



The ASU Leader

Elementary Edition

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2016

Upcoming Events:

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

Inside this issue:

Physical Education 2



The Arts 2



Library Updates 3

Around the School 4

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

ES Winter Concert showcases multiple cultures, talents

On December 8, we presented our annual 2016 Winter Concert at the secondary school Auditorium. The event featured 26 dance performances of all students from Pre-KG through Grade 5. Dances ranged from Salsa to Hip Hop, Modern dance, as well as Mongolian, Indian, Russian and a Santa dance.

(Clockwise) Grade 1C ballet Hungiin dance, grade 2C Hip Hop, grade 3C Tsereg dance.



See related stories on the ASU Arts program, pp. 2-4

Principal's Message

Holiday season highlights creative, healthy, lifelong learning

This month's newsletter highlights some of the more physical and creative aspects of our curriculum. Our curriculum states, "Students' health and well-being contribute to their ability to learn in all disciplines," which is why Health and Physical Education is integral to our students' success. Likewise, the "intellectual and emotional development of children is enhanced through study of the arts." We are proud to provide a well rounded education for our stu-

dents, and we will continue to seek ways to improve the opportunities to challenge our students toward more critical, creative thinking and involved citizenship.

As we enter the holiday season, I want to wish everyone an enjoyable, rewarding time with family and friends. Thank you for all you are doing to make ASU an exciting, vibrant place to educate our future leaders. Enjoy the holidays!

Physical activities also emphasize teamwork, socio-emotional health

Almost 100 students attended the Annual Dodgeball Tournament on Thursday, December 1st. It was an exciting tournament in which all students got a work out. Students did a great job displaying sportsmanship throughout the competition.



In PE, students have been busy having fun, improving skills and displaying sportsmanship towards all classmates. Students have been very successful in a large range of sport skills and movement patterns, and I am very proud of all the improvement and positive attitude my students are always striving for in all lessons. This year, hockey has been more widely incorporated in the curriculum and it has become one of the most popular activities.



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ES Arts involve variety of skills and encourage creativity, confidence

Music

In music class, the students practice and improve their sense of rhythm and beat. In doing so, they also practice math as the length of pitches are strongly tied to math. They analyze popular songs to differentiate beat from rhythm. They also receive aural training which enables them to recognize pitch contour. The kids learned about famous composers such as Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven. This month's featured composer is Niccolo Paganini who is also the best known virtuoso violinist in music history. The students also learn instrument families in the symphony orchestra as there are brass, woodwind, string, and percussion families. Some of the classes had a hands-on experience with a trumpet from the brass family. Brass family is explored during the months of December and January. To improve memory, and to expand their attention span the kids play music games in class which add fun and help them improve understanding the concepts taught in class.

Visual Arts

There's no doubt that the arts are fun for kids. Diving into those finger paints and making a beautiful picture to hang on the stairways or walls is just wonderful. But the arts also help kids develop on many fundamental levels such as Creativity, Confidence, Visual Learning, Decision Making and Focus. I am still extremely happy that our elementary school encourages students to do more arts.



(Above) ASU guard Tuguldur shares his trumpeting talents and explains parts of the trumpet to students and (left) music teacher Ms. Tina gives students a closer look. The students learn about a variety of instruments in their music classes.

(See **Arts** p. 3)

@ The Library

From December 12-16, everyone at ASU elementary participated in D.E.A.R. week. D.E.A.R. is an acronym that stands for Drop Everything and Read. It is a celebration of reading with the goal of encouraging independent silent reading, as well as reading for pleasure. It was wonderful to see our school come together to read, and it was also great to hear about the different books the students have chosen throughout the week. As the great Dr. Seuss once wrote, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." So, even



3B class participates in morning DEAR time.

though DEAR week is over, you don't have to stop reading! During the winter break, why not drop everything and read a good book.

(Arts, from p. 2)

The visual arts include a broad range of forms, genres, and styles that include the traditional arts of drawing, painting, sculpting, printmaking, architecture, and photography.

The visual arts curriculum is intended to help students develop their creativity, as well as the ability to communicate their understanding of the world around them through visual arts. In other words, the visual arts curriculum is based on the experience of art making.



KG students draw sun and moon with lines they just learned.

In this quarter we focused on working with colors, primary and secondary colors. Using primary colors and creating many different hues can help students identify colors and connect their feelings with colors. It is also amazing to see how kids are being incredibly creative when you



Watermelon Slices. 1st grade students practice their paint brush skill with water colors.

just direct them into certain ways of making arts.

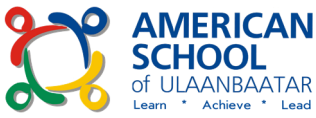
I would like to encourage parents to sit with your kids and have some quality time making arts. It can be anything – drawing, painting, sculpting or taking photos, and talk about it. I promise that it will boost your kids' confidence a lot.

Dance

During the first half of the school year, the main focus for 4th and 5th graders was the basic elements of the Modern Dance. The abstract movements in Modern dance use all the muscles in the body and show the inner beauty of the individual.

For Pre-KG and KG students, the primary focus is stretching and flexibility.

(See Arts p. 4)



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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

(Arts, from p. 3)



Grade 2 students develop patience and self-confidence through stretching exercises and dance routines in their Dance class.

Through learning stretching, students have been exercising patience and developing self-confidence.

In 1st and 2nd grade, students were introduced to Mongolian dance, along with body and space awareness. It helps students learn how to respect other students' personal space and establish personal boundaries.

According to the research, students who regularly taking dance classes also academically perform better than those who do not take dance.

Around the school...



(Clockwise from top left) Grade 2 students make Stone Soup as a culminating project for a book by the same name; 1C boys perform a Mongolian dance; students from grades 4 and 5 are masters of ceremony for the Winter Concert; Grade 4 students perform with colorful ribbons; grade 3 girls perform a Russian dance.

