



A CURRICULUM OF
HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL
WORLD

A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

VOLUME XXXII
ISSUE 11
FALL 2018

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Editor's Message

Before I could give it a name, I noticed it. Not just on the news, but it had begun to creep into places I didn't expect—like my school. Then, when I finally began my summer vacation, I happened to catch Dr. Helen Fisher of The Kinsey Institute on a morning news show. She was discussing incivility, which is definitely the right word to explain what I have been observing. Incivility is defined as rude or unsociable speech or behavior. Dr. Fisher was explaining what happens in the brain to make incivility and anger contagious, and how once the rules of civility are broken, incivility becomes a social contagion. You can see her interview at <https://tvclip.biz/video/dVVIXOS7NDU/where-s-the-civility-in-america-how-rude-behavior-is-contagious.html>. An article in the Washington Post by William Wan shares additional research that corroborates the conclusion that we are fighting a battle with rudeness, and that exposure to rude behavior causes rude reactions. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2018/06/26/when-we-fight-fire-with-fire-rudeness-can-be-as-contagious-as-common-cold-research-shows/?utm_term=.711104369a80.

Yes, by the end of the school year, there seemed to be an increase in rudeness by students and their parents. We were experiencing deeply concerning behaviors such as profanity, insulting words, and poor decision making. It was something that had definitely not been the norm, and I don't want it to become the norm.

Society is certainly changing. Children (and adults) are exposed to behaviors that would have been inconceivable in previous generations. Vulgarity, violence and vitriol are on the news, on the internet, in video games, and are even demonstrated by politicians. Social media has created a place where anonymity has led to a lack of responsibility and a lack of connection. Boundaries and standards for behavior are becoming blurry.

The opposite of incivility is respect, empathy, self-awareness and self-control. Civility recognizes that we are all human and enables us to live peacefully and productively. Whether this be in a classroom, a school, a neighborhood, a community or in the larger world, we must not lose sight of our responsibility to model, teach and expect civility. Children reflect what they see and hear in their environment. If they do not see civility, they will not know it.

If we envision and are striving for a better world, we have to have this conversation. We need to recognize that incivility cannot be allowed to spread. We must learn to use restraint and return to an understanding of, and a belief in, the importance and value of civility for the common good, above our own self-interests and feelings of entitlement. There are resources, opportunities, and inspirations in this newsletter to help you to get that job done.

The power of the common good was recently demonstrated in the rescue of the boys from the cave in Thailand. Let us use the momentum of that remarkable event to recognize what can happen when people come together with empathy, hope, energy, and action. This is the world we envision for our children and the world we must continue to work toward. Let us persist in our mission to influence the world around us in a quest for restored civility.

Janice McKusick
Editor

“I get a choice every time I have to open my mouth: that it can be with civility
and dignity and grace - or not.

Dana Perino



Teaching Manners

Good manners are at the heart of civility. **Teacher Planet** and **Education World** are two places you can find many great resources to help you teach the manners that will lead to the kindness, thoughtfulness, respect and courtesy that are the foundation for peaceful, productive and healthy classrooms.

<http://www.teacherplanet.com/content/manners>

https://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr232.shtml

Be a Model

Say please and thank you. - Apologize. - Don't touch other people's things without permission. - Look at someone and listen when someone talks to you. - Don't laugh at or make fun of others. - Be mindful and tolerant. - Answer when someone talks to you. - Be respectful even if you disagree. - Don't gossip. - Respect autonomy. - Ask others their opinion. - Have empathy.

Use Teachable Moments

How about bringing good manners to your cafeteria? In the lunch line, at the table, and cleaning up are all great places to make sure manners are in place, and would help to give direction to those in charge of a sometimes difficult part of the school day. Holding a special lunch that could involve parents or other special guests would be a great way to celebrate improvement.

An interesting read can be found at **Parenting**, in an article by Ellen Sturm Niz entitled **10 Manners Parents Should Be Teaching Their Kids But Aren't**.

Here are 5 that we should teach and expect in our classrooms.

