

Tara Owen, Principal
3000 Cambridge St
Des Moines, IA 50313
(515) 242-8407
Fax #: (515) 244-7410

The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

Back-To-School/September, 2012

Volume 2, Issue 1

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. — John Dewey

Mark your calendars...

- Wednesday, September 26th — NO SCHOOL



Findley Dreams Big!

It's hard to believe the summer is gone and the 2012-2013 school year is in full gear. Our theme for this year is DREAM BIG and working hard to achieve those dreams. Findley had an amazing last year and achieved more than many people thought possible. We now know it is possible and are aiming even higher. For example, last year Findley students were 10th out of 38 Des Moines schools on their Iowa Assessment Scores, this year we're planning to be in the top three. This may seem like a lofty dream, but I have no doubt that Findley students, staff, and families can come together to work hard and make this, along with many other dreams, happen and become the exciting news of the community. Forest Whitaker and First Lady Obama sent our students, families, and staff a beginning of the year welcome and is planning a visit in the spring. This is yet another exciting dream to see and hear so many amazing people around the country rooting for Findley's success! Throughout the year we have many family events planned and we'll take these opportunities to share, celebrate, and recognize the many dreams that students have accomplished and the hard work it's taken to get there. Dream big!



PBIS Rewards:
Meals From the Heartland
Students from grades 2nd - 5th who showed amazing choices and character by receiving zero office referrals for the

month of August participated in Meals from the Heartland. Students worked in teams of ten to package food for millions of hungry people all over the world. Findley students made everyone proud by showing teamwork, measuring supplies, counting completed meals, weighing the ingredients, and communicating respectfully throughout the entire process. Taking time to volunteer and help people beyond Findley's walls was a huge reward for both students and staff!



P T O Wants You!
Findley PTO is looking for AWESOME parents to join our team! Meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm. Childcare will be provided. We would love to have you join us as we look for ways to support Findley students and staff with the resources and opportunities that make FINDLEY STRONG!



Students in Ms. Budreau's second grade class get busy right away on the first day of 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.

First grade is off to a great start! We are learning rules and routines. Homework has started already. It is important to read your book and poem every night and practice the sight words. We are practicing reading to ourselves and learned that there are three ways to read: the words, the pictures, and re-telling.

Fourth Graders received USB drives this year as part of their schools supplies. In the photo at right, you can see them typing their thank you letters to John Deere.

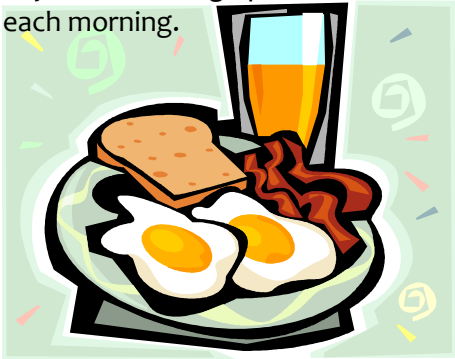
The Autism Program is participating in the Four Blocks Literacy Model which focuses on Guided Reading, Self-Selected Reading, Working with Words, and Writing. We are very excited to see our students' writing and reading skills improve!

The Art Room welcomes Miss Holly Staroska! She is studying art education at Grand View University and will be student teaching at Findley through October.



Breakfast in the Classroom

One of this year's new programs is "Breakfast in the Classroom." All students eat breakfast in their classrooms at 8:25 each morning. Research shows that students who eat a healthy breakfast are better prepared to learn during the school day. Students also have that time for a little socializing to start their days. The building opens at 8:00 am each morning.



We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

An Important Note from Nurse Cynthia

Welcome to Findley and the 2011-12 school year!

My name is Cynthia Fuson and I am the school Nurse at Findley. I'm excited about seeing all the students again, and am looking forward to a healthy and safe year. My hours at Findley are 7:30AM to 3:30PM every day. Please feel free to call me with your questions or concerns. My phone number is **242-8407**.

Good attendance at school is important and often stressed to the students by their parents and teachers. As a parent, it is often difficult to know when a child should stay home from school, and when they should be encouraged to attend. These guidelines might help you make a decision. A student should be kept home from school if: **FEVER:** They have a temperature of 100° or above. There should be no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen before they return. **VOMITING:** Until vomiting has ceased for at least 24 hours. **DIARRHEA:** Until diarrhea has ceased. **CHICKEN POX:** Until all pox are dry and crusted over (usually about 5-7 days). **STREP THROAT:** Until students have been on antibiotics and without fever for 24 hours before returning to school. **OR** if they have been diagnosed with any other contagious disease or condition by a physician. Sometimes symptoms can be vague or get worse as the day progresses. As a parent, it is often difficult to assess symptoms and decide on attendance for the day. If you keep them home and soon see marked improvement, it is permissible to bring them to school. If you send them and symptoms worsen, we will notify you. Therefore, it is important for parents to keep current work and emergency phone numbers available and updated at school.

You are always welcome to call with any questions or concerns!
Nurse Cynthia