

Peace Awards 2014

CEASE 2014 Peace Award to Tony Palomba

A Critical, Behind the Scenes Supporter of All We Do

Tony, your peace activism goes back to when CEASE began or before. Your help launched the important possibility of larger donations and supported Peggy Schirmer as she set CEASE on a firm financial footing. Over the years you have stepped in when troubles threatened. Now, as we grow and change, your support is more important than ever. You and the Survival Education Fund truly provide an umbrella protecting us from the storm of errors we might commit. Our gratitude to you for your commitment to all we do and the effort you expend as our invisible, essential partner in the work for a more peaceful world for children.



CEASE 2014 Peace Award to Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin

An Advocate for Creating the World Children Deserve

We honor Geralyn for her total commitment to providing children with the childhood they deserve. As a teacher, a parent, an activist and a creator, she focuses on children's needs to play, to have the freedom to explore and to live without the constant pressures of commercial culture and excessive screen time. Her website for parents, Empowered by Play, is currently featuring the magical, nature-based playground she has inspired for her Boston preschool class. The organization, Defending the Early Years, is growing under her leadership into a strong voice for teacher activism: pushing back against education reforms which threaten developmentally appropriate classes for young children. Geralyn walks the talk, approaching her work with the peaceful values we all advocate. Thank you for all the important work you do for children.



Defending the Early Years Update

Alliance for Childhood and Defending the Early Years have collaborated to write and distribute the report, *Reading Instruction in Kindergarten: Little to Gain and Much to Lose*. This forceful report presents the research which counters the goals of recent reforms encouraging and even mandating that young children learn to read in Kindergarten. It documents the ineffectiveness of this practice for children's future success in learning, and presents the studies of early childhood education which demonstrate all that is lost for young children with these misguided pressures. An understanding of early developmental needs of young learners points to a very different set of goals for kindergarten: a play-based curriculum, social interaction, language development through real world experiences, hands-on activities with three dimen-

sional materials, and lots of whole-body physical activity. Relationships with caring, attentive adults provide the foundation for successful early learning. Research shows that children who have such rich experiences early are more successful later when reading is the appropriate challenge.

The report concludes with strong recommendations for action to resist the current trends and support parents, teachers and children.

You can download this report at www.DEYproject.org or www.allianceforchildhood.org

And look for a continuation of this work in an upcoming report on math in the early years.