- ◆ Students should be taught how to acknowledge visitors to the classroom. This includes making eye contact, how to welcome them when they come, and what to say when they leave. One suggestion in the article is to ask your students the visitor's eye color after they leave. Your students will make a lasting impression by using good manners.
- ◆ Teach respect for elders, including letting the older person go first and opening and holding the door.
- ◆ Have students move to the right to let others pass.
- ◆ Make sure students know not to point or stare.
- ◆ Encourage students to learn and use people's names.

<https://www.parenting.com/parenting-advice/tips-tricks/10-manners-parents-should-be-teaching-their-kids-arent?page=3>

"I think the thing I miss most in our age is our manners.

It sounds so old-fashioned in a way.

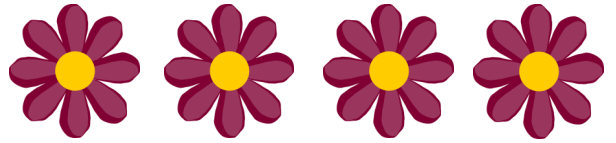
But even bad people had good manners in the old days,

and manners hold a community together,

and manners hold a family together;

in a way, they hold the world together."

Nancy Friday



"The hardest job kids face today
is learning good manners
without seeing any."

Fred Astaire

Netiquette

Students need to be taught manners for their role as citizens in the cyber world. Here are 5 basic rules that apply to adults as well as students:

- Treat others the way you want to be treated. When in doubt always revert back to this rule.
- Double check everything (spelling, grammar, and tone) before you hit send.
- Don't say anything that you wouldn't say to someone's face.
- Be polite if you disagree.
- Do not use all caps. It means yelling and is only effective in small doses.

<https://securingtomorrow.mcafee.com/consumer/family-safety/netiquette-teaching-kids-online-manners/>

Resources abound for teaching all grade levels about appropriate online behaviors which also teach them about internet safety.

Webonauts Internet Academy is a web original game for PBS KIDS GO! that gives kids 8- to 10-years-old an opportunity to have some fun while exploring what it means to be a citizen in a web-infused, information-rich world. <http://pbskids.org/webonauts/>

Net Literacy was founded by students in 2003 and has developed an integrated series of digital literacy programs. <http://www.netliteracy.org/safe-connects/>

Many outstanding lessons in digital literacy for students in grades 9—12 can be found at **Teaching Tolerance**. <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/lessons>



Caring Citizens

How do we help children to move beyond their own self-interests, to have empathy, and to understand and value the common good? Individual and societal success depends on raising and educating children who care about others. Have we misled today's children to believe that success is only achieved through test scores, material wealth, and personal gain? There has been a measurable shift toward self-centeredness at a time when society depends more, not less, on people who give of themselves. Check out these resources to develop citizenship.

Dr. Marilyn Price-Mitchell founded **Roots of Action** in 2011 as a way of helping parents, schools, and communities “nurture the growth of successful young people ready to become caring family members, innovative workers, engaged citizens, and ethical leaders in the Digital Age.” The Compass Advantage is a framework that states that children need an interconnected set of eight core abilities to flourish in an ever-increasingly complex society. When you click on one of the areas of the compass: Empathy, Curiosity, Sociability, Resilience, Self-Awareness, Integrity, Resourcefulness, and Creativity, you are taken to articles and resources for both parents and teachers. This site is worth a visit!
<https://www.rootsofaction.com/>

Using Picture Books to Teach Citizenship

What does it mean to live in a community with others?

If we live in a free country,

can we do whatever we want, whenever we want?

*What should we do if we notice something
that is unfair in our community?*

What characteristics make a good neighbor? A good leader?

Is there something we, as a family, would like to change right now?

The Impossible Patriotism Project by Linda Skeers
Duck for President by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin
The Empty Pot by Demi
If Everybody Did by Jo Ann Stover
Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers, artist Shawn Harris
Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, illustrated by James E. Ransome
Carl the Complainer by Michelle Knudson
You can find more at: <https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/bhf-book-lists/picture-books-about-citizenship>



“You will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once but don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”

Michelle Obama

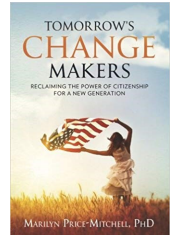
Tomorrow's Change Makers: Reclaiming the Power of Citizenship for a New Generation

Marilyn Price-Mitchell Ph.D.

