



The Anderson Private School

NEWSLETTER

© 1999 by the Anderson Private School for the Gifted & Talented
14900 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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Telephone (817) 448-8484 / (817) 294-8484

PERSPECTIVES of Dr. & Mrs. Anderson

"I have never found a child I could not help - only parents." This sad but true commentary is often a byline of Mrs. Anderson.

I have never found a child that I could not help - only parents.

Parents of precocious children frequently call to solicit help with a child in sufferance of emotional, attitudinal or psychological maladies. Parents who are frequently desperate for rapid, dramatic improvement and at the same time (and almost in the same breath) wanting us to conform to the same set of tired and worthless expectations to which they have become habituated.

It is difficult to impossible to breath new life into a burned out child when parents refuse to concede that educational strategies previously employed simply will not work again. Parents who insist on tons of homework, punitive grades (ostensibly to motivate), redundant busy work to "plug the gaps" in their child's education, and business as usual are knocking on the wrong door. If inappropriate strategies such as these were truly effective, they would not be searching for help.

Gifted children are different. Very, very different. They are far more intelligent that we can ever truly comprehend and numerous other differences can outweigh even this distinction.

But, they will try very hard to please their parents and teachers, as they plod along through the drudgery of seemingly endless and meaningless assignments while seated in neat, straight rows, almost motionless, hour after hour.

Gifted children are different. Very, very different.

They will appear, for a while, to be fairly content. Until a day arrives when their courage and frustration combine to become equal to or greater than their mental anguish or psychological pain.

Then the "symptoms" start to appear. And they are so varied, and sometimes so extreme, that parents "blame" their child or are at a total loss to understand what is happening. "*They haven't a clue*", as the child victims of such happenstance are wont to say.

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Since such dynamic and diverse intellectual and emotional needs are not being met, in order to survive a child may be forced to alter the familiar landscape of their relationships and attempt to level the intellectual playing field. And you, as a parent, may encounter a newly evolved personality that now dictates the parameters of a whole new game of life. And you didn't even know the rules had changed.

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- What would I do
today
if I knew
I could not fail? -

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 20 - Jan. 4	Christmas Holiday
Jan. 5	First Day of the Spring Semester
Jan. 17	Martin L. King Holiday
Feb. 21	President's Day Holiday
Mar. 13 - 17	Spring Break Holiday
Apr. 21&24	Good Friday/Easter Holiday
Apr. 25 - 28	Spring Adventure Trip

- One word frees us
of all the weight and pain of life:
That word is love. -
(Sophocles 406 B.C.)

ANDERSON SCHOOL ON "Good Morning Texas"

We were excited to spend several hours with the producer and cameraman of Channel 8's *Good Morning Texas*. The program aired Nov. 12 and featured Josh Kline and Erin Miller.

A special thanks to Julie Kline for her wonderful interview and to Dr. David Welsh for his kind consideration. Appreciation goes to all of our students for their outstanding work with Channel 8. It proved to be a marvelous learning opportunity for everyone.

- Nothing is more common
than unfilled potential -

OCTOBERFEST

We enjoyed a fun filled weekend introducing ourselves, and our animal friends, to so many children and parents at Octoberfest. The "Stars" of the show included our pair of button quail, Rocky the goat, and one very tired and much loved (and rubbed on) white rabbit. (And now - a proud mother!)

Our thanks to Alex and Annie Anderson, Ky (Come see our Goat!) Cleveland, Frank Adams, Vanda, Gavin and Trevor Trietsch and Celeste and Steve Zapata. Special appreciation goes to Susan Wade and Kinderplatz for inviting us to participate in this delightful time.

- Without this playing with fantasy no creative work has ever yet come to birth. The debt we owe to the play of imagination is incalculable. -

(Carl Jung)

Parents who do not provide for the needs of such children may unleash an atomic capacity for tragedy upon themselves or others, resulting in the tremendous waste of an awesome potential for good.

Our communities and our country desperately need the intellectual strength, curiosity, creative insight and capacity for great good that can come from these children. We must not waste a single child whose contribution to our future cannot even be imagined.

We must not waste a single child . . .

If your child cries for help, let those tears moisten the fertile ground of your resolve, in which you firmly plant the imagined future that can be theirs.

- No man is a failure who is enjoying life. -

(William Feather)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our secondary students were privileged to assist the Goodfellows as they prepare to help people in need. Our gratitude goes to our dear friend, Mary Jane Garcia, for providing this opportunity for our students to assist others. Community service is an integral part of our curriculum.

- You don't make a place in the sun for you by sitting in the shade. -

WEEKLY TRIPS

Our Fall adventures find us visiting the History & Science Museum, Cook Children's Hospital (to visit fellow student Aaron Rivera), Skatin' Texas (twice), the Fort Worth Theater to see "The Grapes of Wrath", the Scott Theater for the Kids Who Care production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and Gameworks for a fun-filled day (thank you Tracy and Samantha Herek).

- Can success change the human mechanism so completely between one dawn and another? Can it make one feel taller, more alive, handsomer, uncommonly gifted and indomitably secure with the certainty that this is the way life will always be?

It can and it does. -

(Moss Hart)

NEW STAFF

We are proud to announce outstanding additions to our teaching and mentoring staff. Ky Cleveland and Julie Almendral have quickly become two personalities that students (and staff) look forward to seeing.

Ky is a highly experienced and respected actor in community theater. He works extensively with higher level thinking skills activities and games, as well as drama.

Julie utilizes her extensive overseas travel experiences and teaches Italian (with a pragmatic emphasis upon conversational skills) and art.

- Happiness consists in activity: such is the constitution of our nature.

It is a running stream, and not a stagnant pool. -

(John M. Good)

CAMPUS VISITATIONS

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.

- Attachment is the great fabricator of illusions; reality can be attained only by someone who is detached. -

(Simone Weil)

PERSPECTIVES, continued

The distraught parent or teacher reaches for the Ritalin, frantically calls the psychiatrist, unloads unbelievable scenarios on equally surprised friends and neighbors, or searches for solutions in school after school. And these patterns seem to be repeated over and over until the child (or parent) drops out physically, psychologically, emotionally or in some other way.

The tremendously powerful psyche of this gifted child harbors such an unbelievable innate potential and yet it is never harnessed, never fully recognized and never adequately addressed. And ultimately this explosive child leaves us, in one way or another.

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He or she may drift though life and do no harm (or good). Or possibly conjoin with a persuasive personality who recognizes the potential and puts it to work for the benefit of his/her self, gang, extremist group or malevolent enterprise. Discovering a truly gifted individual adrift in the stream of life is akin to finding pure gold. And some people are actively mining our rivers of discontent.

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