



## **P.E.A.C.E. News for March 2020**

***Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere, Inc.  
(P.E.A.C.E., Inc.)***

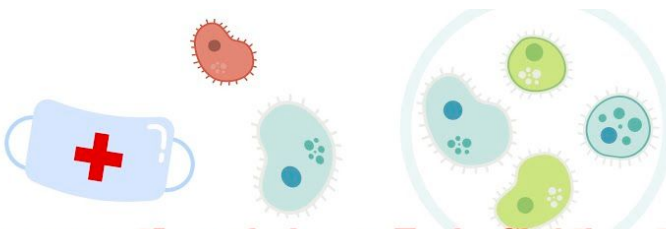
# Important Action Alert!

## Coronavirus Scare - Preventing Xenophobia in Early Childhood

By Dr. Sandy Baba and Dr. Jenny Yen



Asian Interest Forum  
February 2020



### Coronavirus Scare-Preventing Xenophobia in Early Childhood

Asian American children have been the targets of **bully and assault** since the coronavirus (now called COVID-19) outbreak due to fear and misinformation of the new virus. Asian American children, in various school districts, reported being teased as virus carriers when they displayed cold/flu-like symptoms such as coughs. As xenophobic incidents continue to occur at our schools and communities, educators should take on a proactive role to call out inappropriate and fundamentally racist behaviors.

Ivan Natividad, in his article, [Coronavirus: Fear of Asians Rooted in Long American History of Prejudicial Policies](#) of UC Berkeley described how anti-Asian xenophobia has contributed to decades of discriminatory and biased American public health and immigration policies.

As early childhood educators, we can help disrupt the xenophobic behaviors in our own communities and prevent this long history of racist behaviors from repeating itself. As there is much news on coronavirus on the media these days, young children may have seen unfamiliar and scary images such as people wearing protective masks or quarantine personnel in all white protective suits covered from head-to-toe. As Dr. Jenny Yen suggested in her Chinese article, [Fighting Coronavirus: How to Share Family and Social Responsibilities With Young Children](#), we can take this opportunity to validate the children's observations and questions and provide accurate knowledge about the epidemic in **developmentally appropriate** and **culturally responsive** ways.

Often times children and adults become fearful due to lack of proper knowledge or have misunderstandings about the actual facts of events of this nature. In the case of coronavirus, we can explain to young children the facts of the virus such as the origin of the virus, how it spreads, and how to do self-protection (e.g. washing hands).

As the coronavirus outbreak may continue for some time, educators and parents should be prepared to talk to their children about this epidemic. Encourage the children to ask questions and learn with them about the virus can teach them how to protect themselves. At the same time, we can continue to foster children's empathy, instead of hatred based on fear and ignorance through this learning opportunity.

Here are some resources we have found helpful for your reference:

1. Centers for Disease Control Prevention, Coronavirus Disease Prevention and Treatment
2. World Health Organization, Basic Protective Measures Against the New Coronavirus
3. National Public Radio, Must-Know Vocab For COVID-19: From Droplets To Zoonotic



NAEYC AIF Facilitators:  
Dr. Sandy Baba, Dr. Jenny Yen

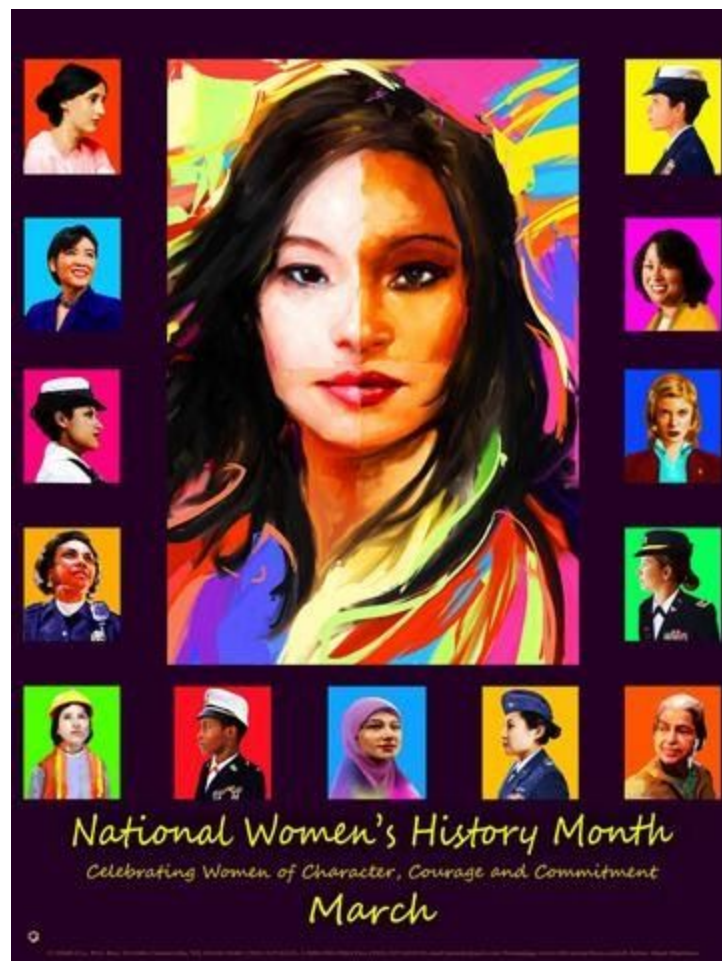


## **Please Remind Congress to Use Appropriations to Restore Its Power Over Decisions of War and Peace**

Congress is on the verge of sending to the President a Resolution declaring that the President is unauthorized to initiate a war with Iran, because only Congress can make that decision under the Constitution. The President is expected to veto that Resolution, but Congress can reaffirm its power by denying the President the appropriations needed to pursue such an unauthorized war. Please urge your Senators and Representative to implement their Resolution through the appropriations process.

