



The Anderson Private School NEWSLETTER

© 2000 by The Anderson Private School for the Gifted, Talented & Creative (817) 448-8484 SUMMER
14900 White Settlement Rd., Ft. Worth, Tx 76108-9091 Web Page: <http://www.angelfire.com/tx3/asgt> e-mail: asgt@earthlink.net
"Sparks electric only strike on souls electrical alike. The flash of intellect expires unless it meet congenial fires." —

PERSPECTIVES of Dr. & Mrs. Anderson

We admit to being perplexed and, at the same time, a little saddened, when parents of newly enrolled students sometimes say, "There must be something wrong, my child is having too much fun! He (or she) now *wants* to go to school."

**"My child is having
too much fun!"**

And so we ask, "When did learning and happiness part ways"? A child doesn't start out on the pathway to knowledge joyless, morose and with pained expressions imprinted upon the brow. In fact, as we recall, we were thrilled whenever we learned something new. There was excitement, anticipation and real joy in the idea of going to school.

**"There was . . . real joy
in the idea of going to school."**

But schooling was coupled with plenty of time for play, lots of activity, good friends and genuine after school *fun* with baseball, scouting, riding bikes, hiking, swimming, playing games at the YMCA, fishing, watching television (Superman was great, wasn't he?) and peanut butter sandwiches with an ice cold coke (for a nickel!).
(continued on page 2)

*- The only good teachers for you are
those friends who love you, who think
you are interesting, or very important,
or wonderfully funny. -*

(Brenda Ueland)

OKLAHOMA CITY TRULY MEMORABLE

It is difficult to say what our favorite destination was during this semester's adventure trip. Many students felt it was the day spent at the Kirkpatrick Center, which houses several museums under one roof including the **Omniplex Science Museum**, featuring numerous exhibits that encourage touching and exploration, the **Planetarium**, the **Photography Hall of Fame**, the **Center of the American Indian** and the **Air Space Museum**, in which some of our students undertook training in authentic World War II simulators for fighter pilots.

We were also inspired by an afternoon at **Indian City, USA**, where we toured the shelters and structures typically built by various tribes that lived in the southwest. Our guide was knowledgeable and patient.

But the most memorable time came during an evening visit to the **Memorial** (Murray Federal Building) honoring victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. It was an emotional experience for everyone.

Our appreciation goes to Stacey Crane, Ky Cleveland and Celeste Zapata, our wonderful chaperones, and dear friend Frank Adams, chief navigator (which way did they go?). Ky was the brave roommate of the night owls, (staying up late to watch movies and play games is now an Anderson School tradition).

*- We cannot cure
the world of sorrows,
but we can choose
to live in joy. -*

(Joseph Campbell)

IMPORTANT DATES

September 1	First Day of Fall Semester
September 4	Labor Day Holiday
October 9-13	Fall Break Holiday
October 16-20	Fall Adventure Trip
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 18-Jan. 3	Winter Break Holiday

*- Likely as not, the child
you can do the least with
will do the most
to make you proud. -*

(Mignon McLaughlin)

NEW WEB SITE

Our own Annie Anderson has done a remarkable job in creating a web site with information about the Anderson School. It includes general information, newsletters, admissions, curriculum, the 2000-01 calendar, uniform requirements, the school supply list and other interesting features.

You can also view photographs of the school featuring classroom activities, student projects and pictures taken during weekly study (field) trips and adventure (overnight) trips.

Our new web site can be accessed at <http://www.angelfire.com/tx3/asgt> or e-mail us at asgt@earthlink.net. We look forward to hearing from you.

*- Little seedlings never flourish
in the soil they have been given,
be it ever so excellent,
if they are continually pulled up
to see if the roots are grateful yet. -*

(Bertha Damon)

- The test of a good teacher
is not how many questions
he can ask his pupils
that they will answer readily,
but how many questions
he inspires them to ask him
which he finds it hard to answer. -

(Alice Rollins)

PERSPECTIVES, continued

At the Anderson School, we use gastronomic treats to motivate those who complete assignments, display courtesy or simply need something positive for a particular moment in life.