Eagle Harbor Publishing 2015

The stories and research behind the Compass Advantage, and learn how families, schools, and communities play critical roles in raising and mentoring tomorrow’s citizens.

Available at Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/gp/>



Harvard’s **Making Caring Common** project is a national campaign to mobilize high schools and middle schools to prepare young people to be constructive community members and citizens who create a better world. The Caring Schools #CommonGood campaign aims to motivate schools to take action to help mend our country’s fractures and strengthen democracy. (MCC) helps educators, parents, and communities raise children who are caring, responsible to their communities, and committed to justice. Visit the site to find resources for topics such as Bullying Prevention, Parenting Resources for Raising Ethical, Caring Children, School Resources for Promoting Caring and Respect, and Social and Emotional Learning. <https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/blog/back-school-making-caring-common>

Empatico is a free tool that connects classrooms around the world. Empatico empowers teachers and students to explore the world through activities and live video experiences that spark curiosity, kindness, and empathy among students ages 7-11. It is a multi-year \$20 million initiative to connect students around the globe. It’s a free online learning tool that aims to broaden kids’ world views through meaningful interactions with peers. By the end of 2020, Empatico hopes to reach more than one million students in 25 countries and eventually make it possible for kids everywhere to connect with one another. <https://empatico.org/>

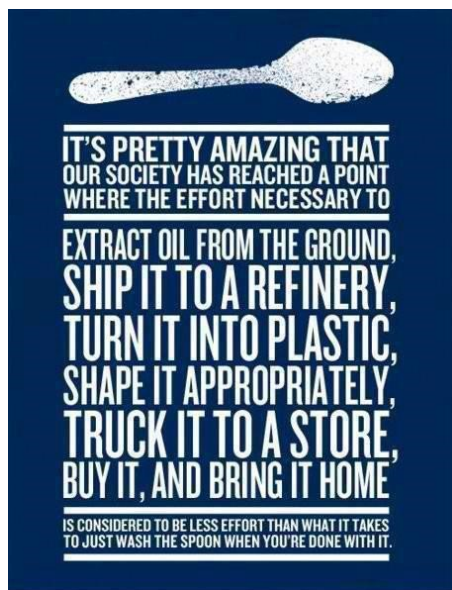


Caring For Our Planet



Reduce Your Plastic Footprint

The statistics are staggering. **About 300 million tons** of plastic are produced globally each year. Only about 10 percent of that amount is recycled. Of the plastic that is sent to the trash, an estimated seven million tons ends up in the ocean each year. It is estimated that it takes 400 years for plastic to break down, so most all the plastic items ever made are still in existence— and if they are not in your home, business, etc., most of them are in our landfills or in oceans. We continue to make more and more plastic every year. Reducing our plastic footprint is not easy. Next time you shop, notice that almost everything is packaged in plastic. Here are some ways you can reduce your plastic footprint and ideas on how to get involved in the movement to opt for eco-friendly alternatives.



The Ocean Cleanup is a non-profit organization, developing advanced technologies to rid the world's oceans of plastic. It was founded 2013 by a then 18 year old Dutch inventor Boyan Slat. The Ocean Cleanup's team, headquartered in Rotterdam, consists of more than 70 engineers, researchers, scientists and computational modelers working daily to rid the world's oceans of plastic. The assembly yard for the first cleanup system is in Alameda, San Francisco Bay Area, California. They will be using the ocean currents and passive drifting systems and hope to clean up half the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 5 years' time.