---

## **March is Women's History Month Women's Fight for the Right to Vote!**



Please read more here <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

## Montessori and Peace Education



My first job in early education and care was in a Montessori child care program near Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia Nuclear Weapons Labs in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Some of the parents worked at the base and participated in the research of nuclear weapons. At that point in my life many of the parents knew of my position on weapons of mass destruction. I knew nothing of Montessori and I was in charge mostly of discipline

in the classroom which I had no training in. Very closely I learned and read that Maria Montessori developed her methods for poor children in the Rome slums. In studying Gandhi and his life and nonviolence, I discovered he was a friend with Montessori and they wrote, conversed and shared ideas about children and peace. I have been very interested in that connection but never had much of a chance to research this relationship. I recently found [this article](#) online and want to share it. It gives some of Maria Montessori's ideas. I hope to share a second article in the future of a talk at a Montessori school which Gandhi gave. We welcome to this newsletter teachers and educators that know about Montessori teachers and educators that could share with us insight into the use and process of Montessori's teaching. Please send your thoughts to [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com). *Craig Simpson, Dorchester, MA, for P.E.A.C.E.*

"Long before conflict resolution was something we thought should be taught in schools, Montessori educators incorporated Peace Education activities throughout the prepared environment. Montessori herself lectured on the ways in which this method might preserve the inherent peacefulness of children and protect them from replicating the mistakes of adults that led to conflict and war. Indeed, as her work and career progressed, Montessori emphasized less the remarkable academic growth she observed in children in her classrooms, and instead encouraged teachers to focus on the ways in which this model would change the future of our society." [Read more...](#)

from "[Peace Education and Purposeful Activity](#)" by Catherine McTamaneay  
in Montessori Daoshi (Dec 25, 2017)

## Book Review



### **Our House is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet**

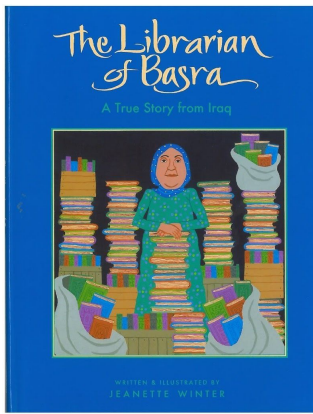
*Jeanette Winter, Author & Illustrator, Beach Lane Books, 2019, Preschool – 3 grade.*

*Submitted by Karen Kosko*

In celebrating Women's History Month, we are honoring the sixteen-year-old Time Person of the Year, Greta Thunberg. Greta is from Sweden and while in high-school she learned how our planet is "getting warmer". Animals are struggling and people are coping because all lives are being threatened. These ideas were life changing to Greta. With her parents support and approval, Greta started "striking" outside of the government buildings each Friday in all kinds of weather.

As a climate activist, she became the face of a worldwide student movement and soon demanded action from world leaders who refused to even address climate change. This is an important book about an enlightened young woman and her passion to lead her peers in climate justice. In answering her own question "What use is school without a future", Greta is trying to make our world a better place!

The title comes from an emotional speech given at the United Nations Climate Action Summit. [Please watch her speech.](#)



This wonderful book starts the climate advocacy discussion, while celebrating an amazing young woman on a global stage. The last page asks the reader “What will you do?”

Jeanette Winter is a talented picture book author who also created [“The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq.”](#) Her art is gentle, sensitive and creates positive images to embrace a serious issue.

Submitted by Karen Kosko

---

## Quote of the Month

“I think the girl who is able to earn her own living and pay her own way should be as happy as anybody on earth. The sense of independence and security is very sweet.”

— Susan B. Anthony



*Suffrage March New York 1912. Picture courtesy of the Hulton Archive/Getty Images*

## Big Thanks!



P.E.A.C.E. would like to thank Lucy Stroock and Tony Palombo for their long-time dedication, supporting the financial aspects of our organization.

---

### ***You're Important to Us!***

We are eager for new members, and active members. Spread the word and let us know how you would like to be engaged at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com).

#### **Help bring our unique insights and skills to the profession and the public!**

If you would like to bring P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s perspective to more teachers on the ground working with young children, there are opportunities both in person and online. Email us at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com). Particularly on [NAEYC's HELLO open forum](#) we have seen opportunities to engage on these issues.

Join [actforpeace@googlegroups.com](https://actforpeace.googlegroups.com) to follow our members recommended actions and share your own! You can request to sign-up by email at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com) or directly through Google Groups. We hope you will spread the word about the actions by forwarding them on to others.

Since we don't charge dues, we count on donations from those who are able to continue our work. Look for a PayPal donation option on [our website](#), or mail your check made out to P.E.A.C.E., Inc., to: 11 Cottage St., Chelsea, MA 02150.

[Visit our Website](#)

