



The ASU Leader

Elementary Edition

Volume 4, Issue 8

April 2017

Upcoming Events:

- **May 11: Spring Concert**
- **May 18: Music Workshop**
- **May 26: Coffee & Conversation**
- **May 29: Dodgeball Tournament**
- **May 31: Science Fair & Spirit Day**

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

ASU Open House highlights school programs, facilities

We celebrated our annual Open House on April 29, giving prospective parents and students a chance to visit our school facilities and learn a little about our programs. Current students, parents and friends also joined us for the celebration, which included performances, games, a raffle and a lot of great food.



(Above) Face painting is always a favorite at ASU's annual Open House event. (Left) Attendees try their skills at the football throw. The weather cooperated for a variety of outdoor events in addition to the festivities offered indoors.

(See page 4 for more photos)

Principal's Message

Looking Ahead: Working together to finish strong

The last couple months of the school year will be an especially busy time, with many special events, like our Open House this month. With so much happening, it is important that we all stay focused and finish strong. The weather has also been improving, and with the rising temperatures (and unpredictable spring climate), it is important to

prepare for anything. Please make sure students are properly dressed for the weather (check the forecast each day to make sure they bring the right clothes for recess), that they drink plenty of water to keep from getting dehydrated, and that they get enough sleep and proper nutrition to stay healthy. Let's work together to finish well.

Grade 2 student work answers the question: Why is writing important?

Writing is important in nearly every facet of our lives. Writing is an essential job skill. Writing is the basis upon which our work, education, and intellect is judged – at university, in the work place, and in the community. Writing equips us with communication and thinking skills. Writing expresses who we are as individuals. Writing fosters our ability to explain and refine our ideas. Writing preserves our ideas and memories. Writing helps us to understand our lives, and writing is a source of entertainment. (Source: Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools web-site: <https://www.district196.org/>)

In Grade 2, we put a strong emphasis on writing in accordance with the Ontario Curriculum. The girls and boys in 2A, 2B, and 2C are learning to write in four stages:



Pre-writing
Drafting
Editing/Revising
Publishing

All Elementary School teachers at ASU use the 6+1 Trait Writing Model is an instruction and assessment tool. According to this model, there are six key traits that make up quality writing and an extra trait. The six traits are ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. The seventh extra trait is presentation.



In Grade 2, these traits are stressed at different stages of our writing process.

Stage 1 is Pre-writing. Students generate ideas about a potential topic using a variety of strategies and resources. We ask questions to elicit prior knowledge or brainstorm as a class. Students also gather information to support their ideas. They might talk with family and friends, watch videos, or read



or listen to fiction or non-fiction texts.

Stage 2 is Drafting. Students organize their main ideas and supporting details using an appropriate graphic organizer for a particular form of writing (e.g. process, friendly letter, narrative, expository, descriptive, short story, etc.). Then, they write their first draft.

Stage 3 is Editing and Revising. Students are learning to proofread and correct their own writing and their classmates' writing through the use of simple checklists for conventions or guiding questions (e.g. Does each sentence begin with a capital letter and end with proper punctuation?). (See **Grade 2**, p. 3)



@ The Library

During our April Coffee & Conversation in the library, Ms. Realeza discussed the different genres of books available at our library, such as biographies and autobiographies, fantasy, mystery and more. She also talked about other events happening at ASU. At ASU, we offer a variety of titles in many different genres to generate student interest in reading. Parents are encouraged to attend our monthly Coffee & Conversation meetings at the library to learn more about ASU policies and programs, as well as for staff and parents to get to know one another.



Parent-Teacher Presentation Highlights Multiple Intelligences Theory



Parents and staff members gathered in the Elementary School library for the April Parent Teacher Group meeting, during which Dr. Dawn Dekle, president of Orkhon University and president of the secondary school's PTG, gave a presentation on Multiple Intelligences. Multiple Intelligences is a theory developed by American psychologist Dr. Howard Gardner that suggests the traditional idea of intelligence is limited and that people can have different kinds of intelligence that considers a broader range of human potential. Ms. Jackie, one of our grade 4 teachers, also

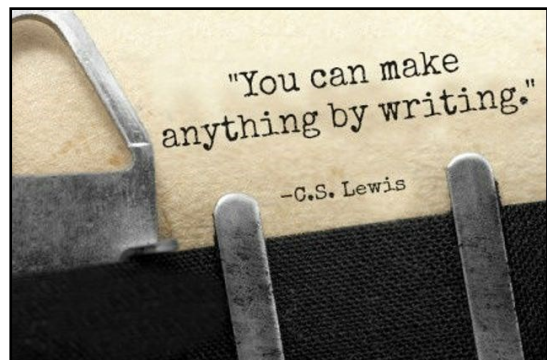
shared how she is using this theory in her classroom.

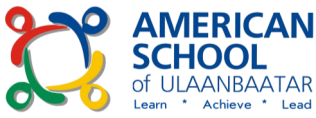
(Grade 2, from p. 2)

Next, Ms. Height, Ms. Jennifer, and Mr. MacLellan read the drafts and provide individual feedback. We help with spelling and word choice. We check that the writer's ideas and information is presented logically and his/her sentences are fluent. We look for evidence of the author's voice. When a writer is personally engaged with the topic, he/she will write with his/her own personal style and tone, which sounds very different from writer to writer.

Stage 4 is Publishing. Finally, students write their final drafts using the proper format. We pay particular attention to handwriting, spacing, and margins. Presentation is important – sometimes, students draw a picture, create cover art, or make a craft to accompany their finished product. We post our writing on the bulletin boards inside and outside our classrooms. Sometimes, we share our work by reading what we've written to our classmates.

Very recently, the students in 2A, 2B, and 2C were assessed for the Traits: Organization and Voice. Ms. Height, Ms. Jennifer, and Mr. MacLellan are all very pleased with the progress we're seeing in our students' writing.





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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



(Clockwise from top left) A new twist to an old favorite; students from Ms. Zaya's dance class perform for the crowd; looking over the options for the raffle draw; target practice with the archery event; registration is open for the new school year; concentrating on the golf game.



Kids get comfortable for Pajama Spirit Day celebration

Students got comfortable for our April spirit day, with the theme of "Pajama Day." The assembly included the usual update on Spirit House points, top performers for Mathletics, presentation of monthly awards, and recognition of April birthdays. April's character focus was "fairness."



We also announced winners of a book cover art competition.