<https://www.theoceancleanup.com/>

- ◆ Visit **The Last Plastic Straw** to join the movement to eliminate the more than 500 million single-use plastic straws that are used and thrown away every day in the United States. <https://thelastplasticstraw.org/>
- ◆ Remember your reusable grocery bags and better yet invest in cloth bags that can be washed. It is estimated that over 160,000 plastic bags are used every second—which is over 700 per person in the world every year. www.theworldcounts.com/
- ◆ Invest in a reusable water bottle. <https://www.realsimple.com/health/reusable-water-bottles>
- ◆ Shop at your local farmer's market and bring your own containers. Find a farmer's market near you at <https://www.localharvest.org/>
- ◆ Choose glass over plastic. Glass is better for you and for the environment. <https://www.nontoxicliving.tips/blog/why-choose-glass-over-plastic>
- ◆ Avoid cosmetics and personal care items such as cleansers and toothpaste which have "polyethylene" in the ingredients. Because of their tiny size, microplastics which are usually added to these products as an abrasive, pass through water treatment systems, ending up in the ocean. Beginning in July 2017, a law signed by President Obama in 2015 began to phase out the manufacture of microbeads and by July 2019, the distribution of all cosmetic and personal care products containing microbeads will be stopped. This will eliminate the daily release of an estimated 8 trillion plastic microbeads into our nation's waters. <https://marinedebrisblog.wordpress.com/2015/12/30/the-president-signs-a-national-microbead-ban/>
- ◆ Be knowledgeable about plastic and select your plastics wisely. Use the plastic code on the next page to choose plastic that is recyclable in your area.

You can find 100 ideas to living a plastic-free life at: <https://myplasticfreelife.com/plasticfreeguide/>

**“It's estimated that by 2050,
there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans.”**

Ellen MacArthur

Know Your Numbers



PETE



HDPE



PVC



LDPE



PP



PS



OTHER

<p>soft drink bottles, some water bottles, fruit juice containers, cooking oil</p> <p>PET plastic is intended for single use only. Repeated use increases the risk of leaching and bacterial growth.</p> <p>PET plastic is recyclable but not reusable. The plastic is crushed and shredded into small flakes which are then reprocessed to make new PET bottles, or spun into polyester fiber. This recycled fiber is used to make textiles such as fleece garments, carpets, stuffing for pillows and life jackets, and similar products.</p>	<p>milk jugs, laundry detergents, shampoo bottles, body washes, some plastic bags, toys</p> <p>HDPE is the most commonly recycled plastic and is considered one of the safest forms of plastic. HDPE is used to make picnic tables, plastic lumber, waste bins, park benches, bed liners for trucks and other products which require durability and weather-resistance.</p> <p>Products made of HDPE are reusable and recyclable.</p>	<p>trays, bubble wraps, and food wraps, teething rings, pet toys</p> <p>PVC is a soft, flexible plastic. It is commonly used to make plastic pipes and parts for plumbing. Because PVC is relatively unaffected by sunlight and weather, it is used in many products used outside our homes.</p> <p>PVC contains numerous toxins which it can leach throughout its entire life cycle.</p> <p>Products made using PVC plastic are not recyclable. While some PVC products can be repurposed, PVC products should not be reused for applications with food or for children's use.</p>	<p>shopping bags, shrink wraps, dry cleaner bags, squeezable bottles, bread bags</p> <p>LDPE is considered less toxic than other plastics, and relatively safe for use. It can be recycled but is not generally accepted by municipal recycling programs.</p> <p>LDPE plastic is used for plastic lumber, landscaping boards, garbage can liners and floor tiles.</p> <p>Products made using LDPE plastic are reusable, but not always recyclable. check with your local collection service to see if they are accepting LDPE plastic items for recycling.</p>	<p>toys, some car parts, luggage, furniture, cereal box liners, disposable diapers, pails, plastic bottle tops, margarine and yogurt containers, potato chip bags, straws, packing tape and rope.</p> <p>Polypropylene serves as a barrier against moisture, grease and chemicals. Recycled PP is used to make landscaping border stripping, battery cases, brooms, bins and trays.</p> <p>PP is considered safe for reuse. To recycle check with your local curbside program.</p>	<p>CD cases, Styrofoam cups and take out containers, egg cartons, plastic silverware, packing peanuts</p> <p>Polystyrene breaks up easily and is the plastic found on beaches all over the world. This is the plastic commonly ingested by animals</p> <p>Polystyrene may leach a possible carcinogen into food products especially when heated in a microwave.</p> <p>Recycling is not widely available for these products and they account for about 35% of US landfill material. Polystyrene should be avoided where possible.</p>	<p>baby bottles, sippy cups, water cooler bottles, car parts</p> <p>The #7 category was designed as a catch-all for polycarbonate (PC) and "other" plastics.</p> <p>#7 plastics are not for reuse, unless they have the PLA compostable coding. When possible it is best to avoid #7 plastics, especially for children's food. Plastics with the recycling labels #1, #2 and #4 on the bottom are safer choices and do not contain BPA. PLA coded plastics should be thrown in the compost and not the recycle bin since PLA compostable plastics are not recyclable.</p>
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September

