



# The ASU Leader

## Elementary Edition

Volume 5, Issue 1

September 2017

### Upcoming Events:

- Sept 27: Mongolian Curriculum Parent Workshop
- Sept 29: Sports Day
- Oct 23-27: Fall Break

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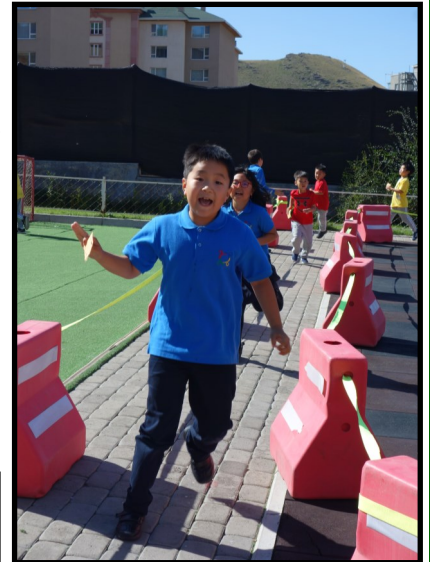
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Check out our website at [asu.edu.mn](http://asu.edu.mn) to see more photos from ASU events.

## Students participate in fun run to raise money for sister school

Students were invited to join our recess running club fundraiser called Howie's Fun Run. The money collected will be donated to our sister-school, School 60. Students purchased a running card for 2,000T beginning September 11. They brought this card to recess, and after completing a lap on our Howie Fun Run track had their card hole-punched. After they completed their running card, or 25 laps, they could purchase a new one and keep running! Many students participated in this fundraiser. All completed cards were collected by Ms. Geshel, and student winners



will be announced during our September Spirit Day Assembly. The event also reinforced our Expected School-wide Student Outcome, *Involved Citizens*, as students took direct action to support our sister school.

### Principal's Message

## New school year brings new teachers, new student leaders

Now that we are well into our new school year, I want to thank everyone for helping us to get started off well. We had our first Coffee & Conversation meeting this month, sharing our Mongolian curriculum with parents. We had a great turnout and hope to see the same for our future meetings and workshops. We have several new teachers on staff, so please see the article on page 3 introducing them. We

also have a new group of student leaders at our school with our fifth graders, who are taking on more responsibility as Spirit House captains, safety supervisors, and by participating in our morning announcements every day. They also have the opportunity to experience their first overnight field trip this month, which we apparently are getting in while the weather is still cooperating. Let's stay safe and warm, and have a productive school year.

## Socialization, inquiry, physical activity provide balanced ECE program

by Ms Schnabel, Pre-K

### Play-Based Learning

We follow the Massachusetts Curriculum for our Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, and although this has meant changes for our Early Years curriculum, luckily, it still retains a play-based learning component. Play is, in fact, children's primary learning tool. Through play, students are constantly exploring the world around them, asking questions about it, making theories and testing them out and learning how to interact with their peers in contexts of their own creation, not only those fabricated and closely managed by an adult. This allows them to develop critical thinking, empathy and compassion.

Teachers are very much involved in a play-based curriculum as well. Our job is to guide students through their learning process, helping them to create challenges for themselves, to work through those challenges, to keep growing, and most importantly to make sure that they are able to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing and loving environment.



### Morning Assembly

Here in Early Childhood Education Center (ECE Center) we like to start our super-duper day with a blast. So this year our eight early childhood professionals have decided to kick off our day with daily morning assemblies at the ES Atrium. Four classes gather together as one in unity to sing songs, finger plays and



nursery rhymes, do physical exercises, and listen to "story time specials" every Wednesday. Normally our big circle opens with the singing of the Mongolian national anthem, then followed by listening to the morning announcements and after that our fun-filled, full of excitement, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious day of adventure just begins...

### Outdoor Play

Children have a great need for physical exercise and activity. This is why they are naturally drawn to playing outside, and there are numerous benefits for this: it allows them to explore their environment, develop muscle strength and coordination, and gain self-confidence. They also get a chance to see the world from a new perspective by using all their senses; it's a chance to be free and learn by taking right and safe decisions.



(See ECE, p. 4)

## ASU Elementary School welcomes new teachers, program assistants

This school year 11 teachers and three program assistants joined our Elementary School team.

**Resource Teacher Ms. Michelle Ferraton** is from Cleveland, Ohio. She taught in the States for 7 years and has spent the last 4 years teaching in Turkmenistan. In her spare time, she enjoys, reading, hiking, cooking and traveling.

**Mongolian Teacher Munkh-Erdene** has been with ASU for 10 years but is now one of our Mongolian curriculum teachers. She has 3 children and loves to read and cook.

