

The Anderson Private School Newsletter

A publication of the Anderson Private School for the Gifted & Talented
14900 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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PERSPECTIVES of DR. & MRS. ANDERSON

*- Growing old is mandatory, but
growing up is optional. -*

There is nothing on earth more powerful than peer pressure. Nuclear fission, maternalism, logic, common sense, fear, the rule of law, punishment, an act of war, unconditional love, encouragement, hope, the threat of abandonment, reward and devotion all pale in comparison to the persuasive appeal of the need for acceptance by one's peers. It is such a pervasive and essential need, that what it inevitably evolves into is incomprehensibly powerful.

This overwhelming obsession is ultimately related to the will to survive and can be understood in that context. But it cannot be understood in comparison to, or in relation to, other seemingly powerful forces in the family, or on earth. And this includes the influence you may feel you have over your own children.

The mere suggestion of what to wear by someone's peer can, somehow, invalidate years of

logic, caring, guidance and trust. Such is the power of those from whom we seek approval.

The desire to be accepted by peers, to belong and to "fit in" with others, can and will take precedence over all other things, both real and imagined. The sooner parents realize this, the sooner they can skew the norm and plan for what is inevitable.

**"There is nothing on
earth more powerful
than peer pressure -
Nothing!"**

You cannot control a child's overwhelming impulse to be accepted. But there are variables you can control, to some degree, and one of these is, quite simply, exposure.

The values of those you wish your children to be exposed to can be focused. We call this guidance. Counselors have for many years suggested to parents that they monitor who their children are with. This is one of the key factors in selecting a private school. The peer group can, to a degree, be focused.

Rather than screening negatively influencing children "out" of a school through such means as expulsion, private schools can screen children "entering" their learning environments.

If you wish to exert some degree of control over the factor of peer pressure in childhood, look carefully at the body of students your child will be exposed to on a given campus. This may be the most timely and significant observation you make in your child's life. And it may ultimately be your only opportunity to exert significant control over the single most powerful influence your child will ever face. Bar none.

*-Sometimes we stare so long at
the door that is closing that we
see too late the one that is open.-
(Alexander Graham Bell)*

IMPORTANT DATES

Sep. 2 **Fall Semester Begins**
Oct. 13 Columbus Day Holiday
Nov. 19-21 T. A. G. T. Inservice
Nov. 24-28 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22-Jan.6 Christmas Holiday
Jan.6 **Spring Semester Begins**
Jan. 19 Martin L. King Holiday

- *The ability to work hard is, perhaps, the most valuable aid to success.* - (Theodore Roosevelt)

her fan mail to her while she lays on our lap (only pretending to be asleep). Her address is:

Buns von Anderson
Anderson School for Gifted
and Talented Rabbits and Kids
Department of Birds, Rabbits
and other strange creatures
14900 White Settlement Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76108

- *Work banishes three great evils:
boredom, vice and poverty.* -
(Voltaire)

HOW WE DIFFER FROM OTHER SCHOOLS [PART 6]

Was it that simple? We fondly remember when life was uncluttered, simplistic, uncomplicated and somehow, starkly real. When we had the time to study the clouds, marvel at the brilliance of the moon or truly enjoy the drama of the setting sun.

At the Anderson School, we value what is not demanded of ourselves, as much as we value what we require. Much of the day is left to the discretion and direction of the student.

When a daily syllabus is finished, students find they have the time to be alone, to wander the nature trail, to garden, to read or play a game or simply to relax. This is time well earned and time well spent.

Motivation takes time.

- *It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live.* -
(Marcus Aurelius)

STUDY TRIPS ARE PLANNED FOR FALL

Weekly study trips are integral parts of our curriculum. This Fall our students will be visiting the Monet exhibit at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fossil Rim, the Pate Museum of Transportation, Water Gardens, the Health and Science Museum and Omni Theater, the Fort Worth Zoo, State District Court (to observe a trial in progress), the Log Cabin Village, the Japanese Gardens, the C. R. Smith Museum of Aviation, the Fort Worth Library (and Tandy Subway), the Fire Department, the Food Bank, the U. S. Mint, the Ft. Worth Theater (to see "Of Mice and Men" and other plays) and some notable movies.

In addition, an adventure trip is planned for an overnight visit to the old west town constructed by artist and friend, Doug Prine.

- *Thinking will not overcome fear, but action will.* -
(W. Clement Stone)

DR. DAVID WELSH TO AID COMMITTEE

The Anderson School extends a warm welcome to child psychologist Dr. David Welsh. He will assist Dr. and Mrs. Anderson with the process of identification. Prospective students and their parents will visit briefly with Dr. Welsh in the process of assessment.

Dr. Welsh has a practice in Fort Worth and is author of the recently published book, The Boy That Burned Too Brightly.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE CLASSES OFFERED THIS FALL

Jim (J.R.) Ewing and Rick Vaught have graciously offered to teach Anderson students the lessons necessary to secure their amateur (ham) radio license. Classes will commence on September 5 and be offered 2-3 times each week from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Jim and Rick are also donating a base station and antenna so that students can get actively involved while at school. Alex Anderson is excited about this class and has busied himself (and others) building a radio shack. John Hammons (and dear old Dad) consented to build a room to house his new hobby. It is almost completed and rumor has it that it might house a periscope. (Thanks again, John!)

- *If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.* - (Henry David Thoreau)

BUNS IS BORED!

Our fine furry friend (and world famous rabbit) misses all her school chums and wishes to let them know that she is ready for school to begin. Not that she is ungrateful for the opportunity to frolic and have food fights with her feathered friends in the new aviary. But she is lonely.

So get those cards and letters headed her way. We read all