



The ASU Leader

Elementary Edition

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2013

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 16 - Jan 3:
Winter Break

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. "What if Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

- Dr. Seuss

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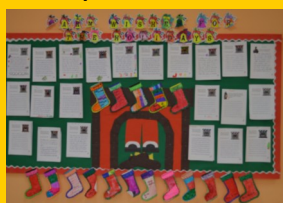
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Students participate in season of giving to help local children

This month, ASU had what could quite possibly be the first ever toy drive in Mongolia. ASU Students were encouraged to donate old or new toys to be given to needy children. Our original goal was 288 toys,



Second grade teachers and program assistants bear gifts for children in a ger district. The gifts were donated by ASU elementary students as part of December's Spirit Day events.

or about one toy per student. After the second day we had already matched our goal. By the end of the week, the generosity of our students was clear. ASU raised over 700 Barbie dolls, Batman action figures, teddy bears, and other toys. On Saturday, December 7th, Grade 2 teachers gave the toys to some very happy kindergarten students in a nearby Ger district. This is something the whole school can feel great about. Good job ASU!

Principal's Message

Thanks for a successful start to the school year

This holiday season, as family and friends gather to spend some quality time together, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to everyone who has supported each of our students. Our success depends on you. Every parent who has shared a concern, extended a thank you, volunteered their time, or otherwise helped

us become a better school – we appreciate you. We have had a busy four months, with a lot of personal growth through assessments, field trips, parent/teacher meetings, Spirit Days, performances and many other activities. Meanwhile, we continue to work together to teach our students the importance of good character,

hard work and responsibility. We have made some great strides since August, and we look forward to even greater results for the rest of the school year. In this season during which we celebrate giving, I thank you for giving your time, talent and support for ASU. Have a wonderful holiday!



Life in the Library: Students Learn How to Get the Most from Reading

Book Borrowing

ASU students of all ages are encouraged to develop their responsibility by borrowing books to bring home to read. Books are borrowed for one week at a time. Students are welcome in the Library during morning and afternoon recess, and may borrow one book each time they visit the Library. But, if there is a book that is late, students are not allowed to borrow a new book until the late book is returned. Parents can take an active role in this process, by keeping track of when books are brought home and returned.

If your child has lost a book, please speak with me yourself or send older students to speak with me for themselves. There are several options when a book is lost: replace the book with a new copy of the same book, or pay for a replacement book. Often the lost book will turn up in the classroom, the backpack, the car, or the bedroom. Students should develop their responsibility by taking good care of their be-



Grade 3 students learn to enjoy the adventure of reading.

please feel to come by the library with your child on a Tuesday or Thursday right after school to pick a book. Students who read with their parents develop very good reading skills, and the Library would like to help with that!

Library Lessons

Every week each class comes to the Library to borrow a book and learn a Library skill. The students are all learning how to take care of books, how books are properly placed in the Library, the different kinds of books, and how to pick a book that is right for their interest and reading level. There is so much to learn in the Library, and every week is something new. Skills learned in the Library can be applied in all other classes, and at home too: students are coming to realize that organization is key in the Library, a skill that students of all ages need to practice!

Throughout the rest of the school year, we will apply the skills we have practiced to help us learn about lots of different topics. The Library is a great place to learn, and also to play. As students grow, they will need the Library for many learning opportunities. This year in the Library, we are beginning to see



Students relax in the library with a good book.

how much books can do for us. Thank you for your continued support.

longings, and so far most students have done a great job with this!

If parents, especially of younger students, would like to take part in their child's book borrowing,

how much books can do for us. Thank you for your continued support.

- Ms. Leanne (Elementary Librarian)

Parents Gather to Watch Adaptation of Clement C. Moore's Famous Poem



Elementary students performed to a full house on December 13 for *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, a musical by Kathryn Schultz Miller that is adapted from Clement C. Moore's famous poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas." A huge cast of characters, including elves, mice, reindeer and more, join the Moore family as they prepare for the big day—and Clement tries to write his famous poem. The musical, which featured actors and singers from grades 1-5, was preceded by some songs from the kindergarten classes. The event was the culmination of many hours of practice for the students.

Students present the play *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* for the annual winter performance.

ESL Part 2: First-graders Incorporate Christmas Spirit into Learning Language

I am very excited to have this opportunity to share with you what we've been doing in our ESL classes. All of our ESL students are doing their best and working very hard in class. Most of the grade 1 students arrived at school with very limited English, but they have all made a lot of progress. I am happy to report that most of them can now use English to express their thoughts and ideas in words, and some are even able to use full sentences. During each class we learn the rules of English grammar, build vocabulary, and try to achieve academic language proficiency! During the last 2 weeks we learned all about Santa Claus and

his reindeers. We especially concentrated on Rudolph the red nose reindeer. We learned all the vocabulary and then read the famous story about our favorite reindeer. We even learned a song about Rudolph and watched a short movie about him. We just love Rudolph!

As a yearend activity, we reviewed all we have learned about Christmas, Santa Claus and Ru-



dolph the red nose reindeer and then, as a special treat, we made our very own reindeers in class. Students used all kinds of cookies and treats to make their own Rudolph. I am very proud of grade 1C because all steps and instructions were given in English and every last student followed all instructions and did a great job!

I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year.

Ms. Meiling Diedericks





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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

Home of Future Leaders

Celebrating the winter holidays at ASU Elementary



(Above) Kindergarten has been learning about Christmas celebrations around the world. One of our 'trips' was to Russia where we met Ded Moroz and his granddaughter Snegurochka. We learned the differences between Santa and Ded Moroz and then Ded Moroz gave us a present! (Below, right) Santa made a visit to ASU, bringing gifts for the boys and girls.



(Above) Toys collected during a fundraising drive stack up in the school's lobby.



(Above, right) The cast of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas works out final details during the dress rehearsal for the show. (Above, left) Students present their Gingerbread Houses, and (left) a work in progress.