

Tara Owen, Principal
3000 Cambridge St
Des Moines, IA 50313

The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

March, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 7

Diligence is the mother of good luck! — Benjamin Franklin

Mark your calendars...

- March 1: PTO Meeting, 6-7 PM, Findley Library
- March 1: Spring Pictures
- March 6: Second and Third Grade Fine Arts and Family Night

Hot Happenings Around Findley

Every day there are terrific things happening around our school! Here are just a few hot highlights...

- Findley PTO gave from the heart in February, contributing \$475 to the YMCA Fund Drive to help kids go to Y-Camp. The YMCA gives so many things to Findley students, the PTO was glad to give back!
- Go to the beach in February? Absolutely! Due to the mild winter weather, the sledding party was reinvented into an indoor beach party for students who showed respect for self, others, property, and learning all month long. These super citizens enjoyed games, beach music, and snacks. We can't wait for next month's special event for those showing good behavior!
- Communication is a key part of helping our students learn! February Conferences were an important opportunity for families and teachers to keep working as team toward student success.



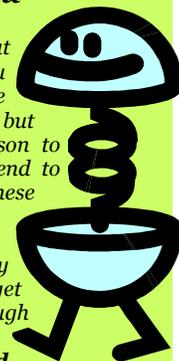
Keep That Spring in Your Step: Avoiding Cold and Flu

Temperatures may be on the rise, but that doesn't mean that cold and flu season is over. Many people believe cold weather causes these illnesses, but they are actually passed from person to person. In the cooler seasons we tend to stay indoors in the drier air, giving these bugs an opportunity to spread.

To prevent an infection, stay away from cold and flu sufferers. You can get a cold from tiny particles sent through the air when the sick person sneezes, coughs, or sniffles. **Frequent and thorough hand washing is the first line of defense in preventing infection!**

If you do happen to come down with the cold, drink lots of fluids, get plenty of rest, and carefully and safely administer over-the-counter cold medications. Influenza can be rougher with high fevers, body aches, and intense coughing. See a doctor if symptoms are severe, last more than seven days, or you develop nausea, diarrhea, or vomiting.

We hope all of our students and families will use these tips to keep feeling their best this spring! - Nurse Cynthia



2nd and 3rd Grade Fine Arts & Family Literacy Night

On Tuesday, March 6th our second and third 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 2nd or 3rd grade child.

We were so pleased with the success of the 4th/5th grade event in December, and are looking forward to the Kindergarten/1st grade event in April!

THANK YOU to North High School for a great Findley Family Fan Night!

Clifford!

The Kindergarten classes to a trip to the Civic Center in February to see "Clifford the Big Red Dog" live on stage. They had the best seats in the house. It was a fun and exciting trip for all, especially with everyone sporting red!



Findley students are ART SMART!

- Fourth-graders took our annual field trip to the Des Moines Art Center where they studied and enjoyed the world-class art collection. Did you know visiting the Art Center is always free?
- Four Findley students, Abbi Champlain (5th), William Chavez (4th), Gabby Lovan (5th) and Kennedy Stegall (5th) had artwork displayed at the DMPS k-12 Art Exhibit in the State Historical Building. Their work was chosen based on good craftsmanship and positive attitude!
- While Mrs. Dougherty was away on maternity leave, we were lucky enough to have Ms. Dell Radcliffe fill in. The whole school studied the art of Japan, a place very important to Ms. Radcliffe. Students made fish kites, learned some Japanese characters, created bamboo brush paintings and even sampled some sushi!

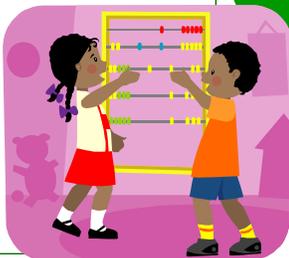


Putting a Little SPARK in our PE Curriculum

Findley will be implementing a new Physical Education curriculum called SPARK. SPARK is a research-based, public health organization dedicated to creating, implementing, and evaluating programs that promote lifelong wellness. SPARK strives to improve the health of children, adolescents, and adults by using evidence-based Physical Education. We will be using a coordinated package of highly active games & activities. -Mr. Phipps

PHENOMENAL in First Grade!

The first graders are enjoying many science experiments for our Balance and Motion unit. We are talking about the characters in stories and how they are similar and different than other characters. We are writing non fiction facts and will be starting to write poetry. We will continue with addition and subtraction in math. We are so proud of our hard working first graders!



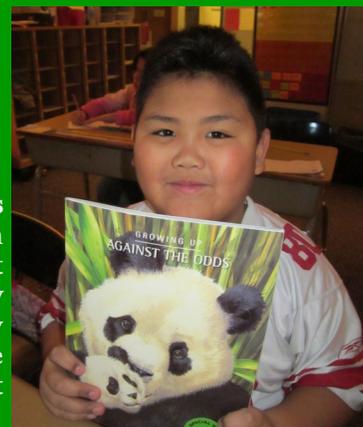
Book Review

Anniken Phetprijavahn, a student in Mrs. Ryan's third grade class, has read this book. Here is his review...

Title: **Growing Up Against the Odds**

Author: **Bernard Stonehouse**

Anniken says: "You should read this book because it is a nonfiction book. It is all about animals and it has cool animal pictures in it. My favorite part was when the baby leopard was chasing the frog. Read the book to find out what happened."



Findley is Racing to the Top!

Many of you have probably heard your child talk about their assessment scores and the color that correlates with the score. The four colors are red, orange, yellow, and green. Our goal by the end of the year is to get all Findley students in the green category which represents proficient.

At our last professional development we looked at our average assessment scores and compared them to the district average. Every grade level at Findley averaged higher on their most recent assessment compared to the district average. That's exciting news, so now we continue to set new goals! A teacher made a great comment during this professional development, "I'm thrilled that Findley is performing better than the district average, but I want to know how the highest performing schools in Des Moines are doing and I want Findley to be compared to them, not just the average."

Now that Findley is out-performing the district average, we are now setting our goal to out-perform Des Moines' highest performing schools! This will happen as we continue to move more and more of our students into the green. Stay tuned to future newsletters to see how we compare to some of Des Moines' highest achieving schools. I have no doubt we will be in the running for a top spot!

-Mrs. Owen

We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

RESPECT Learning