

The Anderson Private School

Newsletter

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

December 1997
Telephone (817) 448-8484

PERSPECTIVES

of DR. & MRS. ANDERSON

Academic freedom is quickly becoming a forgotten relic from the recent past. So much pressure has been exerted to compete with other highly industrialized nations that freedom is now endanger of disappearing from our academic institutions. Teachers are no longer trusted to impart the wisdom and knowledge of generations that have gone on before them.

It makes one wonder how our society has been able to survive so long without this obsession with assessment. Just how did our nation become the greatest on earth without an infamous statewide testing program? How could we send men to the moon and return them safely without mastering arbitrarily defined objectives? How did our economy become the barometer of the world? Do you think highly motivated teachers working in an environment of academic freedom had anything to with it?

Micro - management of the teaching / learning process, through an obsessive and punitive emphasis upon testing, has so narrowly focused the curriculum in this state, that academic freedom is now truly endangered. And freedom, to live, to worship, to work and to teach is, essentially, what this nation is all

about. If this nation is not about freedom, then it is about something antithetical to freedom - something we have witnessed in other nations with governments that have dictated what is to be taught.

**"And freedom...
is, essentially, what this
nation is all about."**

The notion that we can prescribe every facet of the learning process undermines critical considerations such as *teacher morale, the ability to recruit and keep quality teachers and the critical consideration of diversification of control over the curriculum.*

Teaching to nothing but a test places our civilization in a precariously dangerous posture. Control over this carefully orchestrated scenario can very easily fall into the hands of an individual or special interest group or movement that mindlessly or intentionally sets the nation on the path of degeneration or self-destruction.

When this happens, the fall of twentieth century Rome will become inevitable.

*-Children have more need of models
than of critics. -*
(Carolyn Coats)

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 22 - Jan. 6 Christmas Holiday
Jan. 6 *Spring Semester Begins*
Jan. 12 Inservice (Dr. Roger Taylor)
Jan. 19 Martin L. King Holiday
Feb. 10 Inservice
Feb. 16 President's Day Holiday
Mar. 1 *Deposit due for 1998-99*
Mar. 16 - 20 Spring Break Holidays

*- Teaching children to count is fine,
but teaching them what counts
is best. - (Bob Talbert)*

TRIP TO PRISON TOPS THE LIST

Of all the memorable study trips taken by our students each week, the most impressive was one taken to a prison in Mansfield. We were able to visit with prison authorities and several prisoners, who shared their stories of so many years of life lost (in prison) due to the lack of ability to control anger, use good judgement or live a moral life. A central theme to most of them was their use, abuse or sale of illegal drugs. Our sincere gratitude goes to Deborah Cunion for arranging a meaningful trip.

*- When someone gets something
for nothing, someone else gets
nothing for something. -*

WE HAM IT UP!

Jim (J.R.) Ewing (KM5JK) is as "proud as a peacock" after successfully teaching our students what they needed to know in order to become licensed amateur (ham) radio operators.

The school now has its own ham (radio) shack and can boast of having the highest percentage of hams in any school in the area.

The following call signs have been assigned by the Federal Communications Commission:

Alex Anderson	KD5CUS
Annie Anderson	KD5CUK
Dr. Anderson	WD5BYM
Mrs. Anderson	KD5CUR
Tim McDermott	KD5CQU
Elizabeth Endsley	KD5CUN
Margaret Marchant	KD5CVV
Aaron Rivera	KD5CUT

Congratulation also go to members of the Hester family, who studied with our students, and other passing the exams:

Gerald E. Bradley	KC5YSW
Jordan Hester	KD5CUP
Melinda Hester	KD5CUL
John R. Hester	WA5FLZ
Judy G. Self	KD5CUO

Completion of the requirements for an amateur radio license fulfills several basic goals of the school philosophy which include enrichment activities designed around real life experiences and activities that become lifetime learning (licenses may be renewed every ten years and used for life).

Our students will be monitoring Duplex (Repeater) 145.370 MHZ or may be found on Simplex 147.450 MHZ. So call us and ham it up!

Our sincere gratitude goes to Jim Ewing for his encouragement, patience, support and never ending optimism. He has set a wonderful example, both as a teacher and very special friend.

A special thank you goes to Frank Adams (KC5WFR) of White Settlement, John and Barbara from Clifford Technical (NK5K), Fred Smith (KC5UDS), Larry (W5OYS) of Trinity Radio Service, Chester Agan (KJ5FD), Bill Salthouse (AD5LZ), Charlie Douglas (K5ZRB) and John Hester (WA5FLZ) of Radio Shack (Benbrook Store).

They have made very special contributions to our students in many ways that are too numerous to mention.

And special recognition goes to Jordan Hester (KD4CUP) for becoming what we believe is the youngest Technician Class operator in the United States. Jordan is all of seven years old.

- Often the best way to win is to forget to keep the score. -
(M. E. Murphy)

E-MAIL US TODAY

Our students are now ready, able and anxious to receive your e-mail messages at the following e-mail addresses:

Alex Anderson: moe148@juno.com
Annie Anderson:
bobrocks1229@juno.com
Cameron Union: toodles16@juno.com
Aaron Rivera: taz536@juno.com
Margaret Marchant: leia34@juno.com
Tim McDermott: uketeller@aol.com

- Success is getting what you want. Happiness is liking what you get. -
(H. Jackson Brown)

HOW WE DIFFER

FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

[PART 7]

Placing an emphasis upon lifetime skills and knowledge is one of our top priorities. We structure many facets of the curriculum with an "real life" experience in mind.

Our music program requires each student to study at least one instrument. But more importantly, that instrument must be approved by Mrs. Anderson. The emphasis is upon learning to play an instrument that can reasonably be assumed will be enjoyed for the remainder of a person's life. We do not conjure up notions that students should expend considerable time and waste their talent learning to play a bass drum, tuba or bassoon, for the sake of a school band program or team.

Lifetime entertainment skills are emphasized in lieu of overly competitive sports programs, in which the image of the school may take precedence over the long-term, lifetime needs and desires of the student.

Academics are aligned with the latest research on what students will actually need in order to be competitive and function in our society. This is one reason we employ such components as Cultural Literacy and the Core Knowledge Curriculums of E. D. Hirsch.

- The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt. -

(Bertrand Russell)

CAMPUS VISITS

Parents interested in visiting the Anderson School for the Gifted and Talented are asked to call 817-448-8484 or 817-294-8437 for an appointment. Campus tours are typically provided on Sunday afternoons. Please bring your child(ren) with you.

- People do not understand the importance of failure in achievement. We have to be willing to risk failure. There is no way we can realize our full potential unless we have failed so many times that eventually we learn the lessons necessary for us to go on to our great achievements. -

(Brian Tracy)