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The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

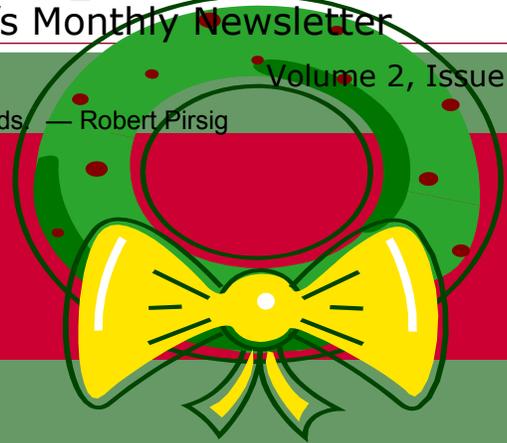
December, 2012

Volume 2, Issue 4

The place to improve the world is first in one's own heart and head and hands. — Robert Pirsig

Mark your calendars...

- December 7th — 3rd Grade to see the Nutcracker Ballet
- December 13th — 5th Grade to War Horse performance
- December 14th — Royal Breakfast at 7:30 AM, Findley cafeteria
- December 18th — Drama Club performances
- December 24th– January 1st — NO SCHOOL, WINTER BREAK



5th Graders Experience *War Horse* with the Civic Center

Thanks to a grant through the Civic Center, Findley fifth graders are getting a whole new look at the world of theater production. Rather than just attending the performance, students have been digging deep into the World War I story by reading and creating living pictures (tableaus) in their home classrooms, singing and performing WWI era songs in the music room, and creating large-scale animal puppets with

visiting artist Jan Louise Kusske in the art room. After these intense studies at Findley, students will have the opportunity to meet with the actors and artists on stage at the Civic Center and attend a performance with a member of their family. This learning experience across classrooms and subjects has given fifth graders a deeper look at both the story of *War Horse*, and a greater understanding of the creative processes and work that goes into a production on the scale of those performed at the Civic Center. These kinds of learning experiences are part of the arts integration initiatives at Findley this year, connecting learning in all subjects to various art forms to increase understanding and student engagement.

From the Desk of Nurse Cynthia...

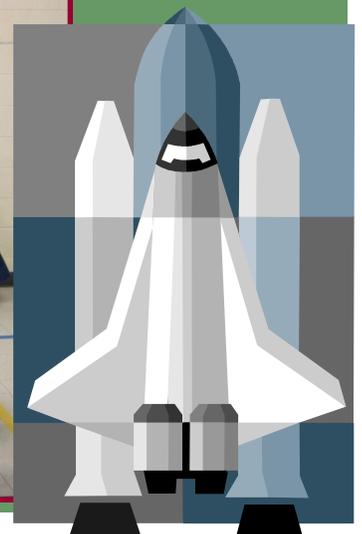
Ten Tips For a Healthy Holiday Season

1. Use soap when washing your hands.
2. Spend 20 seconds washing your hands, wrists, and under your fingernails. Teach children this important habit by having them wash their hands for the length of time it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song.
3. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
5. Use disposable tissues.
6. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
7. Avoid sharing food or eating utensils with others.
8. Eat healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables.
9. Drink plenty of water.
10. If you are sick, stay home and get lots of rest.



SPACE BOUND visits Findley

SpaceBound took off at Findley with an inspiring message and great music. SpaceBound is a local rap and r&b group who entertained students at an assembly on November 30. They also shared the message that dreams will come true if you are willing to work hard and persevere. Findley students are Dreaming BIG this year and had a great time with SpaceBound. In the picture at right, members of SPACEBOUND pose with Alonzo Sanachit and Ashoton Collins.





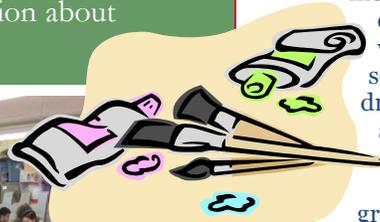
FINDLEY IS READY TO RENOVATE!!!

This past Tuesday the Des Moines School Board approved a \$5.5 million renovation project for Findley that is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2013. The first major change will be an addition starting as early as April 1 on the south side of the building. This part of the construction will have no impact on our students attending school in the main building. The remaining renovation to the main building will begin immediately after the last student

day and continue throughout the entire summer. The building is scheduled to receive geothermal heating and cooling, permanent walls and doors, new flooring and windows, fresh paint, and the office will be relocated to the front of the building along with an additional classroom. Wow! This sounds like a ton of work to get completed over the summer, but the district is committed to having the building ready for the start of the 2013-2014 school year. Feel free to stop by the office and ask for a copy of the new floor plans or go to dmschools.org under the Departments/Operations tab. I'll continue to share information about the renovation as the dates get closer. —Mrs. Owen

The Findley art room is a busy place!

Every child in the school has art class twice a week, with each grade level working on individual projects. These projects have to be stored between classes. Sometimes the projects have to dry or set up over a period of several days. Meanwhile, the art room is also used for meetings before and after school. For example, the Drama Club has been rehearsing in the art room and constructing and painting the sets for the performances coming up. Right now, the 5th graders are constructing very large animal puppets made of cardboard, the 4th graders are working on a stop-animation movie project, third graders are painting singers with very large mouths, second graders are drawing pictures of birds at the bird feeder, and finally, kindergartners and first graders are doing paintings of snow figures! Every one of the projects is designed to teach the elements of art and meet the standards of the art curriculum. Art teacher Sarah Dougherty keeps it all organized and makes sure students' work is displayed around the school building. Findley students learn a lot in art class and have a great time doing it!



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DRAMA CLUB TO PERFORM!

Findley's drama club is looking forward to their first performance of the year on December 18th. Club members have been working on two productions under the direction of Drake students Violet Saylor and Ali ____.

Costumes are being made with the



help of parent volunteers, and rehearsals are getting intense as several Findley staff members work with our young actors to memorize lines, block scenes, and put the finishing touches

YOU'RE INVITED TO A ROYAL BREAKFAST!

What could be better than starting off your morning like a king or queen!?! Please join us beginning at **7:45 AM on Friday, December 14th** for a Royal Breakfast in the Findley cafeteria. Scones and tea will be served along with milk and orange juice. The Royal Breakfast is being held as a part of our Two Schools One Book Program with Lovejoy Elementary. We have been reading Roald Dahl's *The BFG* throughout the months of November and December. Families have been reading a chapter a night and students are continuing to participate in daily trivia questions with their classrooms. We hope you have enjoyed this time spent reading with your family. See you at the Royal Breakfast!



We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

RESPECT Learning