8 Anniversary of International Literacy Day

- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/event/international-literacy-day-2018>
- <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/celebrate-international-literacy-20584.html>

15 September begins Hispanic Heritage Month

- <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/24-great-ideas-hispanic-heritage-month/>
- <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.org/>
- https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson023.shtml

15 Playing For Change Day

Playing for Change Day was started in 2011 by the Playing for Change Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of children in underserved communities through music and arts education programs. It was established to coincide with the International Day of Peace. Musicians and music lovers from all around the world gather on stages, street corners, schools, yoga studios, and cafes for a global day of action to bring music into the lives of children around the world. Every year, thousands of musicians from all over the world come together as one to spread peace through music. Last year, 136 events were held across 38 countries and 6 continents for Playing For Change Day. Join the global event at: <https://playingforchangeday.org/>.

21 International Day of Peace

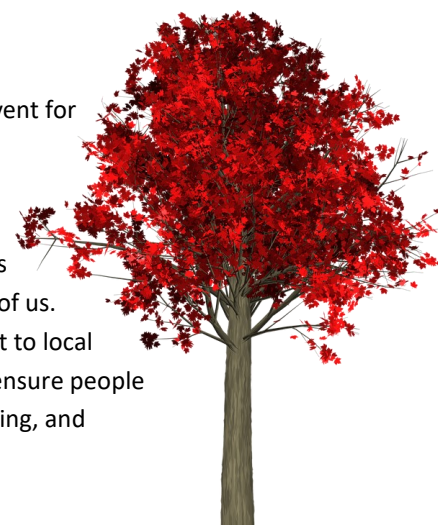
The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2018 is **The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70**. *“Yet there is more to achieving peace than laying down weapons. True peace requires standing up for the human rights of all the world’s people. That is why this year’s theme for the International Day of Peace is: “The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”.* <https://minusma.unmissions.org/en/message-100-day-countdown-international-day-peace-13-june-2018-0>

- www.peaceday.org
- www.internationaldayofpeace.org
- <http://wppspacepals.org/2018-art-contest/> While it is too late for this year’s poster contest, check out the Peace Pal’s website for student artwork and information on submitting work for 2019.

22 National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation’s largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individual and organizational volunteers to help restore the country’s public lands. The lands encompass national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes, and reservoirs, as well as state, county, and city parks that are managed by public agencies, but that belong to and are enjoyed by all of us. Through volunteer service on National Public Lands Day as well as grant support to local organizations, the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) helps ensure people of all ages and abilities connect with public lands for recreation, hands-on learning, and community building—now and in the future.

- <https://www.neefusa.org/npld>



October

- 1 **World Habitat Day**
- <https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/build-events/world-habitat-day>
- 14-20 **Worldwide Character Counts Week**
- <https://bitsofpositivity.com/free-worldwide-character-counts-week-resources/>
- 16 **World Food Day**
- <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2016/home/en/>
- 17 **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**
- <http://overcomingpoverty.org/>
- 23 **Mix It Up Day**
- <http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up/what-is-mix>
- 24 **United Nations Day**
- www.un.org

December

- 1 **World AIDS Day**
- www.worldaidsday.org/
- 2 **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**
- <http://www.national-awareness-days.com/international-day-for-the-abolition-of-slavery.html>
- 3 **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
- <http://www.un.org/en/events/disabilitiesday/>
- 10 **Human Rights Day**
- Human Rights Day is the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year, the Declaration of Human Rights turns 70. The document states the inalienable rights which every one is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages.
- www.un.org/en/rights
- 18 **International Migrants Day**
- <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/events/international-migrants-day/>

