid it from others. My favorite part was when she cleaned up after the dog. The girl's name is Cindy. The dog is Smudge. It is an amazing book. If you want to find out more, you should read this book!"



Excused and Unexcused Absences: How to know the difference

Absences are marked EXCUSED if it is the result of:

1. Illness
2. Medically documented chronic or extended illness, hospitalization, doctor's care, nurse's approval
3. Medical or dental care
4. Death or serious illness in the immediate family or household
5. Suspension from school
6. Religious holidays requiring absence from school
7. Court appearances or other legal proceedings beyond the control of the family
8. Classes missed because of attendance at a school-sponsored trip or activity

Absences are marked UNEXCUSED if:

1. The student's absence from school or class does not meet one of the above criteria
2. The parent/guardian does not notify the school regarding a student's absence within 24 hours of the date of absence (unless there is a hardship demonstrated that prevents reporting)

As always, communication is KEY! Please feel free to request a copy of the attendance policy and we will send one home with your student. Also, please let us know if we can assist you in any way to eliminate barriers to attendance and we will do our best to problem solve with you!

We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

RESPECT Learning