

**Tara Owen, Principal**  
3025 Oxford Street  
Des Moines, IA  
50313(515) 242-8407

Fax #: (515) 244-7410

# The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

September, 2013

*With a new day comes new strength and new thoughts. — Eleanor Roosevelt*

Volume 3, Issue 1

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW ADDRESS!

Mark your calendars...

- PTO Meeting — September 10th at ElRodeo, 6:00
- OPEN HOUSE! — September 26th, 4:30-6:00 PM



### A Note From our Principal, Mrs. Owen

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year with this year's theme "Findley Believes". We firmly believe in your child and can't wait to spend the year sharing all the exciting events with you, your child, and the Findley families! This year is full of many new and exciting changes! The District worked hard over the summer making as many renovation

changes as possible, and as many of you have noticed the work is continuing on through October 15. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we've started the year with a few changes due to the renovation. We can already tell that the construction has drastically improved the learning environment for our students. The new windows, geothermal, doors, sound system, and lighting have created a school that is safe and welcoming.

The one item we were not able to change with the renovation is our traffic pattern. Thank you for your patience during the after school pick up times. We'll continue to have a one way traffic pattern heading north on Oxford. We are encouraging parents to pull up to the curb in the parent lane that stretches along the west of the building. I ask that all students stay on the curb until the car pulls up to ensure the safety and avoiding students weaving between cars on the road. There are about five minutes of slow moving traffic, but I appreciate everyone's willingness to keep all of our Findley students as safe as possible. Thank you!

The Open House has been rescheduled for Thursday, September 26 from 4:30-6:30. We'll look forward to seeing everyone for this family event where you will have time to talk with your child's teacher, meet all of the Essentials teachers, talk with Mrs. Owen, and get any questions answered you might have. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, September 26.

### The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

The book fair will be here the first week of conferences, October 15-17 and will be open until 7:30 on the 16th. Buying books from the book fair helps stock classroom libraries and Findley's library as well. We hope to see you there!



### Findley Welcomes New Staff!

Six new teachers are helping our students be their very best at Findley this year. Help us welcome our newest Findley family members!

Mrs. Jensen  
Kindergarten



Mrs. Manning  
Third Grade



Mrs. Wilcox  
Fifth Grade



Ms. Jorgensen  
Art



Mrs. Hiatt  
ELL



Mrs. Lopez  
Bilingual Outreach



## Conversation Corner

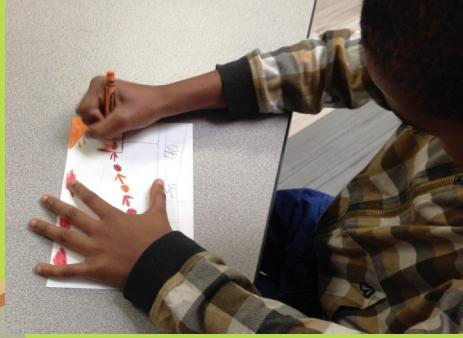
In this part of our newsletter, you'll find some questions and conversation starters for families to use when talking to their children about what is happening at school.



Third graders have been learning about the seven continents and the oceans in social studies. Quiz them and see if they can sing the continent and the ocean song. We have been reviewing adding and subtracting numbers up to 1000. See if they can show you the expanded method of addition.

### Students in

Miss Jorgensen's art class have been focusing on Findley's theme of "believing" this year. Students were asked what they want to be when they grow up! How do you help your children reach this goal?



Findley students started the year helping others. Every class traveled to HyVee Hall on August 29 and helped package food with Meals from the Heartland. Volunteers from John Deere Financial assisted the Findley teachers so that even the new kindergarten students were able to participate!

## We are a PBIS school!

Positive Behavior  
Intervention and Supports

**RESPECT Self**

**RESPECT Others**

**RESPECT Property**

**RESPECT Learning**



**What did you do last summer?** 30 Findley students went to Drama Camp at Harding Ashworth Theatre Company put on two different camps. The grades 2-3 camp was called Off-Book and the campers did a play based on a book they read. The grades 4-5 camp was DIY Theatre and the campers actually did do it themselves! They made up their own plays. All of the students played lots of games to learn theatre skills and had a great time.

## A WORD FROM NURSE CYNTHIA

Welcome to Findley and the 2013-2014 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.

