



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

At the recent convocation of the Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented in San Antonio, the most memorable presenter was Tryone Williams.

His workshop was about Successful Test Taking Strategies, but it focused upon the REAL issue of self-esteem that must be addressed prior to any meaningful strategies to improve performance. His powerful thoughts cut to the heart of what this school and its philosophy is all about.

If students don't believe in themselves they cannot possibly do well on tests or on anything else in life. But can you get children to believe in themselves? His story is a classic!

" If students don't believe in themselves, they cannot possibly do well on tests or on anything else in life. "

Tyrone, an African-American from an all black family, grew up in a small, southern all black town. And, as a child, his family had him believing that once each year, a large white man in a red suite would come down the chimney and, because this was America, give him anything he wanted. A WHITE man!

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- Much education today is monumentally ineffective. We are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants. -

(John W. Gardner)

STUDY TRIPS

The highlights of this semester included a delightful day in Waco, Texas, we were treated to a special tour of the Armstrong-Browning Library, housing the collected works and artifacts of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Our visit was highlighted with a private tour of the magnificent parlor of Elizabeth Browning. And while there, we were given a special performance of the Baylor Choir, which included the first performance of a new composition. We also enjoyed a leisure afternoon at the famous Texas Ranger Museum and had fun dining at a Pizza Hut.

The student body spent an informative afternoon at the Log Cabin Village where we were introduced to stories of the intriguing past of area pioneers, some of whom led lives that were quite sensational, even for our time.

The Fort Worth Nature Center proved to be quite a surprise and mother nature cooperated in giving us beautiful weather. Our tour guides were most informative.

During our trip to the Museum of Science & History we viewed the special "Magic" exhibit along with the Omni theater presentation, "Caves" and were treated to an informative Planetarium program.

A special thank you to Tracy Herek for a fun filled afternoon at Lazer Tag where we celebrated the birthday of Samantha Herek.

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- There is nothing more powerful than ignorance, not even intelligence. -

(Lillian Smith)

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 7 First Day of Second Semester
Jan. 21 Martin L. King Holiday
Feb. 18 President's Day Holiday
Mar. 18 - 22 Spring Break Holiday
Mar. 29 & Apr. 1 Good Friday/Easter
May 20 - 24 Spring Adventure Trip
(McDonald Observatory)

NEW MEXICO ADVENTURE

We plan week-long adventure trips each semester for the excitement and anticipation of travel, the fun of good fellowship and the pure joy of discovery.

And found all of these in southeastern New Mexico this Fall, as we went in search of U. F. O. 's, rode the waves of pure white crystalline sand, wound our way through the crevasses of mountain passes and tunnels and spelunked the depths of Carlesbad Caverns.

Our favorite stop was at the White Sands National Monument. After a Park Ranger orientation and an informative film, students purchased plastic sleds (and other souvenirs) from the gift shop and we headed for the dunes. Following more than two hours of sledding, sliding and rolling in the sand, everyone was exhausted and ready to roll. (see page 2)

- The first idea that the child must acquire, in order to be actively disciplined, is that of the difference between good and evil; and the task of the educator lies in seeing that the child does not confound good with immobility, and evil with activity. -

(Maria Montessori)

- Knowledge which is acquired
under compulsion
obtains no hold on the mind. -

(Plato)

PERSPECTIVES, continued

Now, if his parents could have him believe that, and believe it for many years, he said he could believe in a-n-y-t-h-i-n-g. He could even believe in himself. And once he did that, he could do anything and be anything he truly desired. His successes, including graduating from M. I. T., are a testament to that belief.

And this is our conviction - that learning is not really important if a child's self-esteem is so low that he or she wants to be anywhere but where they are.

But getting children to believe in themselves, to know deep in their hearts that they are unconditionally loved, that they are cherished above all other things, and that we believe in them, is not easy. For they must honestly come to know that we, as parents and teachers, will bear any burden, travel any distance or alter any landscape to get them to that inspiring and exhilarating place in life where they can finally have the inner peace that comes from believing in themselves.

**“ . . . they must honestly know
that we . . . will bear any burden,
travel any distance or
alter any landscape . . . ”**

How children esteem themselves and others has far greater value than anything to be possessed or any subject to be studied or anything else the family or the world has to offer. Without feeling good about yourself, nothing else seems to matter. Nothing.

- Life is a grindstone.
Whether it grinds us down
or polishes us up
depends on us. -

(L. T. Holdcroft)

NEW MEXICO continued

Roswell proved to be very intriguing. Following a welcome and introduction from a resident docent, we visited with one of the founders of the U. F. O. Museum. Little did we know, however, that within our own group was someone with his own eerie experience with strange phenomenon. Frank Adams' true story was recorded while we were there and is now an oral attestation in the archives of the museum.

We also visited the unique New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo and enjoyed a 3-D Omni-Max movie.

Thanks to Samantha Herek for suggesting our stay at the beautiful Lodge in Cloudcroft where we delighted in celebrating an unexpected snowfall with our own version of a Texas snow ball fight. Everyone loved our stay - except Frank, who bodysurfed on the gravel in the parking lot. (Navy men are tough!)

After a grand tour of Carlsbad Caverns and a delightful evening swim in a heated pool, the exhausted sojourners finally headed for home.

Special appreciation goes to our wonderful chaperones and parent guests: Frank Adams, Steve and Julie Kline, Bonnie McCamey, Angela Smith, and Matt and Lee Ann Yancey. Our experience was made rich, thanks to you and your efforts.

In the coming month of May we will spend a week studying astronomy high in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. There we will utilize the astronomical facilities of the McDonald Observatory, have a private tour of the complex and a close-up look at the third largest telescope in the world and visit with resident astronomers. Accommodations for sleeping will again be at the scenic Indian Lodge, nestled high in the breathtaking mountains.

- Genius is the ability to reduce
the complicated to the simple. -

(C. W. Ceram)

BELTS AWARDED IN TAE KWON DO

For many students our new self-defense class is their favorite. It is taught by Sam and Alicia Bseiso of Sam's Martial Arts Academy (817-246-4937).

Tae Kwon Do, a mixture of all styles of martial arts, provides for physical and mental development, as well as self-defense. It develops strength, knowledge, confidence and self-control.

Students were awarded the Yellow Belt following a semester of instruction and a rigorous examination. Recipients were Alex Anderson, Nicholas Bauer, Samantha Herek, Josh Kline, Brandon McCamey, Devin McCamey, Autumn Satterwhite, Chris Hall, Cody Smith, Chris Swancy, Matt Swancy, Kenton Tolbert, Justin Vinson, Stuart Yancey, Spencer Yancey and Steve Zapata with special recognition given to Matt Swancy, the most improved student, and Cameron Kline, awarded a brown stripe.

- Do no let what you cannot do
interfere with what you can do. -
(John Wooden)

STUDY TRIPS continued

We also visited the Amon Carter Museum to view the art and the newly renovated facility. And concluded the semester, by viewing the thrilling new movie, Lord of the Rings.

A special thanks to Angela Smith for assisting with transportation to so many events and to Frank Adams for his abiding support, and to the many others who made this a delightful semester.

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. Please be persistent in calling as construction in the area has caused many interruptions in telephone service.