

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

April, 2013

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Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. ~Doug Larson

Mark your calendars...

- * April 1-12: Iowa Assessments
- * April 18th : John Deere Family Breakfast-on -a-Stick!
- * April 25th : Kindergarten, First Grade, Autism Family Fine Arts Night
- * April 22nd: Earth Day

Iowa Assessments Begin First Week of April!

3rd through 5th grade students will be taking their Iowa Assessment tests from April 2-April 8. These tests are just one of many snapshots showing our students, staff, parents, and community all of the outstanding learning that is taking place at Findley on a daily basis. Please make sure to have your child rested up during these testing days and to school on time. If you have appointments, please try to schedule them before and after school allowing your child to take their tests as scheduled.

Your child will be working toward two goals this year. The first goal will be focusing on effort and positive attitude when taking the test. They will be marking their own rubric assessing the amount of effort they put forth during testing. Our hope is that every child will easily reach this goal by tackling the assessment with 110% effort and with a positive attitude. The classes will then have a whole group celebration recognizing every child who simply tries their hardest after tests are completed. An academic goal will be the second goal your child will set. They will conference with their teacher and look at their data from last year and this year, then decide on a target they are working toward. When your child meets this goal, they will participate on the Game Truck which makes a personal trip to Findley to help celebrate your child's success! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the Iowa Assessment tests. Thank you for all of your support at home to ensure your child is fully prepared for this exciting week!



FREE EVENT!!!! MISSION: ACTIVE
Des Moines
University Kids' Health Fair.

April 6, 2013 from 9am-1pm. Des Moines University MEC 3200 Grand Ave., Des Moines. Free admission and prizes for all! The day's mission: * Vitamins: Why take them? *Arm yourself against stress: Stress reduction for kids. *Point and Shoot : Hydrate & protect your skin. *Strike a Pose: Learn about yoga and meditation. *Hip Hop Dance lessons: Learn some new moves! *And many more! Questions? Email missionactive@dmu.edu for more information.

Title I Parent Involvement Policy

Recently a letter outlining DMPS Title I Parent Involvement Policy came home with your child. Please take a minute to read this information. If you have any additional questions about this information feel free to call Mrs. Owen.

Three students from Miss Aimee's class participated in Special Olympics Play Day on March 27. From left to right, Isaac Vongsaphay, Delaney Israel, and Robert Thacker. They had lots of fun and earned ribbons!



Renovation Update

When your child returned from spring break they noticed a few differences in Findley's appearance. On the outside, you'll see construction on the south side with the start to our new addition of a new entry space with a secured entry with office space and an additional classroom. On the north side of the building you'll see machinery digging under the ground placing our geothermal wells. The kids are thoroughly enjoying watching the machinery do their amazing work!

On the inside the flooring looks a bit different. They came in over break to get a jumpstart on some of the work that will be delayed due to our snow make-up days. They removed all of our tile and has it prepared for the next steps that will take place this summer. Our last three student days of May 31, June 3, and June 4 will be 12:20 dismissals due to teachers needing additional time to prepare their rooms for the summer renovation. The final results of this renovation in the fall of 2013 will make for an exciting start to the year!

Lots of Literacy at Findley!

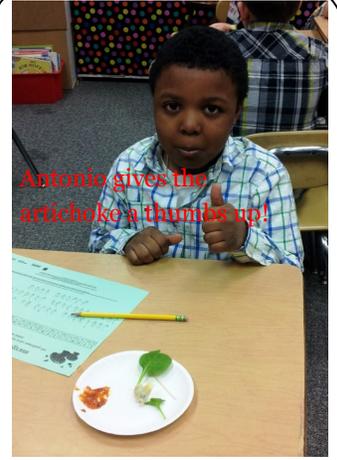
There are so many exciting literacy activities and events going on at Findley this month...

Two Schools, One Book: Findley and Lovejoy are again going to participate in the Two Schools, One Book program. This time we will be reading the beloved classic, Charlotte's Web by E.B. White. Each student will receive a book and a reading schedule. Each day at school there will be trivia questions about the previous night's reading. Families can read ahead, but it might be harder to answer the trivia questions.

Reading Challenge: In April Findley will hold another reading challenge!! Students will be bringing home reading logs. Once a student reads 400 minutes AT HOME they can bring their signed log to Mrs. Wieser to get an invitation to a pizza party sponsored by John Deere Financial! Any time spent reading Charlotte's Web as a family can be counted!



Family Breakfast - Breakfast on a STICK!: In honor of our Two Schools, One Book - Charlotte's Web - we will be having a FREE family breakfast on Thursday, April 18th. Our theme was chosen to go along with the State Fair that Charlotte, Wilbur, and Templeton visit. All family members will receive a free breakfast. All kids who attend will receive a prize from our Pick-a-Duck game, and all Findley K-5 students will receive a book. Please wear your best "farmer" gear - overalls, cowboy hats, John Deere tractor shirts, etc.



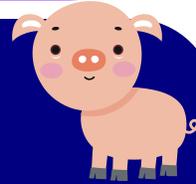
Antonio gives the article a thumbs up!

Pick a Better Snack has visited 2nd grade six times this year. The students have learned about good nutrition and have had the opportunity to try many different fruits and vegetables. The students have also been showing off their grape charm on their charm necklace because they have been eating more fruits and vegetables at lunchtime. Please ask your children what vegetables they have tried, many students are excited to buy these to try at home.

Here is the list: avocados, edamame, artichoke hearts, cauliflower and papaya.



Start a conversation with your 2nd grader... 2nd grade has been studying and learning about folktales and fables and on Friday April 5th, they will be going to the Civic Center again to see the folktale the *True Story of the Three Little Pigs*.



Conversation Starters:

What kind of questions do good readers ask themselves when they read a book?

What does a meteorologist do for a living?

How do you make a contraction? Give me some examples.

What countries have you visited in social studies and tell me something about that country?

Kindergarten has been trying the new Art's Activity, Tableau..... They have been working on making frozen pictures with their bodies to show others. They are really catching on with having planning meetings and learning to cooperate with others.

ALL HEADS COVERED



Now that our weather is turning warm, let's be safe outside! Here are some basic tips on bike, skateboard and scooter safety:

*Wear a bicycle helmet every time and everywhere you ride.

*Buy a bicycle helmet that meets or exceeds the safety standards developed by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

*Wear your bicycle helmet correctly, comfortably and snugly on your head in a level position with the straps always buckled.

*Learn the rules of the road and obey all traffic laws.

*Children should never ride skateboards or scooters in or near traffic.

*All skateboarders or scooter-riders should wear a helmet and other protective gear.

I want all of our Findley children to be safe while playing and enjoying our beautiful, warm weather! Nurse Cynthia.

We are a PBIS school!
Positive Behavior
Intervention and Supports

RESPECT Self

RESPECT Others

RESPECT Property

RESPECT Learning