November

- 11 **Veterans Day (Remembrance Day in Canada)**
- <https://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/veterans-day-activities-intro.html>
 - www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/index.asp
 - www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/veterans-day-and-patriotism
- 16 **International Day for Tolerance**
- <http://www.doonething.org/calendar/toleranceday.htm>
 - www.un.org/en/events/toleranceday/
- 20 **Universal Children's Day**
- www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/
- 25 **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**
- <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women>
 - <http://time.com/3603582/international-day-to-end-violence-against-women/>



All for Good was inspired by President Obama, who called on more Americans to serve, and Internet pioneer Craig Newmark, who saw the need for an online resource to help Americans easily find ways to serve – “a Craigslist for volunteering.” It was built as a Google “20% project” (google employees were given the time to work on passion projects for 20% of their work hours) and launched in 2009 by an all-volunteer team. In October 2011, All for Good was acquired by **Points of Light**. It is now built and designed by Points of Light’s in-house digital team and volunteer development partners. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities near you, go to <https://www.allforgood.org/>.

“We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.” – Epictetus

Opportunities



New England League of Middle Schools 2018 Middle School

Student Leadership Conference

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Southern NH University

http://www.nelms.org/pages/conferences/student_leadership2018.html

Global Action Climate Summit

September 12-14, 2018

San Francisco, CA

The Global Climate Action Summit will bring leaders and people together from around the world to celebrate the achievements of states, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens with respect to climate action. People everywhere are encouraged to participate in the hundreds of affiliate events taking place in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the world during the week of September 10-14th, including climate action panels, workshops, tours, exhibits and other special events. From September 12-14, you can virtually attend the Summit by streaming it live on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. In person, Summit attendance for the plenary and other high-level sessions is by invitation and will require accreditation. <https://globalclimateactionsummit.org/>

VOICES of HOPE
invites you to an evening with
VIOLINS OF HOPE
Strings of the Holocaust

THE SIMON KONOVER RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST TEACHING
DR. JOSEPH OLZACKI
DR. AVINOAM PATT

L'DOR V'DOR
ELYSHA & MATTHEW DICKS

VOICES of HOPE

OCTOBER 10, 2018 • 5:30PM
THE G. FOX BALLROOM
960 MAIN STREET • HARTFORD, CT

TICKETS AND INFORMATION • SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
INFO@CTVOICESOFHOPE.ORG • 860.470.5591

<http://ctvoicesofhope.org/event/evening-of-hope-3/>

2018—2019 Social Justice Plan Book

Planning to Change the World

<http://www.justiceplanbook.com/>

La Vista Ecological Learning Center Nature Journaling through the Seasons

September 15, 2018 9:00 - 11:00 AM

<https://www.lavistaelc.org/>

Responsive Classroom

Teachers Conference

November 9–10, 2018

Hope Builds the Mind

Minneapolis, MN

Keynote Speaker: Angie Thomas

Author of The Hate U Give

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/conferences/>

Responsive Classroom

Leadership Conference

November 12–13, 2018

Recharging Hope with Leadership

Minneapolis, MN

Keynote Speaker: Tom Clynes

Author and Photojournalist

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/conferences/>

Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest

Kindness Matters

for 11-13 year-olds

In 2017 over 600,000 students participated worldwide.

Contact your local Lion's Club. Deadline for submission is October 15th.

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/how-we-serve/youth/peace-poster-contest/>

National Council for the Social Studies

98th NCSS Annual Conference

November 30—December 2, 2018

Hyatt Regency Chicago

151 E. Wacker Dr.

Chicago, IL

<https://www.socialstudies.org/conference>

PODCASTS

What Teachers Need to Know

Global Insights for K-12 Contexts

by Primary Source

The Middle East

10 Episodes

Qatar Foundation International provided the seed funding and support to develop and launch these podcasts.

<https://www.primarysource.org/for-teachers/podcasts>

National Association for Multicultural Education Conference

#NAME2018

November 27—30, 2018

Memphis, TN

How Many More 'Til We Rise Up?

