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The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

October, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2

Quote of the month: *The future depends on what we do in the present.* –Mahatma Gandhi

Mark your calendars...

Thursday, October 6th: **PTO Meeting**, 6-7pm, Findley Library

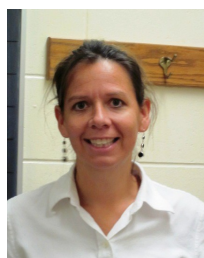
Friday, October 7th: **Curbside coffee for parents before school, water after school, Fall Picture Day**

Wednesday, October 12th: Conferences 4-8pm; Thursday, October 13th: NO SCHOOL, Conferences 1-8pm

Friday, October 14th: NO SCHOOL

New Faces in the Findley Family

This month, we will continue to introduce you to a few more of the newest Findley staff members. It takes a lot of people to make Findley such a special place for learning. A few of the newest are...



Katie Lacey: What is your job at Findley School? *School Social Worker.* What is the best part about your job? *I love the opportunity to*

have daily interactions with children and to see the excitement on their faces as they learn! What is your favorite Fall activity? *Football, football, football!*



J. Starr: What is your job at Findley School? *Technology Specialist.* What is the best part of your job? *I like working with students and seeing them get excited about learning.* What is your favorite Fall activity? *Watching playoff baseball and playing outside with my children.*



Amie Patterson: What is your job at Findley School? *First grade associate.* What is the best part of your job? *Working with the kiddoes*

and some of the best teachers I've ever worked with! Your favorite Fall activity: *Tailgating and watching football.*

Tracy Hausman: What is your job at Findley School? *K-2 Reading and Math Interventionist.* What is the best part of your job?



Every child is unique and should be given the opportunity to fulfill their potential. Teachers make that real! Favorite Fall activity: *Attending ISU football games. GO CLONES!*

New Hoops for Findley

Students and staff at Findley are excited about the new basketball hoops being added to our playground area! We were able to purchase these hoops with money donated by the Waveland Park Masonic Lodge No. 654. They raised the money for Findley at one of their monthly breakfasts served at their lodge on 69th and University in Windsor Heights. The lodge members were thrilled to hear about the use of the donation and our students are excited to get some physical activity and hone their basketball skills! Everyone is invited to attend the lodge's future breakfasts at...

Waveland Park Masonic Lodge 1141 69th in Windsor Heights

Breakfasts are served the third Sunday in each month. This month's will be October 16th from 8:30-12:30. Adults are \$6.00, kids 5-12 are \$3.00, and kids 4 and under eat free!

Reading Recovery

Selection for our first group first grade Reading Recovery students has been completed. Reading Recovery is short-term(12-20 weeks) intervention to help first grade students learn to read and write at levels at or above their peers. Students meet one-on-one with a specially trained Reading Recovery teacher who creates a lesson each day specially designed for that child's needs. Most Reading Recovery students make rapid progress in becoming literate and continue to function well in their classrooms once their time in Reading Recovery is done. For more information, contact Julie Wiemers at Findley at 515-242-8407.



Every student began the year by making a self-portrait in art class this year (above)

Fabulous Fact:

Findley Students made an OUTSTANDING 8% increase in proficient math scores on the ITBS last Spring to make 66.63% of our test-takers proficient! Keep honing those math skills at home and school!

Conversation Corner

In this part of our newsletter, you'll find some questions and conversation starters for families to use when talking to their children about what is happening at school. Try them out!

First Grade: Ask your child about the stories they've written and they math games they've been playing. Soon, we will be learning about rocks and plants. What do you already know about these things?

Third Grade: How do you use math in your everyday life? When might you need to round numbers up or down? What is an inverse? Ask your student how they monitor and clarify as they read. Have them show you when you read a story together!

Second Grade: Ask your child to summarize their favorite story so far. Homework is off to a good start! Ask your student what their homework expectations are and how parents can help. Read a few stories together and ask your student about the characters, setting, and the problem in the story.

Kindergarten: What letter sounds does your kindergartener know? Ask them! We are taking a field trip to the apple orchard. What does your child already know about farming and apples?

Fifth Grade: Ask your fifth grader to show off their multiplication and division skills. These scientists should be able to tell you something about the lifeboats, planes, and flippers they have been building in science.



Mr. Haidar's third grade class is hard at work! (above)



Findley Flyers

Findley Flyers is a great opportunity for 2nd-5th graders to gather on the track after school on Thursdays for some fresh air and exercise! Students walk, jog or run laps around the track from 3:20-3:55. It is a great way to end the school day by getting our hearts and muscles going and filling our lungs with fresh air. Teachers and parents are welcome, too! Questions? Contact Janis Ware at 515-242-8407.

Halloween Safety Tips from Nurse Cynthia

If you and your family plan to go out on Beggar's Night this year, here are a few tips to help keep everyone safe:

- 🕸 Wear properly fitting costumes so that baggy clothing doesn't brush against lit jack-o-lanterns or trip you when you walk. Make sure all props are soft plastic.
- 🕸 Try painting your face instead of wearing a mask. Poorly fitting masks can make it hard to see when crossing streets or walking down the sidewalk.
- 🕸 Use glow-in-the-dark stickers or reflective tape to jazz up your costume and make it easier to see you in the dark!
- 🕸 Always use crosswalks, look before crossing streets, and stay with your adult.
- 🕸 Don't go trick-or-treating without an adult, and remember: they like candy too!



School Improvement Grant News

Findley continues to benefit from the School Improvement Grant we received for the 2011-2012 school year. Our newest change has been the addition of the Findley Laptop Lab. With the Grant money computer tables, 27 laptops, and a projector were purchased for teachers and students to use in order to help support Core instruction.

On Friday, September 23 teachers participated in a Technology Fair. Technology was presented to all teachers allowing them to make informed decisions about Findley's next technology purchase with the Grant money. Our hope is to incorporate technology that will support instruction and increase student engagement. iPad 2, Aver Pen, and Mobi were the three technology items presented at the fair. Findley staff will complete a survey communicating what technology will make the greatest impact on their instruction and student achievement.

We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

RESPECT Learning