**Teacher Librarian Ms. Olimpia Cervantes** has worked as an elementary teacher (Special Education) and a librarian for more than 30 years in Honduras, Morocco and Qatar. She adores storytelling and puppetry. Her hobbies include aquaerobics, walking, cooking, and watching movies.

**PE Teacher Ms. Sephora Paret** is French and has been a teacher for a few years. She was also a police officer in New Orleans, USA. She loves rugby, horses and skydiving (even though she is afraid of heights!).

**KG2 Teacher Ms. Janine Irias** dreamed of being a teacher ever since she was a little girl. She is passionate about teaching because not only does she see it as an adventure but she also believes she can learn from her interactions with students.

**KG3 Teacher Ms. Handi Wyckoff** was born in Mongolia but lived in the USA more than 10 years. She has worked with early ages children in both Mongolia and USA. She has published two children's books and is working on more books to finish up. Her hobbies are to draw, dance and write short stories.

**KG3 PA Ms. Alimaa** was born and grew up in Orenburg, Russia. She is married and has 4 children. She enjoys reading, cooking and painting.

**Grade 1A PA Ms. Tungaa** worked as an assistant to CEO for a private company for 6 years before joining ASU. She is married and has 2 daughters. She loves to hike and photograph nature.

**Grade 1B Teacher Ms. Heather Albertson** is a native Texan. After working for several years in Texas, she moved to India to do non-profit work with orphans and street children. She has taught in Dubai for seven years. She returned to Texas after that but again felt the pull of overseas living and is now happily settling here in beautiful Mongolia.

**Grade 1B PA Ms. Amarmend** graduated in Finance from Mongolia. She is very happy working with children.

**Grade 2A Teacher Ms. Esther Lee** is from Korea and likes to read books. This is her first year at ASU and she is excited to make this our best year!

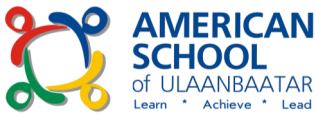
**Grade 2B Teacher Mr. Paul Fahidi** is originally from the United Kingdom and has taught there and in Canada as a homeroom elementary teacher. He has also taught English language in Japanese junior high schools and in grades 1 to 3 in the Malaysian countryside.

**Grade 2C PA Ms. Kata** was born in and grew up in Khovd, an amazing tiny town in the west of Mongolia. For the past nine years she has lived in different places. She has been working with children since 2015 and loves learning together with the children.

**Grade 3A Teacher Ms. Kristina Hines** has taught grade 3 for a few years. She has taught in China, Kuwait and Venezuela. She is happy to be here and loves Mongolia.

**Grade 3B Teacher Ms. Lena Aaron** comes from Kenya. This is her fifth year of teaching. The last two years she worked in Yantai, China. She came to Mongolia with her husband and two children who are also at the school.

**Grade 5A Teacher Ms. Gill** is from Canada and has returned to Mongolia after a few years. She has been a teacher and principal at ASU for 5 years before. She has travelled to 120 countries in the world and loves reading and the dramatic arts.



Home of Future Leaders

## First Semester After School Activities kick off

A variety of exciting ASAs are being offered at the school this term. Mondays have Board Games, Spanish, Architect Club, Zumba, Yoga, Cooking Art, Cinema Club and lots more, and 249 students are participating. Wednesdays have Destination Imagination, Chess



Club, Arts and Crafts, Creative Writing, Reading and Writing and much more, and 241 students signed up. Swimming is offered both Mondays and Wednesday and we have 19 students on Monday and 20 students on Wednesday.



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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

### The following poems were written as part of the Writing Workshop After School Activity.

I wish

I wish I could fly

I wish I could touch the sky

I wish to steal Saturn's ring

I wish to have W motors

I wish to have the glass house

I wish to be very rich

I wish to be super intelligent

I wish to travel through time

I wish to rule the world

I wish to go to Neptune

**Deegii-5A**

I wish

I wish I could be good at writing

I wish I could fly

I wish I could have a phone

I wish I could visit beach

I wish I could have a cat

I wish I could be good at everything

I wish I could be invisible

I wish I could be a superhero

I wish I could have a whale

I wish I could be a fish

**Minseo-4C**

(ECE, from p. 2)

### Routines for the Early ages

Having a daily routine for the early age is one of the important things for growing children. In ASU, Pre-K and all the KGs keep their daily routines such as morning circle time, snack, outdoor play time, lunch, inquiry, and goodbye time, etc. Moreover, keeping these routines helps children to be healthy and happy, and most especially helps their physical/social developmental as well. Our students seem very comfortable for their daily routines in ASU, and it is getting better each day. In the end, it is always good to have a routine for anything in our life for children and students.