



The Anderson Private School

NEWSLETTER

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"Sparks electric only strike on souls electrical alike. The flash of intellect expires unless it meet congenial fires." —

PERSPECTIVES

of Dr. & Mrs. Anderson

As the door of opportunity slowly closes for highly able children incarcerated in the public domain of education, another door is opening in the private sector. Private schools are islands of hope for children washed upon the shore by the countless waves of excessive zeal for so called "accountability", the latest fad, predicated upon the notion that minimum standards are for everyone.

This results in our brightest children becoming simply ignored. So much time and energy and resources are dedicated to the task of insuring that slow students master minimum skills, that there is virtually nothing left for those who need more than minimum expectations.

"Private schools are islands of hope . . ."

The ensuing neglect results in pure unadulterated boredom with very predictable behavior problems. Can you believe the inordinate attention paid to disciplining our best and brightest children? Is this picture hanging upside down on your wall?

So many children and their parents are bailing out, that the waters are full-private schools are bulging at the seams. Parents are totally frustrated and are giving in to exhausted teachers who demand that they run (or be driven if it's faster) to the nearest physician to beg

for drugs to make their child totally compliant and almost comatose - so that there can at last be "peace in the valley".

Or they drop out emotionally, mentally or physically. Or they, sadly, just give up on themselves, the system or their children, thinking that perhaps they, and their children, will just "survive" until they leave (or graduate from?) school.

But we must ask, "What is missing in this picture?" Isn't childhood supposed to be wonderful, exciting and full of joy - the real "Garden of Eden"? Isn't there supposed to be eager anticipation of what will be discovered in school today? Do we, as adults, not remember days spent looking forward to being with friends, having time for play, getting to do special activities, and discovering that learning can be fun?

Today when inquiring minds come to visit our school, they are surprised to find no abundance of concrete but rather a bumpy, gravel road leading to our small campus, which serves to remind us, as John Denver was fond of singing, "Life ain't no easy highway, just some gravel on the ground".

There are no windowless prison-like structures to house neat rows of artificially quiet and superficially compliant children. No silent classrooms and cafeteria. No teachers droning on and on with everyone on the same page and in the same book. No one is wasting childhood with sound-bites promptly forgotten.

- *Good behavior is the last refuge of mediocrity.* - (Henry S. Haskins)

IMPORTANT DATES

Mar. 24 (Sat.) Parker County Hamfest
 Mar. 26 - 30 Spring Break Holidays
 Apr. 12 Holiday (for Staff Development)
 Apr. 13&16 Good Friday/Easter Holidays
 May 7 - 11 Spring Adventure Trip

- *I wouldn't want to be normal even if I know what it is.* -

NEW STAFF

We are truly delighted that Michael Huber has joined us as a teacher and mentor. With a B.S. in Liberal Studies, his additional work in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A & M, where he served as a Soccer Coach, is impressive. His additional experience in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, computer programming and operating and electrical engineering, is adding depth and dimension to our curricular offerings.

Sharon Hase has joined us as instructor in computer science. She holds the B.S. degree in computer science and business from Texas A & M. Her practical experience in business and teaching will be a wonderful asset to our school.

In addition, we are proud to announce that Aaron Rivera, will assist as Spanish tutor while completing his studies. He is an accomplished actor/dancer with the Kids Who Care Theater School and is the Miracle Network Child for Texas.

- *Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.* -
 (Mark Twain)

- *What if the hokey-pokey
is what it's all about.* -

PERSPECTIVES, continued

Here you will find small, dynamic groups of children, learning, one-on-one, from adult mentors and learning from each other and, more importantly, learning by themselves - discovering how to become a truly autonomous learner.

There is lots of talk! The atmosphere is relaxed as we comfortably and constantly share, interact, plan, debate, and value ideas and each other, and nurture souls and spirits alike. Here children can always find someone to share with. You can even share your lunch with one of our animal friends, if you leave it unattended.

“ Here you will find small dynamic groups of children “

We know that when personal needs are met, then you can move to another level. Whenever children can be relieved of the artificial contrivances that induce high levels of stress, whenever they can realize that life can be simple, filled with love and full of joy, then they can truly learn - and not before.

- *In the province of the mind,
what one believes to be true
either is true or becomes true.* -
(John Lilly)

CRAZY CONTRAPTIONS

Five of our scholars were treated to four fun-filled days of learning in a special science class building crazy contraptions at the Health & Science Museum. Anderson School participants were Erin Jordan, Stuart Yancey, Nicholas Bauer, Chris Shelton and Julie Walters. A special thank you goes to the Museum staff for this marvelous opportunity.

- *Every man has one thing he can do
better than anyone else and usually it is
reading his own handwriting.* -
(Norman Collie)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

On February 22, our students again participated in a food drive and volunteer work at the Metroplex Food Bank.

We are dedicated to assisting others and, more importantly, enabling students by learning how to help others in need, through such programs as this.

If you can contribute through volunteer work, food drives, cash or in-kind donations please call 817-924-FEED. They have never had enough food for all who ask.

- *Events of the past may be
roughly divided into those
which probably never happened
and those which do not matter.* -
(W. R. Inge)

STUDY TRIPS OFFER VARIED OPPORTUNITIES

We savored another visit to the **Health and Science Museum** to participate in the exciting hands-on murder mystery exhibit, “Whodunit?” using scientific methods and technology to gather clues and evidence to solve a crime, soared above the Nile river, watched the pyramids rise and discovered Tutankhamun’s tomb in the breathtaking **Omni Theater** film, “Mysteries of Egypt” and viewed a fascinating and detailed tour of our “Dynamic Planets” along with an exceptional presentation on weather at the **Noble Planetarium**. Our younger scholars solved problems like a scientist using their own senses and thoughts in the hands-on ExploraZone.

Students completing their syllabus for the month were treated to a special afternoon visit to the Tarrant County **New Car Show**. The “Hummer” was the obvious favorite with the “Forty Nine” concept car a close second.

A special thanks to Dan Meeker, father of Taylor Meeker, for providing a fun filled and informative afternoon with the launching of various **Model Rockets**.

Students also enjoyed a day at **Six Flags Over Texas** savoring such exhilarating rides as the Texas Giant (Dr. Anderson did not survive this - services will be scheduled after we find the body!). Special thanks to chaperones Sheryl Jordan, Celeste Zapata and Julie Kline. Medals are to be awarded later.

Appreciation also goes to the **Texas Cattle Raisers Museum** for intriguing lessons on colonial education, technology and child rearing.

Our trip to the **Pate Museum of Transportation** proved to be informative and adventuresome. The best time was had aboard the tanks conveniently parked outside. Battles were won as imaginations simply went wild! Surveying the landscape through the World War II periscope was also exciting. Best of show awards go to the Shelby Mustang, the Pierce Arrow and the Delorian.

Students preparing for the technician class amateur radio license were treated to a trip to the **Weatherford Hamfest**. Thank to our dear friend, Frank Adams, for the arrangements and transportation.

- *The most important function
of education at any level is to develop
the personality of the individual
and the significance of this life
to himself and to others.
This is the basic architecture of life;
the rest is ornamentation
and decoration of the structure.* -
(Grayson Kirk)

CAMPUS VISITATIONS

Parents interested in visiting the Anderson School for the Gifted, Talented and Creative are asked to call 817-448-8484 or 817-294-8437 for an appointment. Campus tours and interviews are typically provided on Sunday afternoons. Please *bring* your child(ren) with you.

- *Experience
is the name everyone
gives to their mistakes.* -
(Oscar Wilde)