



# The ASU Leader

## Elementary Edition

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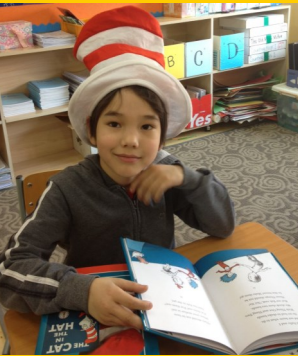
### Upcoming Events:

- **April 18:** Report Cards sent home
- **April 21:** Re-registration begins
- **April 24-25:** Parent/Teacher Conferences (no school for students on April 25)
- **April 30:** Re-registration ends
- **April 30:** PTA Meeting

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## ASU Staff Gets Tour of School 60, Discusses New Initiatives

Staff from ASU Elementary made a visit to our sister school, School 60, on March 13. Director Ariunaa Damdin led the guests through classrooms to meet students and see the wonderful work that is done at the school of more than 1,600 students. The two schools have collaborated for years, although ASU has been operating for less than a decade and School 60 celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. During the visit, the schools discussed further ways to enhance the partnership, such as exchanging student art to be displayed in the other school's gallery.



Elementary students from School 60 stand to greet visitors from ASU.



(Above) Artwork is displayed in School 60's gallery. (Left) Staff from both schools gather around School 60 students.

### Principal's Message

## Recent Parent Survey Shapes School Improvement Plan

ASU Elementary conducted a School Climate Survey in March, and in our next two issues of ASU Leader, we will be addressing the top areas of concern. The number one issue for respondents was *parental involvement in*

*important school decisions*, and this concern was followed by *communication*. One of the ways to address both of these concerns is to better advertise ways that are already in place for parents to be involved, and the most

effective of those is the Parent/Teacher Association (PTA).

The PTA meets in our multipurpose room every last Wednesday of the month. The main function

(See **Survey**, p. 4)

## First Graders Explore the Ocean, Take Part in ‘Titanic’ Journey

First grade students were pre-occupied with the theme about Titanic. The voyage to learning this ship which lasted for about five weeks, took the kids back to the time when the ship made its first and last trip to New York City, U.S.A. They viewed some edited clips about how the ship sinks and what caused it to sink. The kids also had the chance to listen to a novel about “Tonight on the Titanic” and have learned facts about the huge ship. Each student also made a project on Titanic and conducted scientific experiments on things that float and things that sink. They learned about matter, the difference between natural and man-made things and identified the things that were in the Titanic that are natural and man-made.

The theme made the first graders busy and more focused with accomplishing their projects, and they loved the trip!



The first graders have been studying The Ocean after learning about the Titanic. After learning that the Titanic is still at the bottom of the ocean, we investigated what else is in the ocean too. We learned about different sea animals and the different adaptations that each animal has to survive. Each student worked in a small group to research a sea animal and became an expert on that animal. Students learned about fish, starfish, seahorses, jellyfish, whales, sea turtles, crabs, and octopi.

The projects addressed several of the school’s curriculum expectations, such as Understanding Structures and Mechanisms, Understanding Life Systems—specifically the Needs and Characteristics of Living Things, and Understanding Matter and Energy, and the projects gave the students a chance to develop investigation and communication skills while relating science and technology to society and the environment.





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



### Dr. Seuss Week

ASU students brought out their Dr. Seuss books in March to participate in an annual celebration of reading. During Dr. Seuss Week, Grade One students were invited to the library to listen to different teachers read their favorite Dr. Seuss story. Dr. Seuss is a famous children’s author who specializes in nonsensical rhyme. They enjoyed listening to stories such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *One Fish Two Fish* and *Horton Hatches an Egg*.

This event is part of The National Education Association’s Read Across America Day, a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2—Dr. Seuss’s birthday.



Students celebrate reading with Dr. Seuss.

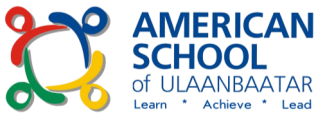
### Women’s Day

International Women’s Day is held annually on March 8. Observed since the early 1900s, it celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past and present. In Mongolia it is an official public holiday. For the local Women’s Day celebration at ASU, Grade One students



invited their mums, grandmothers, aunties and sisters to come to their class for a special afternoon tea. During that time the students and their special guests shared some songs, reading, and coloring, and the students also showed their special Ocean Animal projects they had finished. As always, there was a lot of excitement in the air, and the annual event offered a great opportunity for family members to visit our school and spend some time with the students in a classroom setting.





Home of Future Leaders

## Around the School...

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First grade students invited the special women in their lives to class to celebrate Women’s Day, as they shared in a variety of classroom activities.

(Right) Students, some donning their headgear for Hat Day, stand proudly with their Student of the Month certificates. The monthly awards assembly also included a presentation from the fifth grade classes during which the students shared photos and information about Mongolian provinces.



(Survey, cont. from p. 1)

of the PTA is to support student learning. To that purpose, we discuss items such as the learning environment, curriculum, resources, and assessments, as well as ways we can strengthen the parent-teacher relationship. In the past we have sent notes home with students inviting parents to join our meetings, and we have also sent invitations by email and through our website. For a more targeted approach, each class has recently selected parents to represent the class at PTA meetings. They will work closely with the PTA’s Executive Committee on issues raised in the meetings, as well as in daily communication between parents and the school. The hope is that through this approach parents will not only have a more powerful voice to share their concerns, but they will also be integrally

involved in decisions throughout the process from introduction to implementation.

In addition to encouraging more participation in the PTA, we are looking at other ways to improve communication, such as making more information available in Mongolian, on the website as well as in email messages.

We are also considering other school activities in which parents can be involved, though we have already seen an increase in parent participation this year. We are thankful for this increasing collaboration, yet we realize we have room for improvement.

In the next newsletter, we will address the next biggest areas of concern—homework and learning expectations.

We're on the web!  
[www.asu.edu.mn](http://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