



The ASU Leader

Elementary Edition

Volume 1, Issue 8

April 2014

Upcoming Events:

- **May 16:** Spring Concert (Secondary School Auditorium)
- **May 21:** Last day for ASAs
- **May 24:** Open House
- **May 29:** Spelling Bee (Grades 2-5—Secondary School Auditorium)
- **May 30:** End-of-Year Awards Ceremony (Secondary School Auditorium)

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Elementary School Students Prove that 'ASU's Got Talent'



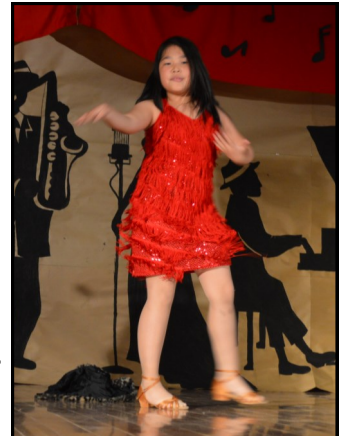
Anu (5A) took first place.

For the first year since the school has been presenting "ASU's Got Talent," the elementary and secondary school ran separate contests, which provided a better opportunity to showcase the talent at the elementary school level. After try-outs, rehearsals, and the final competition, the young students proved they were up to the

challenge. A variety of abilities were displayed, from dancing to singing to playing instruments. It came down to three different types of acts finishing in the top three spots. In first, from class 5A, was Anujin "Anu" Mendsaikhan, playing violin. In second, with their "cup song" performance, were the 3A girls, Anudari Esen, Amingoo



Girls from 3A finished in second place.



Munkule (4B) finished in third place.

Tsogtbayar, Bulgan "Bulga" Enkhjargal, Ebenezer "Ebe" Singo, and Sainaa Ganbat. In third place, performing several different dance forms, was Munkh-Uils "Munkule" Manlaibaatar from 4B. The competition was tough, with many other students turning in great performances.

Principal's Message

Parent Survey Shapes School Improvement Plan (Part 2)

This issue will address the second and third most common concerns on our school survey: homework and learning expectations. Our homework philosophy is different from that of the typical Mongolian school. As with Mongolian schools, homework is

assigned to help students develop study skills and achieve academic competency. However, the school day is shorter in a typical Mongolian school, so those schools normally require much more homework. Our students spend seven hours at school

(eight including after school activities), so although homework is an important part of the educational process, we believe that it is not necessarily the most important thing students should be doing after school. The (See **Survey**, p. 4)

Second Graders Learn About Families, Friendship, and Much More

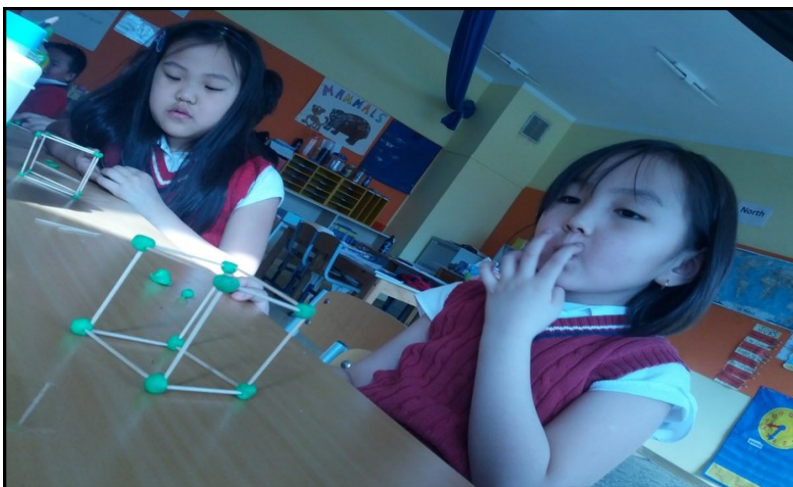
Grade 2A has had a fun and busy year! We've learned about so many amazing things. We have studied machines, animals, holidays, families, matter, wind, and water to name just a few. We have come a long way since August! This month we performed at our elementary assembly with 2B.

