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# The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

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diligence is the mother of good luck! — Benjamin Franklin

Mark your calendars...

- \* March 7th — Northside 5th Grade Vocal Festival, 7 PM @ North High
- \* March 7th — PTO Meeting, 6PM in the Findley Library
- \* March 11th — Drama Club Dessert Theater Performance, 6PM @ Civic Center's Stoner Theater
- \* March 15th-22nd — Spring Break! NO SCHOOL



## Turnaround Artist Visit: Forest Whitaker coming to F i n d l e y !

Findley is in their first year as a Turnaround Arts school. Staff have been working hard to increase the arts opportunities for both students and families in and out of the classroom. Forest Whitaker will be visiting Findley on March 11 & 12 to help celebrate Findley's Turnaround Arts efforts. 4th grade started preparing for his visit by focusing on peace and conflict resolution while integrating

the arts with Monya who is a colleague of Forest's. Forest will continue this work with 4th grade during his visit. He will also attend Findley's Dream Big drama club performance at the Stoner Theater and the following day at Findley for the entire school. Students are looking forward to sharing their love of the arts with Forest during this exciting vis- it!

## Second and Third grade

### Family and Fine Arts Night Another Success!

Families of our talented 2nd and 3rd graders gathered at Findley on the evening of February 28th for a night of music, art, literacy, and fine dining! The students performed a number of songs, showcased their recent work from the art room, and created tableaus with their families and classroom teachers. All that



fine art works up a mighty hunger, so everyone was treated to a delicious spaghetti dinner. We are looking forward to our next FFAN, hosted by our kindergarteners and first graders in April. Bravo!



## Renovation Update

Our renovation is quickly approaching! During spring break our mobile on the south side of the building will disappear and fencing will surround the concrete area. Construction on the new addition will start March 15 and continue until we return in August. We're still on track to have the addition and renovation completed by the first student day. But, in order for this to happen we have to be packed up and moved out by the end of the last student day. We'll meet this deadline by having the last three student days of the year as 12:20 dismissals. Staff will then spend the afternoons packing up their rooms. This is an exciting time for Findley that will be well worth the new addition, geothermal heating and cooling throughout the ENTIRE building, relocation of the office where all visitors will check in before entering the building, doors on every classroom, new flooring, and new windows. Wow! Isn't it amazing what we can do in a summer!

## FINDLEY DELIVERS WITH PENNIES FOR PATIENTS!

Thank you to everyone who contributed their pennies this month!

Our total reached \$122.05. Way to go! — Nurse Cynthia



Fifth Grade students have begun work on Science. Mr. Williams class is working on Terrestrial Environments. Students have created their own terrariums with multiple plants and soon will introduce other organisms. Mrs. Dunlap's class began working on Health and Nutrition with the body systems and organs.

Ask your fifth-grader about a few of these things!

Fourth graders continue to earn colored belts in Recorder Karate in the music room.

Students in Mrs. Hall's and Mrs. Budreau's second grade classes have been learning about landforms, and even created their own mountains, islands, oceans, and rivers using Crayola Model Magic and paints. Students were surprised to be using art to learn in social studies, but they all agreed they learned a lot!



### Can YOU Collect Them All?

This spring, Findley students will be marking the behavioral and academic achievements by collect coordinating charms. Teachers has special charms for each goal and classroom. Be on the lookout for students sporting some major bling soon!



Several Findley students were honored to have their art work shown at the Des Moines Public Schools District Art Show. Students and their families, along with art teacher Sarah Dougherty, were invited to an opening reception at Capital Square. Interim Superintendent Tom Ahart spoke to those gathered at Capital Square about the importance of the arts in public education. Pictured top left are Art Teacher Sarah Dougherty and selected student, Ricky Gyles, along with his painting of cardinals in the snow.



Mrs. Nelson's first grade class was feeling the love at their February celebration!

Members of the Iowa House of Representatives Education Committee visited Findley to learn about the fantastic things happening in and out of the classroom. Principal Tara Owen discussed the academic progress made by Findley students and the strategies being implemented to facilitate learning. The legislators toured the school and heard about the planned building renovation. They also heard about Findley's after-school learning opportunities and clubs. It was agreed by all that the visit was a valuable experience for the legislators. Findley staff and students appreciate their interest in education and thank them for their public service. Pictured below, fourth graders engage in a lively conversation with Representative AKO Abdul Samad.



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

**RESPECT Self**

**RESPECT Others**

**RESPECT Property**

**RESPECT Learning**