



The Anderson School

NEWSLETTER

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14900 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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Telephone (817) 448-8484 / (817) 294-8437

PERSPECTIVES

of DR. & MRS. ANDERSON

Integrity is forged hard from the cold steel hammer of truth and shaped in the formative furnace of childhood. Without the dynamic effects of the brutal yet comforting force of honest interaction and introspection, reality becomes highly relative and, consequently, subjects young decision makers to the illusion that there are shades of gray, when, in fact, the landscape of an ethical life is adorned with nothing but undeniable truth. And the acceptance of it brings clarity and simplicity to our living and liberates the conscience to truly enjoy our brief existence.

"Integrity is forged hard from the cold steel hammer of truth."

It is truth that becomes the most formidable weapon that parents and educators have in their arsenal with which to wage war on the many fronts of drug abuse, violence, cult and gang involvement, sexually transmitted diseases, bigotry, ignorance and poverty, to name a few.

To keep our children alive, thriving, and rooted in reality, they **must** be told the truth - uncut, clear, cold, consistent, concise and raw truth. In fact, when it comes to life threatening issues such as

AIDS, gang involvement and drugs, they literally need to be assaulted with the truth. Truths revolving around such issues must become the constant companion of the adults that children come to depend upon. For they cannot see clearly through the haze of myth, rumor, half-truth, doublespeak, manipulation, lies, indecisiveness and compromised ethics.

"When it comes to life threatening issues . . . they literally need to be assaulted with the truth."

If you do not have the courage to tell your children the facts that they need in order to survive, what makes you think that anyone else on earth will tell them. The hard and cold truth is: only a child's mother or father possesses the unconditional love that is essential to impart such vital information and tell it with absolute candor. Love is prerequisite to truth.

"Love is prerequisite to truth ."

Children harbor a deep but unexpressed longing for the strength, reassurance and comfort that a life anchored in truth provides. For truth truly does set one free - from fear, doubt, indecisiveness, ignorance, risky behavior and ridiculously complicated relationships that evolve out of mistrust. They have a genuine and often desperate need for the stability in life that honesty provides.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 1	First Day of the Fall Semester
Sept. 6	Labor Day Holiday
Oct. 11	Columbus Day Holiday
Oct. 12 - 15	Fall Adventure Trip
Nov. 22-26	Thanksgiving / Fall Break
Dec. 1 - 3	T.A.G.T. Conference
Dec. 20 - Jan. 4	Christmas Holiday

*- The head never rules the heart,
but just becomes its partner in crime. -
(Mignon McLaughlin)*

McDonald Observatory Trip

Our students spent the last week of April studying astronomy high in the Davis Mountains of far west Texas where we utilized the fantastic astronomical facilities of the McDonald Observatory, operated in conjunction with the University of Texas.

Our first night was spent at Monahans, where we played on the marvelous sand dunes. The sand was washed away with an evening of splashing and swimming at the motel. Then it was on to Fort Davis for lunch the next day. Arrival at the observatory was followed by a private tour of the complex, with a closeup look at the third largest telescope in the world.

Tuesday evening was truly enjoyed with a "star party" at which we were able to view numerous celestial objects looking through a variety of different telescopes.

McDonald Observatory cont'd

Our accommodations for sleeping were at the beautiful Indian Lodge nestled in the Mountains, where we were able to see javerlina, deer and a silver fox.

Wednesday evening was the highlight of our trip. We were able to spend four hours with several astronomers including Mark Wetzel (a graduate of U.T.A.) to discuss the very latest discoveries in astronomy. There were many questions and some startling answers. We were also able to view nebula through a gigantic telescope.

Thursday we departed for San Angelo and stopped at Angelo State University for a campus guided tour and a visit to their planetarium.

Our gratitude goes to Deborah Cagliostro for planning this inspiring trip, Frank Adams for his special support, and guidance and chaperones Mack O'Connell and Clarence Gross

Adventure trips provide our students with motivation and appreciation for all there is to see and learn in this fascinating world. They create opportunities to accept, trust, and share with each other. But more important, they let us know that the world is a big, beautiful and exciting place that has so much more to offer than we will ever have time to discover and enjoy. So . . . let's get going!

*- There is nothing so powerful as truth -
and often nothing so strange. -
(Daniel Webster)*

WEEKLY STUDY TRIPS

We have also been busy utilizing community resources with frequent study trips. This semester we received a special guided tour of the permanent collection at the Kimbell Art Museum, enjoyed a live production of "Godspell" at the Granbury Opera Theater as well as the Kids Who Care production of the Wizard of Oz at the Scott Theater, viewed the Disney Architecture exhibit at the Modern Art Museum, toured the Wax Museum and

Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, and enjoyed an evening at Bass Hall with the fabulous opera "Tosca" on stage.

Other special activities this semester included a delightful visit with Rob Garrett, who spoke about becoming a physician and attending medical school (Thank You Rob!), an enjoyable celebration of Cinco de Mayo - complete with cascarones (bird seed filled egg shells), delicious Mexican food and Erin Miller's birthday party at the home of Mike and Terri Miller (Thanks! We really enjoyed the pool), publication of the poetic collection of first works by Anderson School students - titled: "You Don't Have To Go There To Be There" (special appreciation to poet-in-residence David Wright), and great movie adventures including "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Star Wars - Episode I". Each student also completed sculptures and a prisma color drawing with the expert mentorship of artist Martha Spurlock.

*- Conformity is the jailer of freedom
and the enemy of growth. -
(John F. Kennedy)*

PERSPECTIVES, continued

But truth, to be a viable weapon, must first of all, be used. And when children confront parents with their fears, longings, misinformation, doubts or questions, regardless of the subject matter, our response must be immediate, reassuring and absolutely true. They must be told that, of whatever they ask, "I will always tell you the truth!"

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And don't wait for them to ask questions or only react to a crisis. Be proactive! Communicate with them each day. Take the initiative - bring up the subjects that you feel are of concern to them or yourself. *You ask the questions* and see just how well informed your children really are. You WILL be shocked. And after you recover, give them solid, reliable

information that corrects the misconceptions and then keep on talking.

Robert E. Lee became the most beloved general of the Civil War, in part, because of his reputation for being so honest. The truth, for him, became as important a weapon in his arsenal as any other. It emboldened and empowered both him and his men. And it can do the same for you. Whenever children realize that you will discuss any topic with them in a direct and absolutely honest manner, it will open up doors of trust.

Reward them for truth, praise them and extend and elaborate on their words spoken in truth. Discuss the full impact of truth, not only upon facts recited, but more important, discuss how others felt about them whenever truth was the hallmark of their relationship with them.

Remember that frank discussion is a normal part of maturing. If you do not provide the time, candor and courage to impart information to your children, *someone else will*. And you may never know what your child has been misinformed about.

The complex and varied stages of denial exhibited by some parents lead them to refuse to confront the truths about their children, their relationship with their children or themselves. And many parents do not exhibit the courage to wage war with a foe that evolves and can ultimately come to be identified with themselves. But if parents do accept truths about themselves, their children and the real dilemmas that confront them, they will see that the first battle in the war to save our children has already been won.

And for the next battle, we have a plan. It is simple, direct and straightforward. It is - to position ourselves, and our children, directly in front of all the evil in our lives, armored in confidence and vigorously welding the infinitely sharpest straight edged sword of all - truth, whose blade never dulls and whose assured victory is now and everlasting.

*- Pain is inevitable.
Suffering is optional. -*