



The Anderson Private School

NEWSLETTER

© 2000 by the Anderson Private School for the Gifted & Talented
14900 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76108-9091
Sparks electric only strike on souls electrical alike. The flash of intellect expires unless it meet congenial fires. (Hannah Moor)

Spring
ASGT@earthlink.net / (817) 448-8484

PERSPECTIVES of Dr. & Mrs. Anderson

Hearing in the news that so many bright, young people are in prison or addicted to alcohol or other drugs, leaves us to wonder, "What went wrong?" It leaves their parents thinking the same thing.

A mother remembers her young child at play, always loving and anxious to be good. So how could this precious life, so beautiful and positive and full of promise, now be, essentially, over?

The answer may be related to peer influences, inadequate supervision, poor relationship skills, and so forth. But there is a bottom line. Every time someone pulled the trigger, got behind the wheel intoxicated, or agreed to be manipulated by someone - a decision was made.

That person engaged in the process called thinking. A decision was theirs to make and it was wrong. And the consequence now places their life in the hands of others who must make decisions - regarding what happens to them! This individual is no longer in control of his or her life and has forfeited the precious gift of freedom.

... there is a bottom line.

Every time someone pulled the trigger ... a decision was made.

Parents agonize over what was going on in the mind of their child to permit such poor decision making - for parents also become victims of the poor judgment of their children.

So today we ask - do you *seriously* discuss violence and substance abuse with your child? Do you want your child to think about these things now or after he or she is sentenced?

Parents also become victims of the poor judgment of their children.

It brings to mind the bumper sticker that simply says, "All smokers quit!" Children *will* think about their actions. They can, with your help, think about them today or they can think about them behind bars or in a rehab unit tomorrow.

At the Anderson School we demand that children think. We insist that it be an everyday, constant, ongoing occurrence. We confront even our youngest pupils with the real-life problems people face today. We analyze their deductive reasoning and their conclusions.

We analyze their deductive reasoning and their conclusions.

We take a close, introspective look at what is happening in the lives of others and ask our pupils, "What would your decision have been? Why? Explain yourself! What alternatives did this person have to solve this problem or meet this need? Think! What else could *you* have done? Defend your decision! List more options. Choose one. Choose another one. Think again!

(continued on page 2)

*- Never be afraid
to try something new,
Remember amateurs built the ark -
professionals built the Titanic. -*

IMPORTANT DATES

Mar. 13 - 17 Spring Break Holiday
Apr. 21&24 Good Friday/Easter Holiday
Apr. 25 - 28 Spring Adventure Trip
(Oklahoma City)
May 5 Cinco de Mayo Holiday
May 25 Last Day of Spring Semester

*- We don't know one millionth
of one percent about anything. -
(Thomas A. Edison)*

ANDERSON ACCEPTS 5 YEAR OLD SCHOLARS

The Board of Directors has approved the admission of five year old students. They must meet the admissions criteria of the school and have the approval of the campus director. Parents interested in enrolling a child this age should contact LeVonna Anderson (817-448-8484). She will be happy to discuss qualifying for the program and other considerations.

*- They say that what you don't know
won't hurt you - and some of us
haven't felt a twinge of pain in years. -
(Fletcher Knebel)*

LISA EVON CONDUCTS NEW AEROBICS CLASS

Our psychomotor needs are being addressed with the addition of a new aerobics class conducted in the Frank Adams Learning Center. We are getting in shape while having a great time. You should see Mrs. Anderson disproving the old theory that it can't be done in a dress.

*- Children are made readers
on the laps of their parents. -
(Emilie Buchwald)*

- Educators should be chosen not merely for their special qualifications, but more for their personality and character, because we teach more by what we are than by what we teach. -

(Will Durant)

PERSPECTIVES, continued

Ralph Waldo Emerson posited, "What is the hardest task in the world? To think!" Most children do not realize that thinking is *hard* work. It is a difficult and unceasing quest for truth. And the truth is not always what it seems to young, inexperienced minds who do not take the time and energy required to process thoughts and make good decisions.

As Louise Dudley phrases it, "*Thinking is the hardest work in the world; and most of us will go to great lengths to avoid it.*" But thinking is required to survive. And decisions are generally better if hammered on the anvil of open, honest, and sometimes fiery deliberation with other mature people. In this forum one can more easily focus upon and clarify the illusory aspects of the processes of thought.

What is the hardest task in the world? To think!

If left to the isolation and solitude of one young mind alone, it may not dawn on that child that someone else may be thinking *for* him or her or that a third personality has been formed from two or more people being together and "it" is making the decisions that neither person would make on his or her own.

So *talk to you children*, be inquisitive and share your thoughts. Let them know just how human you really are. Express your joy in having time to spend with the children you love so deeply that you are willing to become vulnerable, to open up and recount the hard lessons you learned.

They desperately want you and *need you* to talk about everything, especially your life and the life you envision for them.

So give them what they truly need. Give them the heart and soul of who you are and why you do what you do - for them.

Give them what they truly need. Give them the heart and soul of who you are . . .

The time you spend sharing the funny things that have happened, admitting your mistakes, imparting your values and spinning your dreams - you will never regret and they will never forget. These precious moments are a missing elixir to the toxic times we live in. Simply put, you are the cure to what ails them. And there is no substitute for the real thing.

Simply put, you are the cure to what ails them.

Your time together will weave itself into a life filled with poignant, powerful messages and memories of you - time that ripens into the fruit of what one day your children will see as simply the love you held for them. And on that clear day they will see forever.

- At its best, schooling can be about how to make a life, which is quite different from how to make a living. -
(Neil Postman)

CIVIL WAR REINACTORS

We were delighted recently to have a visit from several Civil War reenactors. They shared their enthusiasm and love of history with our students.

Among the artifacts they brought with them was an authentic civil war rifle and bullet. And a civil war era tent was pitched on the lawn in front of the school so everyone could get a feel for the meager accommodations many of the soldiers were provided with.

Our special thanks to Sheryl Jordan for arranging this wonderful visit.

- The true test of intelligence is not how much we know how to do, but how we behave, when we don't know what to do. -
(John Holt)

WINTER SOJOURNS

Our students have enjoyed more ventures into the fabulous resources of the metroplex. These included another visit to the History & Science Museum, the Omni Theater to view the spectacular and breathtaking film, "The Great Migration", a fabulous hands-on day at the Science Place in Dallas (we could have spent several days and are planning a return trip), a guided tour of the Botanical Garden Conservatory to witness the beauty and mystery of 6,000 fluttering tropical butterflies from Costa Rica and viewing the amazing Walt Disney production of "Fantasia 2000".

And we laughed until it hurt at the remarkable Pulitzer Prize winning production of, "You Can't Take It With You" at the new Sage and Silo Theatre (special thanks to John Templin, Co-Director for making this possible).

- The poorest education that teaches self control is better than the best that neglects it. -
(Dorothy Nevill)

CAMPUS VISITATIONS

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

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

- The hearts of small children are delicate organs. A cruel beginning in this world can twist them into curious shapes. -
(Carson McCullers)

