

The ASU Leader

Elementary Edition

Volume 5, Issue 2

October 2017

Upcoming Events:

- Nov 10: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Nov 29: PTG Meeting
- Dec 7: Winter Concert
- Dec 18-Jan 5: Winter Break

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

Students sport new and traditional costumes on Halloween

During our annual Halloween Spirit Day, some students chose to stick with the more traditional costumes—witches, ghosts and ghouls, some chose costumes that reflected contemporary issues and popular culture, and some opted for more original costumes



Spirit House Committee members pose with the winners of the Halloween costume competition.

and made their own. Whatever the theme, students had an exciting day, with the monthly Spirit Day assemblies, followed by trick-or-treating through the school halls. Thanks to the Spirit House Committee for putting together a memorable day for our students.

See more photos and Spirit Day Assembly (p. 4)

Principal's Message

Understanding and respecting our national symbols

Flags, whether school, state or national flags, tell a lot about what they represent. For example, on the U.S. flag, the 13 red and white alternating stripes represent the original 13 colonies, and the 50 stars represent the 50 states. For the Mongolian flag, blue represents the sky and red symbolizes progress. The Soyombo symbol is a national emblem that has a lot of history in itself. Like the flags, the national anthems express important values of a country. That's why when Olympic champions stand on the podium and hear their national anthem play, it is an

emotional moment for them because they are represent-



ing their country. We want to respect our national symbols, and so when the Mongolian national anthem plays at the start of the school day, we ask that everyone in the building stands still and faces the flag. Foreigners remain silent to show respect for our host country, and Mongolians may place their hands over their heart to show their love of their country. Let's respect our countries and appreciate our rich histories.

Grade 1 students learn about bodies and human life cycle

Many interesting things are happening in our three sections of Grade 1.

Students worked on their own timelines. We brainstormed on what they can do when they were babies and compared and contrasted those things with what they are now capable of doing as first graders. After studying the human life cycle, students created a timeline showing the past, present, and future of their own lives. The vocabulary we focused on included: in the past (before) at present (now) and in the future (next year). As a springboard, a human life cycle showing pictures of a person from baby, infancy, young adult and adulthood were used to launch the topic.



Students spent time in classes to work on their timelines: gluing their pictures, illustrating and writing sentences describing themselves and detailing their date and place of birth. We even discussed what jobs they would like to have when they are adults. One section presented the timelines to the rest of the class and enjoyed learning about each other.



In Science, at the beginning of the year, we were learning about human bodies. What body parts we have, what they can do and what our senses

are. One class explored the importance of the human skeleton with an experiment and built people out of clay. One model had straws for bones, the other did not. Then we felt and squashed the models to see which one was stronger. The model with the straw bones was stronger. We discussed how our skeletons help support and move our bodies.

It has been a very busy and productive time in our first grade classes, and the students are learning a lot.



@ The Library

Coffee & Conversation—and communication

In October, at our Parent Coffee and Conversation we discussed ways to increase their child's intelligence and communication abilities using three tips: 1) Choose a time to make a routine for conversations, 2) Listen (put your phone away), reflective listening, encourage "I think" and "I feel" statements, 3) Affirm your child, talk about your experiences, reflect on your day and your child's day. We had more than 40 parents join us for this productive discussion.



Grade I teacher Ms. Albertson presents information on parent-child communication while Ms. Zaya translates. About 40 parents attended, along with teachers and program assistants.



A parent shares how she spends time in quality communication with her children.

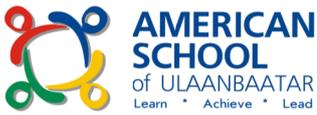
Future Coffee & Conversation events will include "25 Ways Parents Can Read with Children," as well as workshops on Art, Learning through Play, and getting ready for 6th grade.

We encourage parents to join us for these monthly meetings that offer an opportunity to meet staff members and get to know more about our curriculum, policies and programs.

Coffee & Conversation is an informal gathering for parents to get some information about what is happening at ASU, find out about what students are learning, learn ways to support their children at home, and have a conversation with other parents and staff (usually librarian, library assistant, other teachers, Principal, Vice Principal, and Program Assistants. It's a way for ASU to build a stronger connection with parents, and let them know that our students and parents are valued at our school.

Past Coffee & Conversation events have included presentations on math, reading, and writing programs, and have also led to workshops for Visual Art, Music, Dancing and Computers.





Home of Future Leaders

Halloween Spirit Day, Trick-or-Treat provides fun afternoon

Students gathered in the morning and early afternoon for the monthly Spirit Day assemblies on



October 31. The assemblies included announcement of the costume contest winners, dances learned during After School Activities, a *Mathletics* point update and an update on Spirit House Points. The certificates included the usual Academic Achievement and Best Effort, along with this month's character trait, Self-Control.

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Elementary students represent a variety of themes for the annual Halloween Spirit Day event.



We're on the web!
www.asu.edu.mn

Expected School-wide Student Outcomes

ASU students will be...

Academic Achievers

Critical Thinkers

Involved Citizens

Effective Communicators

Self-Directed Lifelong Learners