



The ASU Leader

Elementary Edition

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 2016

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 7: Sports Day
- Oct 17-21: Fall Break
- Oct 28: Halloween Spirit Day
- Oct. 31 Chinggis Khan's Day (no school)

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Check out our website at asu.edu.mn to see more photos from ASU events.

New year opens with renovated Elementary School library

The ASU Elementary Library has undergone a makeover this year. The library is now divided into several seating and working areas for students to read books, do assignments, or even just play board games! We have also invested in buying over a thousand books for the school to enjoy, which are available in your child's classroom



library and the main elementary library.

Our library is working hard to bring about a love of reading to our students. Each week, we read a book that is fun, interesting, and engaging. We are also showcasing several authors in our "Author Spotlight" bulletin board. This month, we learned about the amazing Roald Dahl, the author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and The BFG. In October we will be celebrating International School Libraries Month.



Parents participate in the Coffee and Conversation, the first of many library events planned.

To mark the occasion, we are encouraging students to write reviews of books they've read. Each review they write gives them a ballot for a book draw. Every Friday in October, winners will be chosen, and they will receive a book, courtesy of our library.

Not only are we trying to get students involved, we are

(see **Library**, p. 3)

Principal's Message

Looking forward to another productive year working together

Another school year kicked off with our opening ceremony and Curriculum/Orientation Night on August 25. The first month has been especially busy, with various assessments and special events, which you will find highlighted in this month's news-

letter. It is good to see the outstanding staff dedication and parent support that enables our students to be successful here at ASU and in life. I look forward to a productive year and encourage everyone to keep the lines of communication open.

Early Childhood Education Program —A lot more than “just play”

This year the Early Childhood Education department at ASU is very excited to debut a new play-based program! The Ontario Ministry of Education has developed a new curriculum for the 2016 school year that is heavily based on play and inquiry. What looks like “just play” to many people is a well-planned, well-researched learning environment that



Ready for some alphabet fun in the classroom

sets the foundation for lifelong learning. During play, students will not only practice literacy, mathematics, and English language, but also self-control, independence, problem solving, critical thinking, emotional regulation, and social skills. All of these will help students achieve their full potential in future schooling and life. Anything a child needs to learn in the kindergarten years can be accomplished in a well-



Making friends on the playground

planned play program. This year, students have already begun to explore and take responsibility for their learning environment.

In addition to play, we use Circle Time to encourage students' development of self and build communi-

ty. We take the time to listen to each other's stories of what makes us special and unique and find the connections that help us build relationships. Every person in our classes is valued for the unique experiences they bring to our school. The teachers are excited to learn from each of these unique children and discover their strengths and interests this school year!

Pre-Kindergarten: In Pre-K, we're learning all about what it's like to be in school—the first time for many of us! We sit in a circle and listen and share with our friends, take care of ourselves by washing and cleaning up after ourselves. We also have lots of fun exploring and learning about the world around us during our circle time.

Kindergarten 1: This Autumn, we have been focusing on ourselves and specifically being able to



Using teamwork for a construction project

express ourselves. We have been developing our storytelling skills by using the child-friendly literature that we read on a day-to-day basis. This has been achieved through making storyboards, retelling the story using our fingers, music and dance. By the end of Term 1, we will be able to tell stories about our families and ourselves through role-play and collages. Above all, we have found a sense of belonging in our community and we are learning so much about ourselves!

Kindergarten 2: So far this year, KG 2 has been focusing on two things that are very special to all people: Our names and our families. We are learning so much about each other, and the teachers can already feel our community growing closer!

(Library, from p. 1)



also trying to get our parents involved. We've begun the dialogue by hosting a "Coffee & Conversation" event. It is an informal meeting with parents who would like to know what is happening in the school, and how they can better support their children. With parent interest, we hope to continue doing these once month. There are also other events in the works, stay tuned for more details.

There's a lot going on in our library, and hopefully there's a little something for everyone!

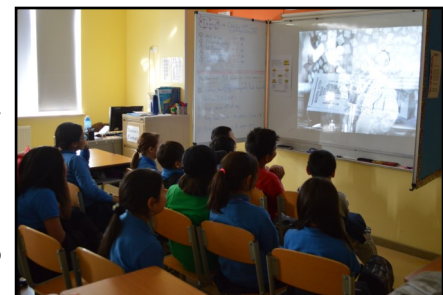
After School Activities offer choices to meet wide range of student interests

ASU offers activities that facilitate the social, emotional and intellectual development of students at all grade levels. On Mondays and Wednesdays, we offer a wide variety of After School Activities. They range from the more artistic



(Drawing, Arts and Crafts, Singing, Dancing, and playing instruments) to the more physical (Cross-fit, Cross Country, and Dodgeball). We include activities that help students hone their skills and creativity

(Chess, Library Club and Destination Imagination), learn more about a special interest (History of Movies & Cinema) or just learn some relaxation techniques (Yoga Nidra and Mindfulness). The many activities provide a more diverse learning opportunity, a different perspective, and a fun way to end the school day.



Grade 3 students put on fashion show for Social Studies heritage lessons

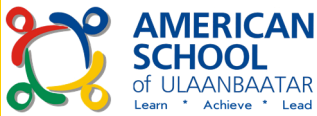


Students wear traditional costumes.

In Social Studies class, 3rd graders are learning about Mongolian cultural identity and heritage. They've studied topics such as history, homes, food, and different areas of Mongolia. On September 28, the 3rd grade held a fashion show to show off traditional and modern clothing from Mongolia.

Mrs. Chimgee came to speak about different types of clothing in Mongolia and their purposes. Afterwards, the 3rd graders got to show off their chic side and walk the runway to show off their own outfits!





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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

Assorted assessments help teachers target specific skills

Several assessments were done in September. Some classrooms did writing assessments using the 6+1 Traits of Writing. The writing was linked to books the students have been reading in their classes. We also began our computer-based Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The MAP tests determine our students' understanding of math, language and reading. Teachers also tested student reading levels using the Fountas and Pinnell reading assessment, where they determine student reading fluency and comprehension. In October, the students will be taking MAC tests, which will determine their English Language proficiency. The information we receive from all these assessments will help us to better understand the different needs of our students and target our teaching to help meet those needs.



Ms. Gilmore assesses a student's reading fluency and comprehension.

Students show pride in their House at Spirit Day Assembly

The first Spirit Day Assembly of the year combined the entire elementary school outdoors, where students received certificates for being academic achievers, for best effort and for showing the character trait of caring. Students were dressed in their Spirit House colors as captains and co-captains introduced themselves and led each house in a cheer.



Captains and co-captains introduce themselves before leading a cheer for their Spirit House.



Howie the wolf greets students during the monthly Spirit Day.

Howie, the school's mascot, also made an appearance. The assemblies are held at the end of each month and also feature dances, skits and other ways for students to showcase their talents, as well as a time for recognizing our birthday celebrants for the month.