And wasn't summer the best time of all? This was when we *really* relaxed. (Notice that our school does not commence until September 1 - we reserve the entire summer for the *crucial* role that it plays in child development.)

This is time well earned and well spent and, in very significant ways, more valuable than time spent in school. After all, a child's work is play.

Toddlers naturally want to learn. They truly enjoy learning to walk, to talk and especially to play. And, as they grow older, parents learn to reward them with affection, toys and time for play.

**"... a child's work
is play."**

But at some point, even though precocious children innately want to excel, the instinctive desire to learn is squelched. We take away the toys, the play, the activity (the fun things) and then structure *everything*, knowing that we are *not* capable of fully understanding how the human mind functions.

So rather than allow for a *natural* interplay of enjoyment and learning, which fosters a healthy progression of mental and psychological development, most educational systems contrive highly artificial and extremely structured environments (typical classrooms) and fill them with children who are virtually

all the same age, regardless of interests or abilities, and strive to teach them all on precisely the same level (sixth grade math, etc.) and at the same pace, fully aware that the ability range of any class may vary from approximately first grade to high school or beyond.

Little wonder the ritalin is passed around like candy! Adults would also need to be drugged up under similar circumstances.

Robert Louis Stevenson wisely observed that, "There is no *duty* we so much underestimate as the duty of being happy." For truly effective living (and learning) our first duty to ourselves, our family and everyone else is to be happy!

**"Our first duty
to ourselves . . .
is to be happy!"**

Happiness is fundamentally, concretely and absolutely *essential* for a healthy mind. If you or your children are not happy, we suggest that you do whatever it takes to get there and stay there. For whatever you are getting out of life, if it does not include joy, the price you are paying is too high.

Yes, if it looks like our students are having a good time - *they are!* But as Albert Einstein was wont to say, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken *joy* in creative expression and knowledge."

**"Yes, if it looks
like our students
are having a good time
- they are!"**

So *relax* mom and dad. And remember, childhood is very brief at best and there is plenty of time to get stressed out and worry and work and generally become quite miserable - later in life.

*- All children are artists,
and it is an indictment
of our culture that so many
of them lose their creativity,
their unfettered imaginations,
as they grow older. -*

(Madeleine L'Engle)

STUDY / FUN TRIPS

We are blessed that our metroplex resources are so rich and varied and we plan to continue to mine these treasures as we travel in and around the area. This Spring we gathered to watch a magnificent Kids Who Care production of **A Midsummer Nights Dream**, stroll through the the intriguing artwork of the **Modern Art Museum** (with a delightful lunch at the **Backporch** eatery) and attend the 15th annual **Texas Storytelling Festival** in Denton. Each year the Festival brings the best professional storytellers from across Texas and the nation to share their tall tales, myths, legends and lies. (Did you know Tim McDermott's dad, Tom, is a professional storyteller?)

Also, we relished our visits to the **Titanic Exhibit** in Dallas, and the **Health & Science Museum**, taking in the **Omni Theater** movie "Dolphins", spending a day with animal friends at the **Fort Worth Zoo**, soaking up fun while **swimming** at Erin Miller's home to celebrate her birthday (thank you Mike & Terri), having a delightful time on the ice at **Skatin' Texas**, playing **laser tag** while celebrating the birthdays of Austin Heisch (thank you Harold & April) and Josh Kline (thank you Steve & Julie), and trying out the exercise equipment and games at **Fit and Trim America**.

And our scholars assisted the **Candle Lighters**, cancer family helpers, at Cooks Children's Hospital. Thanks to Mary Jane Garcia for the invitation to help.

*- Happiness is like jam -
you can't spread even a little
without getting some
on yourself. -*

CAMPUS VISITATIONS

Parents interested in visiting the Anderson School for the Gifted, Talented and Creative are asked to call 817-448-8484 for an appointment.

Campus tours and interviews are typically provided on Sunday afternoons. Please *bring* your child(ren) with you.