- Mr. Alward and Mrs. Urangoo

Grade 2B

As part of the Health Unit we are looking at friendship and what it means to be a good friend. When I asked the class they came up with four main ideas. Their main ideas were Caring, Encouraging, Sharing and Helping. We determined that we needed these four ideas to make friends and to keep friends. We made that into an acronym, C.E.S.H. friends.

We proceeded to make posters and a hallway bulletin board display. The ways we have been exploring these four main ideas is to be looking for C.E.S.H. during the day in ourselves and others. Then at the end of the day the opportunity



Nona and Goodali from 2A meet one of the math learning goals by making a 3-D cube.

is given to share with the class how C.E.S.H has been a part of our day or how we have seen it in others.



(Above) 2B displays their CESH project on the bulletin board. (Right) Students work together as they learn about friendship.



Everyday almost everyone has had stories! It seems like there is more unity within the class and at recess. Making friends, keeping friends and growing strong friendships is definitely a focus in 2B.

We all strive to be a C.E.S.H friend.

- Mr. McGregor and Ms. Ankha

Grade 2 curriculum expectations also include 'Understanding Matter and Energy: Properties of Liquids and Solids.' See p. 3 for their presentation on Matter during the school's monthly assembly.

ASU Students Perform Well Against Area Schools in Annual ACE Tournament



(Above) Ulemj (4B) and Tim (5A) both won several chess games to move up in the rankings, with Tim ultimately placing second in the tournament. (Below) Four ASU students compete in the finals for table tennis.



ASU students participated in the annual ACE Tournament sponsored by International School of Ulaanbaatar on April 18 and 19, competing in badminton, chess and table tennis. ASU's Temuulen "Tim" Munkhbaatar took second place in chess, and Nyamdorj Ganbaatar, Cade Turrell, Munkhsuld Byambatseren and Tulga Gankhuyag took first through fourth, respectively, in table tennis. The event offered a great opportunity for our students to meet and compete against several other international schools from Mongolia.



Grade 2 students demonstrate the properties of matter during the April Awards Assembly.



Grade 2 students sing a song about three states of matter during the monthly awards assembly.

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We're on the web!
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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

Around the School...



(Above) Recipients proudly display their awards for Student of the Month during our April assembly. (Right) Young performers wow the crowd during the annual 'ASU's Got Talent' event.



(Survey, cont. from p. 1)

purpose of homework assignments is to prepare students for new content, practice skills they have learned in class, or finish incomplete classrooms assignments. On average, students should be spending about 10 minutes per grade level (for example, grade 1 students should spend 10-15 minutes doing homework, grade 2 students 20-25 minutes, etc.). The time required, of course, depends on the student's level in that particular subject or skill. The homework may seem too easy for some students while it is quite challenging for others. We are introducing some new options to address that issue.

We introduced a new math program this year called *Everyday Mathematics*. It "emphasizes the application of mathematics to real-world situations" and "provides numerous opportunities for basic skills practice and review." We are looking at ways to offer more online support for students of different skill levels. We will also be offering an online re-

source called *Mathletics*. It contains more than 1,000 learning activities that respond to a student's individual strengths and weaknesses and provides instant feedback to students. Weekly reports are emailed to parents to keep them informed of their child's progress.

For reading, we will offer an online tool that has similar benefits. Raz-Kids offers hundreds of interactive, leveled e-books that test reading fluency and comprehension. Students will be able to practice reading anytime, anywhere.

For more information on *Mathletics*, visit <http://www.mathletics.com/>. For more information on Raz-Kids, visit <http://www.raz-kids.com/>.

These programs will allow parents to become more involved in the learning process, and they will offer more rigorous instruction for students who need more of challenge and additional help to students who struggle more. In short, they will address the concern about both homework and learning expectations.