

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

February, 2013

Volume 2, Issue 6

A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge. —Thomas Carlyle

Mark your calendars...

- * February 7th: Doughnuts at the Curb, All District Art Show @ Capitol Square
- * February 12-13: Parent-Teacher Conferences and Book Fair
- * February 18th: NO SCHOOL
- * February 28th: 2/3 Family and Fine Arts Night

Principal's Renovation Update

Findley is scheduled for a complete renovation along with a new addition on the south side of the building. The completion date is scheduled for the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. The new addition's construction will begin this school year starting March 15. This construction will not affect the main part of the building and classes will continue as normal without any disruptions.

As we continue to have snow days our end of the year will also continue to change. The District is currently saying our **last three student days will be a 12:20 dismissal** giving staff time to pack and prepare for the renovation. Everything in the entire building will be moved out allowing for construction on the main part to start immediately after the last day of school.

Findley staff will still be looking at opportunities to provide some Additional Learning Opportunities for the summer even with the renovation occurring. More information will come out about this as the summer approaches. Findley's office staff will be relocated to Harding Middle School only for the summer. Findley's number will still be the same during the summer hours and we'll continue to make sure we're available for any questions or needs you may have throughout the entire summer. I'll continue to send updates, but please know the end result for our students of a newly renovated building will be well worth the few hassles we encounter. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

— Mrs. Owen

Upcoming Fine Arts Events

Thanks to support from the Turnaround Art Initiative, Findley has been providing each and every student with a variety of fine arts experiences during the school day in our building, and beyond. February will bring many more experiences for students to learn and through the arts. They include...

Kindergarteners attended a show at the Civic Center on February 5th

First graders will be attending a show at the Civic Center on February 15th

Fifth graders will see a performance of the Des Moines Symphony on February 26th

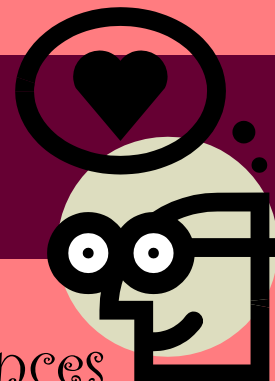
Each class will tour the Des Moines Art Center February 26th, 27th, or 28th.

Second and third graders will put on a musical performance and display their art on February 28th during the 2/3 Family and Fine Arts Night (note to follow.)

Drama club continues rehearsals on Thursday afternoons in preparation for their March 11th performance.

February Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, February 12 from 4:00-8:00 and Wednesday, February 13 from 3:00-8:00. Please look for a note to come home from your child's teacher with a scheduled day and time. Our attendance for fall conferences had a 10% increase compared to last year's fall conferences. We hope to do the same for our spring conferences. That would mean we need close to 100% attendance for every family! To say EVERY Findley parent had a conference with their child's teacher is an amazing accomplishment that I know we can achieve! Thank you for your continuous support and please let us know if you have any questions about your

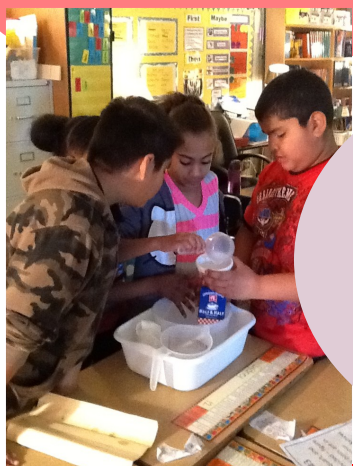


100 Days!

As of January 30th, we have worked hard through 100 days of school! Students and teachers celebrated in various ways throughout the building, including the art room where some classes worked on mixing 100 colors!

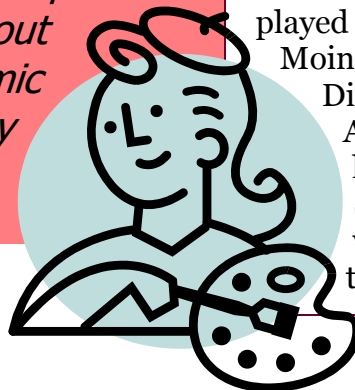
COULD YOU WIN A NITENDO DS? Show up and find out!

Findley students are excited about the opportunity to win a Nintendo DS again in February. Students who have perfect attendance in the month of February will enter a drawing for one of two DS game systems, and two lucky winners will take home a prize. Parents are encouraged to have their children to school on time everyday AND to ensure they remain in school for the entire day to help encourage A + Attendance. Ask your students about the many incentives (beyond the proven academic benefits) for arriving at school on time every day and remaining for the entire day!



Johnny Castro, Deshaye Henderson, and Ricardo Gomez in Mrs. Ryan's third grade class figure out how many cups are in a pint. In science, they are working in a cooperative work group to find capacity for several different sized containers.

Fifth graders Tre Iseminger, Richez Jordan, Tayler Floyd, and Kennedy Stegall, along with fourth graders Hendrickson Schauf, Ricky Gyles, and Asha Le, third grader Cristobal Oviedo, as well as second grader Daizohn Allen were honored to have their art works displayed at the annual Des Moines Public Schools District Art Show. Art works were exhibited at Capital Square for one week. Congratulations to the artists!



Findley students will have the opportunity to participate in Hoops for Heart with the American Heart Association. Students can sign up and collect donations with the forms they'll receive this month. Donations will be turned in the week of February 18th and the efforts will be celebrated by playing some hoops! Look for more information coming home with your child in the near future.



STUDENTS CELEBRATE STRONG CHOICES WITH THE PBIS SLEDDING PARTY!



As a part of Findley's Positive Behavior systems, students without level II office referrals in the month of January were rewarded with a snow and sledding party. Students took turns sliding down the hill,

building snow structures, and making snow angels! Pictured in the photo are kindergarteners Chessa Strauser, Ja'Niah Williams, Natalia Torres, Austin Sheldon, and Isaura Constantine enjoying the fun outside. Making strong choices certainly pays off at Findley School!

We are a PBIS school!
**Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports**



RESPECT Self
RESPECT Others
RESPECT Property
RESPECT Learning