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The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

May, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 9



You learn you can do your best even when it's hard, even when you're tired and maybe hurting a little

Mark your calendars...

- May 11 — Findley Family Fun Night
- May 14-15 — Fifth Graders at Y Camp
- May 15 — Third Grade All-City Tour
- May 18 — FIELD DAY!!
- May 28 — Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL
- May 29 — First and Second Grade to Jester Park, Third Grade to Greenwood Park

Wednesday, May 30th will be a regular 1:50 dismissal.

Thursday, May 31st is the last day of school.

Breakfast and lunch will be served. Students will be dismissed at **12:20PM**. Please note this on your calendars!



Findley Elementary Receives Prestigious Arts Grant

As reported in the Des Moines Register and on local and national news programs, Findley has been selected to participate in a new arts education initiative to help boost student achievement! The Turnaround Arts Initiative grant, provided through the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities, was only awarded to eight schools in the country through a highly competitive selection process. Findley will receive intensive arts education resources, expertise, new supplies and instruments, and the involvement of Academy Award winning actor Forest Whitaker over the next two years. Not only will this allow Findley to continue our visual and musical arts classes,

but will help to expand those programs and bring arts into the classrooms. Why the arts? A recent comprehensive study shows what countless other studies have shown over the past several decades: access to arts education can lead to better grades, higher attendance rates, increased creativity, higher rates of high school graduation and college enrollment, as well as higher aspirations and civic involvement! The research shows that when students participate in the arts they are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, have higher GPAs and SAT scores, are more likely to be engaged and cooperative with teachers and peers, and are more self-confident. "Working with Findley Elementary Students over the next two years will be an honor," said Whitaker. "We've all seen the power of the arts to transform the lives of individual students, and create an engaging place to learn for everyone, and I look forward to building that energy and experience in the classrooms at Findley." Mrs. Owen is excited for the future, saying, "Turnaround Arts will help Findley continue to move toward success, not only by focusing on essential content skills, but by focusing on increasing learning through highly engaging arts experiences that connect back to core content." Findley will be participating in one such experience before the end of this school year! Guest artists will be a large part of our new way of learning and our first artists are the Flying Pig Fiddle and Banjo group. The band will be here at the end of May to teach music-making and instrument-building workshops and to put on a performance with Findley students.



Thanks to the Golden Kiwanis...

for making a generous donation to Findley students and their continuous support of individual students as reading volunteers. The Kiwanis have been a supporting Findley since 1998 through the help and support of Findley's fabulous volunteer coordinator, Janis Ware. Thanks Golden K for continuing to provide exceptional experiences and friendships to both Findley students and staff!



Play Day and Special Olympics

Kindergarten and First Grade students from Miss Aimee & Miss Sarah's classes attended Play Day at First Federated Church on March 29. This event for children under 8 is meant to prepare kids for participation in Special Olympics. Our students participated in events such as Ramp Bowling, Running, and the Tennis Ball Throw. All students got a ribbon! Seven Findley students participated in the tennis ball throw and the 50 or 100 meter dash at the Special Olympics in April. Two students, Morgan Hanson and Jessica Hamberger, qualified for State Summer Games in Ames next month!!



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.

First grade is still hard at work as we conclude the school year. We have started a poetry writing unit. We continue to read all the time and learn new vocabulary words. We are working on adding 2 digit numbers without regrouping. We will celebrate a wonderful year with a field trip to Jester Park on May 29th, and our annual walk to Dairy Queen on May 30th. It has truly been a pleasure to watch your children grow this year.

Fourth grade classes went to the Science Center of Iowa! John Deere Financial sponsored this awesome field trip. Students learned about "Our Changing Earth" and how rocks are formed. They made a volcano erupt and tried to build an "earthquake proof" building. Students also learned about static electricity in the presentation "ZAP!" which had us all charged up... Finally, 4th graders got to watch an IMAX movie "Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs". All of us felt like we were really in Ancient Egypt making discoveries of the mummies of the past. We really appreciate John Deere Financial for this wonderful gift to our kids!

Kindergarten and Fifth grade took a trip for Arbor Day!! We walked to Union Park to do some tree festivities. Kg had an animal program come from Polk County Conservation to talk about Animals of Iowa. We are really excited about the growth of all the kids this year and we REALLY encourage them to be **READING EVERYDAY!!!!!!!**

Crosswalk Needed!

Volunteers

Please contact the office if you're interested in helping with the morning crosswalk areas between the times of 8:00 to 8:45 for the 2012-2013 school year. We would like to provide additional supervision in the busier areas around Findley during our morning arrival hours, but we need your help. Please contact Mrs. Owen at 242-8407 if you're able to help for one or two days a week with keeping Findley students safe.



Findley Students have walked over 350 miles during Walking Club! Walking Club promotes healthy living during noon recess time by having students walk/run the track. Kids have

a chance to win prizes for each mile they put in. Way to go runners and walkers!



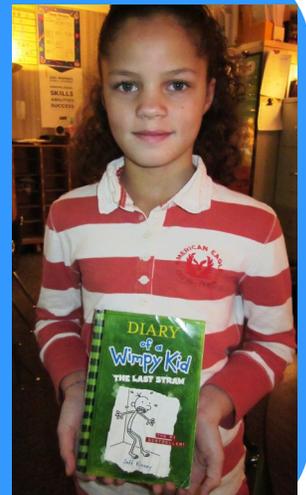
Brianna Shelton, a student in Mrs. Ryan's third grade class, thinks that you should read this book!

Title: Diary of a Wimpy Kid — The Last Straw

Author: Jeff Kinney

You should read this book because it is very funny! The setting is mostly inside. It is about a kid named Greg Heffley who is in love with a girl named Holly Hills. My favorite part was when Greg was trying to talk to Holly Hills under a blanket in his dad's room when his dad was reading on the bed. The phone rang and they both screamed! Read the story and find out what happened next!

Book Review



Findley Second Graders work hard at their studies in Ms. Hall's and Ms. Budreau's rooms.

Tips for Positive Parenting

Being a nurturing parent means providing a warm and caring environment for your child. The following tips will help your child develop trust, care, and respect for themselves and others. — *Nurse Cynthia*

Help Your Child Feel Loved and Secure

- Make sure they know you love them, even when they've done something wrong
- Praise your child's achievements and talents, participate in their activities and school life.

Reach Out to Your Community

- Get involved with Findley Elementary and develop relationships with teachers and parents of other students.
- Be kind and supportive to other parents, talk about child abuse and how to prevent it.

Reinforce Good Behavior

- Show affection by respecting your child's feelings and listening to them.
- Reward good behavior consistently and immediately.
- Be a good role model for your child by setting a good example.

Words Your Child Needs to Hear

- I'm so lucky to have you!
- I like it when you work/try so hard!
- Let's talk about it.
- I'm sorry.
- Thank you for being patient.
- I LOVE YOU!!!

We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

RESPECT Learning



Please remember to turn in summer school registration and early regular year registration to the office ASAP!