



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." (Hannah Moor)

PERSPECTIVES of Dr. & Mrs. Anderson

We are different, very different. And as we tell prospective parents, "Do not expect our students to be seated in neat, straight rows, quiet and submissive with only the occasional sound of a pencil hitting the floor to break the silence".

Our students are active, very active! And they are all over the place. You will find one in this room, three in the library, five in the dining room and others enjoying lunch in the play room, throughout the day. (We call it academic grazing.) And, yes, they are talking, for there is much to share and no hesitancy to share it.

"Do not expect our students to be seated in neat, straight rows, quiet and submissive . . ."

Learning frequently takes place in indirect and sometimes inadvertent ways. Among bright children, it may occur and you never know it happened. Peer teaching is highly focused and very motivational, but it cannot happen if children are kept quiet and not allowed to communicate.

They *must* interact, verbally and otherwise, in order to share information, validate their worth in eyes of friends and inspire each other with the knowledge they possess (the volume of which will astound you). Peer teaching is as powerful as peer influence, and we all know about that.

This is one reason the Anderson Private School not only permits, but fosters and

facilitates peer teaching with its concomitant lively discussions, debates and interactions.

"Peer teaching is as powerful as peer influence . . ."

We find our students grouping themselves according to interests and passions and frequently discover six or seven year olds interacting with much older teenagers (and sometimes teaching them). This is a normal, healthy grouping pattern - not an artificial one, based solely upon age.

Age, to a gifted child, is an meaningless concept. There are many ages: mental, emotional, physical, chronological and so forth. So if you imprison a child in a room with only chronological age mates, it deprives them of the wisdom of the ages (beyond theirs) and the pleasures of youth (the fun you can have with the younger or older at heart).

With so much time lost (we are talking about thirteen years) to the endless possibilities resulting from interaction with so many other age groups with differing interests and perspectives, we can only imagine what would have been, if our child had a broader horizon of opportunity.

Let's break the bonds that hold our children so tightly to customs and traditions that limit their potential. The classrooms of tomorrow can be as large as this planet and populated with such diversity that only the imagination can limit us.

*- Home is not where you live
but where they understand you. -
(Christian Morgenstern)*

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 18 - Jan. 3 Winter Break Holiday
Jan. 4 First Day of Second Semester
Jan. 15 Martin L. King Holiday
Feb. 19 President's Day Holiday
Mar. 12 - 16 Spring Adventure Trip
(New Orleans)
Mar. 19 - 23 Spring Break Holidays
Apr. 13&16 Good Friday/Easter Holidays

*- Think of the distressing contrast between the radiant intelligence of a healthy child and the feeble mentality of the average adult. -
(Sigmund Freud)*

FALL ADVENTURE TRIP INCLUDES NIGHT ON SHIP

The aircraft carrier, Lexington, became the most decorated carrier of World War II, and our students were thrilled to tour the ship and spend a night onboard. It was quite an experience!

Our Captain, Justin, was especially nice, providing a lengthy and detailed tour of the ship followed by really creepy ghost stories, (two brave young inductees returned early, "It was just too scary!").

And to top off the event filled evening, we had a fire drill, at 11:30 p.m. (Frank, our very own Navy veteran, didn't quite make that one. It was rumored he too eagerly slipped into his berthing compartment for a deserved good night's rest.)

In route to Corpus Christi, the class spent a night in San Antonio, touring the Alamo and spending the afternoon at the inspiring Witte Museum.

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*The soul is healed
by being with children. -
(Fyodor Dostoyevsky)*

FALL TRIP, continued

On the return trip, we stopped for an evening of swimming and shopping in Austin followed by a day which included a tour of the Capitol (thank you former State Senator Charles Shotz).

A very special treat for us was a fabulous lunch at the Austin Club, courtesy of Nancy Barker, grandmother of Matthew Levenson, who also arranged for our Capitol tour and informative stop at the Visitors Center.

A special thanks to our marvelous chaperones: Frank (Where did they go?) Adams, Tracy Herek, and Sheryl Jordan.

*- Parents can only give good advice
or put them on the right paths,
but the final forming of a person's
character lies in their own hands. -
(Anne Frank)*

OCTOBERFEST

We again enjoyed an exciting weekend introducing ourselves, our school and our animal friends, to so many people at the annual Oktoberfest celebration and fund raiser.

Our attractions this year included our button quail, several rabbits, Rocky, the goat, and one very tired rooster, who stayed atop his cage allowing everyone to pet him. (Getting pecked was nothing personal!)

Our special appreciation goes to Alex Anderson, T. J. Ware, Matt Roper, Ky (Come see our Goat!) Cleveland, Frank Adams, Matthew and Rhonda Burkhardt, Samantha and Tracy Herek, Julie and Dr. Diane Walter, Aaron River, Mary Jane Garcia, Erin and Sheryl Jordan, Taylor Meeker, Elsie Hally and Steve and Celeste Zapata.

Special appreciation goes to Ms. T. K. Dorsey and Kinderplatz for the invitation to participate

*- The reverse side
also has a reverse side. -
(Japanese proverb)*

ANDERSON SCHOOL OFF TO NEW ORLEANS

Plans are being made to travel to New Orleans in the spring. This one week adventure trip will be different - we will be leasing a bus and employing a driver so that the entire group can travel together.

*- At every step
the child should be allowed
to meet the real experiences of life;
the thorns should not be
plucked from the roses. -
(Elen Key)*

STUDY TRIPS OFFER VARIED OPPORTUNITIES

Our students enjoyed a visit to the Health and Science Museum to see a special exhibit on structures coupled with a thrilling Omni Theater Movie featuring beautiful Alaska.

In November, everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fun at Gameworks to celebrate the twelfth birthday of Samantha Herek. Special thanks to Tracy and Samantha. A great time was had by all!

A visit by Civil War reenactors was a special treat for everyone. The group drank camp fire coffee, ate hardtack and salt pork, and savored an authentic Civil War lunch. All of this, coupled with tenting by the old campfire, proved to be quite a memorable day.

Thank you Sheryl Jordan for organizing this truly educational experience.

Destination Imagination participants Alex Anderson, Samantha Herek, Julie Walter, Erin Jordan and Aaron Rivera

notably represented the Anderson Private School in preliminary competition. Two teams are being formulated to participate in a competition tournament in March.

Thanks to team managers, Sheryl Jordan and Dr. Diane Walter, for their efforts in getting our students ready for competition.

Our trip to Half-Price Books for an afternoon proved to be adventuresome. It is always interesting to see what our students discover in area bookstores.

Halloween was celebrated, in part, with a trip to the Palace of Wax and Ripley's Believe It or Not. Mrs. Anderson was so scared that Steven Zapata and Joshua Kline had to escort her through the really scary part of the exhibit. (Thaaaaaanks!)

And a delightful time was spent munching popcorn and watching the exciting new movie, "The Grinch".

Our students also enjoyed the Kids Who Care theatrical production of "The Littlest Angel" at the Scott Theatre. Two students, Blake Jung and Aaron Rivera, provided technical assistance for the play.

In addition, everyone savored a delicious Christmas lunch upon our return from the theatre. A special thanks to Mr. Lupe Zarate for his preparation of the turkey.

*- Unroof any house
and you must find there
confusion. -
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)*

CAMPUS VISITATIONS

Parents interested in visiting the Anderson Private 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.

*- Everything has been thought of before,
but the problem is to think of it again. -
(Goethe)*