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# The Findley Focus

Findley Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

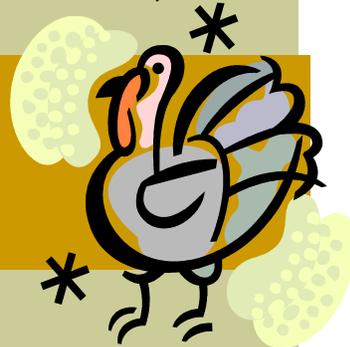
November, 2013

Volume 3, Issue 3

If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share. —W. Clement Stone

Mark Your CALENDAR...

- November 7th: Fall Festival, 4:30-6:00 PM
- November 27, 28 29: **NO SCHOOL**, Thanksgiving Break



## Findley's Fall is Full of the Performing Arts!

Continuing our work from last year through the Turnaround Arts Initiative, Findley teachers and students have been busy with all sorts of artistic pursuits. Fourth and fifth grade students are learning instrumental music

with our new band and orchestra teachers. Joyce Payer teaches orchestra at North High School, Harding Middle School, and Findley. She is excited to be starting her teaching career in Des Moines, where she grew up. Ms. Payer has more than 45 fourth and fifth graders signed up for this year's strings program at Findley! William Beyer is director of bands at Harding Middle School and Cattell, Madison, and Findley elementary schools.

The month of October was full of drama experiences! Findley Drama Club had its first performance of the year on October 10. *Behind the Scenes at Drama Club* featured students doing warm-ups and theatre games. The games and warm-ups help the students learn to think creatively on their feet, work within a group, and develop self-confidence on stage. The drama club is 90 members strong this year and students are having a great time while learning a lot. The next performance will be December 19. All Findley students were treated to a performance by the Grandview University Theatre Arts Department on Friday, October 4. The Viking Theatre at Grandview is closed for renovation, but that has not stopped the theatre department from rehearsing and performing. Kristin Larson brought her troupe of actors to Findley and other elementary schools to perform *The Fisherman and His Wife*, a version of a Grimm's Fairy Tale. The play was performed in participatory style with lots of audience interaction.

Some students were called to the stage to fill roles ranging from a fish to a tree to the king's servants. The entire student body added sound effects and ocean waves to the setting. The play was filled with action and full of laughs. Findley students did their part with good audience manners, participation, and applause for a job well done. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience live theatre done well!

Students will continue their work with both drama and music in the classroom in various ways this year, including more guest artists, student performances and chances to interact with drama students from North High!



## ATTENDANCE —KEEP IT UP!!

THANK YOU Findley Families for making September a fantastic month for attendance. Our Average Daily Attendance increased from last September's attendance by over 1 %, with an average of just over 97% of our students attending each day in September!! Our goal is always to be above 96%, but our hope is that 100% of our students will attend daily. Students who had perfect attendance in September received a special treat! More prizes in store for our monthly Attendance All-Stars!!!

**Findley Flyers** is up and running this fall, so bundle up! At this time of year, we need to be prepared for cooler weather. Dress in layers and bring a hat and gloves. It feels great to get outside and move in the fresh air at the end of the day! If it is raining, sleeting or snowing at 2:00 or anytime after that on the day of Findley Flyers, we will not meet. Thanks to all of the families for supporting your children in this activity!



**Findley's Mission: Creating big dreamers and high achievers!**



### Conversation Corner:

**Second grade** has just started their first science unit air and weather. Please talk with your child about what science experiments they are working on in school ask them what have learned.

In writing we are learning how to write a paragraph. Students have picked a topic and have wrote a main idea sentence, 3 details and a closing sentence to create a complete idea. Please continue to have your child use "CHOPS" in their writing, especially on their homework sentences. CHOPS stands for capital letters, handwriting, organization, punctuation and correct second grade spelling.

**3rd Graders in Art** are working with nature after learning about Andy Goldsworthy, a European artist. Students' first activity was to work as a class to create a sculpture out of nature (pictured) using radial symmetry. Students' are now exploring a very similar virtual experience using an iPad application called "Mixala". Students will continue to explore working with nature using the iPad and other applications. What kind of nature can your child(ren) find that would allow you to build an Andy Goldsworthy inspired project together?



**Kindergarteners** experienced some really special learning opportunities this month including a trip to the pumpkin patch and apple orchard and a visit from a firefighter who taught us all about fire safety.

### We are a PBIS school!

**Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports**

**RESPECT Self**

**RESPECT Others**

**RESPECT Property**

**RESPECT Learning**

### Findley Family Football Night at North

The North High Polar Bears football team had a home game Friday, Oct. 18, at Grubb Stadium. They designated it Findley Family night with free tickets and a reserved section to sit together. Findley families and staff enjoyed the evening!



### PTO Fundraiser News:

For our fall PartyTime fundraiser, we had 76 kids participate and raised \$2,600 towards our budget for next year! A HUGE thanks to all families who participated. Our top sellers were: Sammi Jo Meade, Lynauna Summers, Jasmine Bickel, Michael LaRue, Haylie Powers/Troy Abarr, Nick/Alex Caraway, Anthony Hayner, Kaleb Powers, Tyler Harris, and Jadon/Erin Ryan. Everyone who sold at least 1 item was able to spend \$5.00 at our Findley Scholastic Book Fair! Our PTO meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Findley Library. Everyone is welcome to join us; we have free childcare and door prizes at every meeting! Our next fundraiser will be in February. All money collected this year supports our budget for next year. Findley PTO is proud to support the staff, students, and programs offered at Findley Elementary.

### Ten Tips for a Healthier School Year from Nurse Cynthia

- 1. Get your child immunized.**
- 2. Take your child for periodic health examinations.** Check with Nurse Cynthia to find out how to access medical services.
- 3. Get childhood healthcare coverage.** Programs such as HAWK-I can meet the needs for your child. Let Nurse Cynthia know if you need more information about getting coverage.
- 4. Make sure your child gets enough sleep!** Elementary students need 9-11 hours of sleep every night to be alert and learning at school!
- 5. Eat healthy foods and stay physically active.** Studies have shown that children who eat breakfast do well in school. Make sure children are getting fruits, vegetables, proteins and whole grains to maintain a healthy weight. Go outside, take a walk, play in the leaves, just get active!
- 6. Maintain a personal space.** Some health issues, like head lice, are caused by close contact with person who is infected. Do not share combs or hats.
- 7. Avoid spreading germs and exposure to germs.** Teach your children to wash their hands thoroughly, cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, and to keep their hands away from their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- 8. Talk to your child about how they feel.** Our bodies *and* our minds need to stay healthy in order to do well in school. Talk to your child about how they are feeling, let them share their feelings, worries, and concerns.
- 9. Wash your hands...AGAIN!** Washing your hands with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds kills most of the germs that can make a person sick. Wash your hands before and after eating, after using the bathroom, after coughing or sneezing, and after playing outdoors or with family pets.
- 10. Stay home if you are sick.** Not only will you feel better, but this will keep others from getting sick too. Remember, the guidelines for not sending your child to school include: running a fever, episodes of vomiting or diarrhea, rash. When reporting your child's absence, please report their symptoms to the nurse so that illnesses can be monitored and stopped from spreading.

**Thank you for all that you do to keep our Findley Family healthy!**