



The ASU Leader

Elementary Edition

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February 2014

Upcoming Events:

- **March 14:** Professional Development Day for teachers (no school for students)
- **March 26:** PTA Meeting
- **April 4:** ASU's Got Talent
- **April 7-11:** Spring Break

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Students End Valentine's Day with One Aim — 'Just Dance'

This year's elementary school Valentine's Day Dance took a slightly different turn from previous years – with students from grades 1 to 5 forming up in lines across the multipurpose room to mimic the on-screen animated dancers on videos from *Just Dance*, a rhythm game that presents popular tunes as the audience tries to



dance along. The energetic party that had everyone dancing was the final event of the busy day, which earlier included an assortment of fun-filled activities related to Valentine's Day (see p. 3).

Principal's Message

Primary Years a Critical Time for Building Good Character

Students are encouraged, through many processes and programs, to live by The Golden Rule: "Treat others as you would want to be treated." This is the foundation of character development, and character development is what drives our Expected School-wide Student Outcomes (ESSOs). While some of our ESSOs are more academic and others are

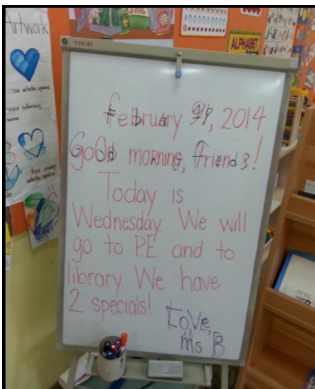
more socially-oriented, they all require the right attitude. It starts with thinking, which in turn affects actions, and ultimately develops into habits. We want our students to develop good habits, so we are constantly trying to teach them to think about how their actions affect themselves and others, rather than simply punishing them for making the

wrong decisions. This is a central idea behind our anti-bullying approaches. Bullying sometimes happens in subtle ways, so we try to prevent it by teaching students to have respect for others and themselves. With support from home, we hope to instill in every student a sense of community that decreases the likelihood of bullying and poor decision-making in general.

Reading, Writing, Discovering: Kindergarten Kids in Love with Literacy

You may think that writing truly begins in First Grade. Well not in Ms. P.'s Kindergarten class. Ever since the beginning of the year, we have been working on our writing skills, and we have a confession to make—**KG 1** is in love with writing!

As part of our morning routine every day, we have been writing a message using the friendly letter format. We were pretty smart at the beginning of the year... We used to search the message from Ms. P. and find the Letter and Sight Words for the Week.



Ms. P's morning message shows where students have made corrections.

But now, we are even smarter! We know all about writing, especially things like the rules for good writing. Ms. P. has taught us that a capital letter goes at the beginning of the sentence and not in the middle of the word. We also know how to write our favorite Sight Words without help.

Now, every day when Ms. P. writes the Morning Message, KG 1 fixes all the mistakes.

Sometimes, there are capital letters everywhere. Sometimes, she puts numbers for the date in the wrong order. Sometimes, she even forgets how to write her name...but we always help.

Even adults can make mistakes in their writing, but make no mistake about this—KG 1 is in Love with Writing!

KG 2 is working hard! We just finished a unit about where people live and are starting to learn where animals live. Our literacy centers have become ocean themed! "Centers" is a great time for students to play while learning new vocabulary and practicing spelling and reading. Students loved our fishing for letters center!



KG 2 students go fishing for letters during Centers.

In math, we learned to count to 100 for our 100th day of school! Now, we are learning the differences between shapes and are seeing that shapes are all around us.

Students have learned all letters, letter sounds, and 50 sight words! They are using their new knowledge to start to write and read. Our KG 2 friends are playing, learning, and growing every day!



KG 2 students enjoy reading in one of their Centers.

Staff, Students, Parents Join Together to Celebrate Two Special Occasions



(Left) Stacking 100 cups; (above) Making 100 Days glasses.

Elementary students enjoyed a special day of celebration in February. With the help of awesome parent volunteers, each class was able to spend 30 minutes in the multi-purpose room engaged in activities centered on a theme. On February 11, the Pre-K to Grade 2 classes cele-



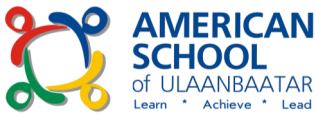
(Left) Third Grade students work on Valentine's Day poems. (Above) A parent volunteer helps students make Woven Hearts, while (below) another parent helps students create Butterfly Valentine's Cards with lollipops. Other activities included making Valentine 'Cootie Catchers' and Thank You heart cards, as well as guessing the number of candies in a jar.



brated the 100th day of school. They chose activities such as making a 100 day crown and glasses, doing 100 steps, and stacking 100 cups. A few days later, on February 14, the Grades 3-5 classes had an opportunity to participate in Valentine's Day activities. The activities involved estimation, making words, writing messages and arts and crafts. It was wonderful to see students, parents, and teachers all spending time together! Thank you to all the parents who came to help. It was greatly appreciated.

- Joanne Effa, Elementary/ESL Coordinator





Home of Future Leaders

Around the School...

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We're on the web!
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Expected School-wide Student Outcomes

ASU students will be...

Academic Achievers

Critical Thinkers

Involved Citizens

Effective Communicators

Self-Directed Lifelong Learners



'100 Days of School' activities



Students who gathered for our monthly awards assembly were treated to dances performed by our Grade 3 students. The Hawaiian songs, *The Hukilau* and *Pearly Shells*, were connected to the school's Curriculum Expectations across several subjects. For Social Studies, it tied into the study of Communities; specifically, "identify geographic and environmental factors that explain the location of various communities" and "describe ways in which (communities) use the natural environment." For the Arts, it met Expectations for both Dance and Music, both of which include Creating and Presenting, and Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts.