



# The ASU Leader

## Elementary Edition

Volume 4, Issue 3

November 2016

### Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 8: Winter Concert
- Dec. 19-Jan. 6: Winter Break
- Jan. 25: Parent-Teacher Group Meeting

### Inside this issue:

ESL Program 2



Game Day 3



Spirit Day 4



Check out our website at [asu.edu.mn](http://asu.edu.mn) to see more photos from ASU events.

## PTG meeting highlights computer science and collaboration

Our November Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) meeting featured our Information and Communications Technology – or computer education – program

at the elementary school. Parents learned about how our computer teachers collaborate with other subject teachers to integrate technology into various assignments and create relevant, engaging activities. The meeting also included in-



formation about the importance of computers, and coding in particular, in today's job market. After the presentation parents had a chance to practice their own computer skills with programs their children are learning. This PTG meeting was in a coffee-and-conversation format, with the presentation and activity followed by a time for parents to discuss ASU programs in a more casual setting.

See related story on Computer Science Education week, p. 4

### Principal's Message

## Mission emphasizes being reflective, caring, ethical citizens

In this month's newsletter we highlight some of our new initiatives at the elementary school. The Coffee & Conversation events that we began recently give parents a chance to learn about our library program. This month the library sponsored International Game Day. We also invited parents to a presentation about our computer technology classes. The turnout has been good for these events, but we would like to see even more parents come out to learn about

what's going on at ASU. This newsletter also features our English as a Second Language program and some of the other events at ASU. All these programs are part of our mission to teach our students "the skills and attitude necessary to be intellectually reflective, lead a lifetime of meaningful work, be caring and ethical citizens, and be physically and mentally healthy." We are excited to work with parents to help our students reach these goals.

## ESL program, leveled reading groups target diverse needs, interests

### Grade 1 Special

Over the past couple of months, in our first grade special, students have learnt many new words and are starting to speak in English. Some of the first grade students arrived at ASU with limited knowledge and understanding of English language. Now, their English skills have started to develop and continue to grow, at their own pace, with the support of our English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Their improvement is evident in their understanding of the set instructions and expectations in the classrooms.

Students are having a lot of fun and gaining new knowledge and experience in our ESL Special class. The ESL team designs lessons so that students engage in activities which allow them to utilize multiple senses. Activities include sing-alongs, body movement, worksheets, the use of flashcards, creating booklets and sharing their thoughts and experiences. Last week, we had fun learning about the topic "Family". Students learnt new vocabulary related to family members. Also, we discussed the similarities and differences in our families. It is rewarding to see our students grow and improve.

### Leveled Reading Groups

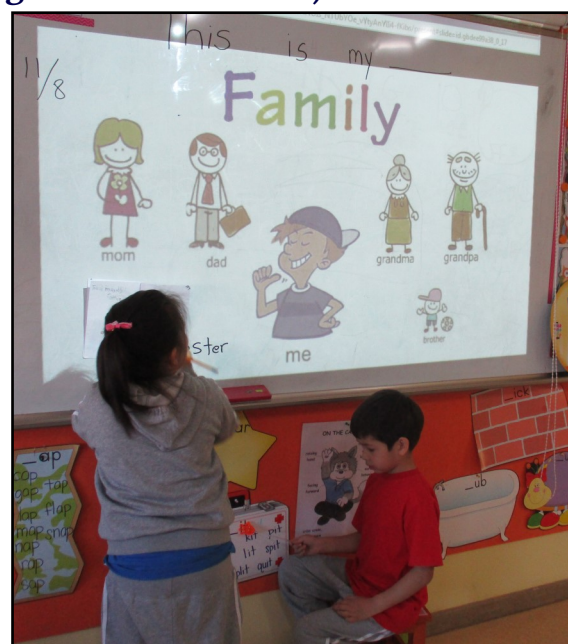
Last school year was the first year in which ASU had the leveled reading group program. Our pilot group of grade 1 students began last fall and grade 2 was added in the spring semester. There were positive results in both groups so this school year grades 3 and 4 were added to the leveled reading group program.

In grade 1 leveled reading groups, the ESL team started out with teaching basic skills including letter recognition, uppercase/lowercase recognition and development of phonics skills. We are proud to report our students are doing extremely well in these classes. They know the phonetic sound for each letter of the alphabet and can read and write 3 letter words such as dot, cat, sit, mug and pet. We anticipate students in our classes will be able to read simple books in the coming months. We are so proud of their hard work and enjoy their presence in our classroom!

The grade 2 leveled reading groups are working on reading fluency. They are developing skills which enable them to read text for specific purposes including comprehension and critical thinking skills. Class time also includes understanding how to write in a variety of contexts using simple English structures and improving their ability to spell complex words using vowel teams (ie. clay, nail, clean queen).

In our third grade reading groups, we have improved our reading and comprehension skills by studying a number of stories. Last week, we read about the recent U.S. elec-

(See **ESL** p. 3)



(Above and below) Students participate in a variety of activities designed to meet their specific needs as they build important language skills.





## @ The Library

On Friday, November 18th from 4 to 6 pm, ASU's Elementary Library held our first International Games Day. This event is celebrated in over 2000 libraries around the world, and we were a part of it! Playing games in the Library encourages people to interact with one another, share ideas, and have fun! It's also an opportunity for families to play games together in a community setting.

Despite the snow, over 30 families participated in International Games Day. Parents, students and teachers played and made games at our school. We also managed to collect about 130,000 Tugriks and several food items which will be donated to the Veloo Foundation. Thanks to everyone for making this event a success!



(Left) Students test their eye-hand coordination as they carefully remove Jenga blocks. (Top) Parents join students as they compete in the traditional strategy game of Battleship. (Above) Parents, students and teachers enjoy a game of Sleeping Queens.

(ESL, from p. 2)

tion and voting. After reading a story about the election process, we conducted an election in our classrooms. The students had fun and gained a lot from the experience: some of the students enjoyed being candidates, whilst the others were happy to participate as voters. Not only did the students learn what it means to vote, but also came to understand the importance of voting - we tend to vote in all areas of our daily life, specifically when it comes to decision making.

The grade 4 leveled reading groups are working on reading fluency, comprehension and critical thinking skills. Each week, we choose different topics which are nonfiction. We do small projects connected to that topic. For example, we chose the topic "White House" where we learned about the White House, shared our knowledge and created and made a craft relating to the White House. Also, we do a dictation sentence of the week, which means the teacher chooses a different sentence that challenges students spelling and phonics. After words, we discuss the sentence and teacher asks comprehension questions.



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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

### Spirit Day emphasizes trustworthiness, celebrates athletics

Our monthly Spirit Day Assembly was held on November 30, and the theme was Athletes Day. Some students wore uniforms representing their favorite teams or athletes, while others just wore sports attire to celebrate the event. The assembly included a dance number and updates on Spirit House points and Mathletics accomplishments, as well as the monthly awards for academics, best effort and November's character emphasis, being trustworthy.

Earlier in the day, classrooms were open during morning recess as teachers hosted a variety of physical activities in conjunction with the Spirit Day.



(Above) Students perform a dance number during the monthly Spirit Day Assembly. (Below) Gold House Captain and Co-Captain lead their Spirit House in a cheer after point totals for the month are announced.



### ASU to participate in Computer Science Education Week

Computer Science Education Week will be held December 5-11, 2016. The purpose is to educate students on the importance of computers in the world today. According to Computer Science Education Week, the computer science major earns 40% more in lifetime earnings than the college average, and jobs in the computer industry are the top source of wages in the United States (Source: <https://csedweek.org/promote>). At ASU, we offer computer classes to students beginning in kindergarten, and they learn multiple skills, including Microsoft Office programs and Google programs, as well as a variety of other applications. In addition, at the elementary school, students use computers to supplement their studies through platforms such as Mathletics and RAZ-Kids. ASU believes in developing 21st-century learners, which is why we are joining the celebration of technology during Computer Science Education Week.