



# The Anderson School

## NEWSLETTER

- A publication of the Anderson Private School for the Gifted & Talented  
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### PERSPECTIVES

*of DR. & MRS. ANDERSON*

We recently purchased the movie video Contact, based upon the book by Carl Sagan, and starring Jodie Foster. Sharing it with our students is one of the activities that will prepare them for our adventure trip to the McDonald Observatory in April. The deep philosophical undertones the film generates coupled with inspirational by-products are decidedly topics of conversation.

As Norman Cousins has observed, "whether or not interplanetary communications ever materialize, an even more grandiose project awaits us. This is the need for human beings to communicate with one another, here and now." And this is precisely why projects such as this adventure trip are designed. Education relative to astronomy is the theme. But, communication is the real underlying goal. And not just with other people, but with ourselves - with the inner voice that drives us to excel and, more significantly, to imagine.

We recognize this as teaching to inspire and it is the singularly finest outcome of education. For once we truly inspire a child, we cannot stop that child from

learning. Inspired children devour every resource they can find on the topics of their new found passions.

**"Communication is the real goal . . . with the inner voice that drives us to excel - and to imagine."**

Our problem then becomes one of providing enough information to quench their thirst for knowledge. Once we cross over the threshold of inspiration we have truly touched the inner spirit. We have, essentially, made of a child whatever he or she is to become and unlocked the door to a future we cannot visit - even in our dreams. We have touched the future.

*- The most useless day is that in which we have not laughed. -*

### IMPORTANT DATES

Dec.21-Jan.5	Christmas Holidays
Jan.6	First Day of the Spring Semester
Jan.12	Inservice Training Day
Jan.18	Martin L. King Holiday
Feb.15	President's Day Holiday
Mar.15-19	Spring Break Holidays
Apr.2&5	Good Friday/Easter Holidays
Apr. 26-30	Spring Adventure Trip

*- Our future is built on the flow of on the flow of new ideas. -*

### TEXAS TECH UNIV. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OFFERED

The Anderson School, in conjunction with Texas Tech University, will be offering a high school curriculum accredited by the Texas Education Agency and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It is specifically designed for non-traditional students through distance learning.

The self-paced courses will be offered in print-based or Internet format and may lead to a diploma from the Texas Tech University High School.

*- When it comes to giving love, the opportunities are unlimited, and we are all gifted. -*

### WEEKLY STUDY TRIPS

Our weekly ventures into surrounding communities provides awareness and depth of study for our students. This semester our students have visited the The Brink of Modernism exhibit at the Kimbell Art Museum, The Texas Ranger Museum, participated in the Pioneer School at the Log Cabin Village, took a walking tour of the Historical Fort Worth Stockyards, studied the Artlinks curriculum in preparation for a visit to the Amon

Carter museum, viewed the special nocturnal animal exhibit at the Fort Worth Zoo, watched The Greatest Places at the magnificent Omni Theater, stargazed at the Nobel Planetarium (in preparation for our trip to the McDonald Observatory) marveled at the technological wonder (and aroma) of Mrs. Baird's Bakery, followed by an afternoon at the Botanical Garden and enjoyed a delightful afternoon at the home of one of our students (thank you Trevor and parents!)

Other cultural events included thoroughly enjoying Lebanonize cuisine and culture - including live belly dancing (thank you Marios Hedary, our dear friend and owner of Byblos Restaurant), witnessing the beauty of the ballet at the Will Rogers auditorium, and attending the thought provoking play, The Christmas Mysteries, at Stage West.

*- When we give of what we have,  
we are ready to receive  
what we really need. -  
(Douglas M. Lawson)*

## **FUN FOUND IN SAN ANTONIO**

Adventure trips are an integral part of our curriculum. And October found us southbound, again, for a fun-filled and enlightening week in San Antonio.

Accompanied by several adventurous parents (need I say brave). We began at the IMAX theater viewing The Alamo followed by the Texas Adventure (a multi-media presentation with holograms) and a tour of the Alamo. Dinner was on the famous Riverwalk followed by a private ride on our very own river boat.

The next morning found us at the Institute for Texas Cultures and the Witte Museum (the favorite stop for many of us). The afternoon was delightful as we viewed the Natural

Bridge Caverns and later dined at the Guadalupe Smoked Meat Company.

Wednesday's highlights included a walk in the Botanic Gardens and an afternoon movie at the unbelievably beautiful Majestic Theater with time for "spontaneity" as everyone enjoyed time to do as they pleased.

Our last day was filled with history (and herstory) as we toured Mission Espada, and dined and shopped at El Mercado.

Our gratitude goes to Deborah Cagliostro (Mrs. "C") for planning and coordinating this marvelous adventure. And thanks to Frank Adams, (our navigator and anchor) for your guidance and support. Our special appreciation also goes to Gordon and Nancy Marchant, June Roper, and Joni Moore.

These adventures provide our students (and parents) with opportunities to exhibit and engage in the life skills of acceptance, trusting, sharing, adapting, and creative problem solving.

Our next adventure trip is slated for late April as we head to far west Texas to spend a star-studded week at the McDonald Observatory.

*- Sanity is madness put to good use. -  
(George Santayana)*

## **WELCOME TO . . .**

**David Wright**, whose special appreciation for, and love of poetry will be shared each week (along with photography later in the year), **Clarence "Poppy" Gross**, who imparts his wonderfully unique discortations on philosophy, calculus, physics and other sciences and **Ben Stricklin**, resident ombudsman - meeting the ever varied and unpredictable needs of our students (and teachers) whatever they may wish to confabulate about, teaching life and study skills and giving direction to the

cooperative Texas Tech University distance learning program.

We sincerely appreciate these highly talented and gifted individuals sharing their unique abilities and passions with our students.

*- There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread. -  
(Mother Teresa)*

## **HOW WE DIFFER**

**[FROM OTHER SCHOOLS PART 10]**

Significant accommodations for gifted children include grouping (the most universally successful) acceleration, enrichment and counseling. The first three are, essentially, administrative. It is counseling, however, that is the most significant and far reaching and the most neglected. Children must have constant interactive dialogue with someone they trust and can depend upon to be honest with them. Someone they can ask any question of and expect a solid, reliable answer that cuts to heart of what is truly being sought. They need an adult friend that can listen without being judgmental, if needed.

This person, in whom trust is placed, is often a teacher. And if it is not, then someone else must be there for them. It is situations in which no one knew what was happening or what was really needed that often ends tragically or with deep regret.

At the Anderson School a concerted effort is made to build strong relationships with students (and parents) so that counseling becomes a significant factor in the learning process. Without substantive attention to the affective and emotional needs of children, academic endeavor may become a simple footnote in a long forgotten chapter of a misplaced life.

*- The fear of life is the favorite disease of the twentieth century. -  
(William L. Phelps)*