Multicultural Education, a Radical

Response of Love, Life and

Dr. King's Dream

https://www.nameorg.org/name_conference_info.php

New England League of Middle Schools

2019 38th Annual Conference

March 21-22, 2019

RI Conference Center

Providence, RI

Call for Presenter Proposal Guide

A.C. 2019 Registration

Undergraduate Pre-registration
<http://www.nelms.org/pages/conferences/annual/annual.html>

Peacemakers at Work

Gifts of Peace Exchange Ceremony

Thank you to Dr. Barbara ten Brink for sharing this exciting event that was held at the DKG International Convention in Austin. One Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, two cultures, dozens of teachers, and hundreds of students came together to exchange Gifts of Peace. Through the value of networking at DKG conventions, teachers from Kochi, Japan began making plans in Honolulu, Hawaii in 2017 to bring 1,000 Origami Cranes, Senbazuru, symbolic of Japanese legend and Sadako Sasaki's determination to DKG International Convention 2018 in Austin, Texas. Sets of 1,000 Origami Cranes were presented to eleven schools in Texas at a Gifts of Peace Exchange Ceremony. Austin Independent School District Teen Science Café / Health Through Science students reciprocated with a gift to the Kochi teachers and students of a Peace Quilt. To further formalize the exchange, a symbolic Tea Ceremony was performed by the Austin ISD students.

The Teen Science Cafe students presented their plans for the Gifts of Peace ceremony on a local Austin television show. When asked why peace was an appropriate topic for their Health through Science club, the students responded, "War is bad for your health."

The project advisers—Hatsue Kitahara, Japanese Representative, DKG-International Society for Women Educators; Dr. Jo Murphy, DKG Alpha State President; Dr. Barbara ten Brink, Science Special Projects, Austin ISD; Sara Fyke, Teen Science Café Network Outreach Coordinator—sincerely thanked the 2018 International Convention chairpersons and caterers for moving mountains to provide time on the program, venue, tea service, and advertising in the convention program to ensure the success of their efforts.



World Peace Flame

The World Peace Flame has been burning since July 1999, when seven flames, lit by peacemakers on five continents, were flown by military and commercial aircraft to the United Kingdom and united into one flame in Bangor, North Wales. In September 2002, the World Peace Flame was installed at the opening of the new human rights building in the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, USA. On September 21, 2018, the International Day of Peace, a World Peace Flame will be lit at the new Thalden Pavilion Sustainability Center, in Ashland on the Southern Oregon University campus. It will serve as meeting point, whether for meditation, rallies or conversations about how to build more peace in the community and world. The flame will burn in a lantern, made in The Hague, the same type used around the world, and will be installed in a space at the foot of the carved cedar obelisk. It will be protected by thick vandal-resistant glass and fed by natural oil from local biomass, completely sustainable and nonpolluting. It will burn in perpetuity. A delegation from the World Peace Flame Foundation will come to Ashland for the lighting ceremony. The ceremony will be broadcast through a live stream by Peace Day Global Broadcast. There are currently 12 World Peace Flame monuments in five countries. <http://www.worldpeaceflame.org/en/world-peace-flame>, <http://www.ashlandcpc.org/ashland-world-peace-flame-monument>

Kids Can Make A Difference®

KIDS is an educational program for middle and high school students that focuses on the root causes of hunger and poverty, the people most affected, solutions and how students can help. It was co-founded by Jane Finn Levine, Ed.D., and Larry Levine, after speaking to students in a middle school in York, Maine. In 2010 KIDS became a program of the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN), the world's largest non-profit global network that enables teachers and youth to use the Internet and other technologies to collaborate on projects that enhance learning and make a difference in the world. A teacher's guide, *Finding Solutions To Hunger: Kids Can Make A Difference*, can be downloaded free at <https://www.kidscanmakeadifference.org>.

Potatoes, Eggs and Coffee Beans

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He took the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her, he asked. "What do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer", he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked. He explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity – the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which one are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

The moral of the story: In life, things happen around us, and things happen to us. The only thing that truly matters is your choice of how you react to it and what you make of it. Learn, adapt and choose to make the best of each experience.

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Our newsletter can be found online at: [HTTP://dkgct.weebly.com](http://dkgct.weebly.com)

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Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

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