



P.E.A.C.E. News for July 2021

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

***Please contribute to our future as we support the
peaceful world we and children need to thrive.***

Donate

Action Alerts

Congress Goes Home Without Acting on Child Care and Families: Please Reach Them Now To Tell Them What To Do!

President Biden's American Families Plan won't be in the infrastructure Bill going before the Senate, according to last week's compromise agreement with Senators of both Parties. Instead the Democrats in both Houses of Congress will try to put money and authorization for some child care and family improvements into a Budget Reconciliation Bill that can be passed in the Senate without a filibuster.

Your Senators and Representative will probably be at home during the July 4 recess, giving you and your child care colleagues an excellent opportunity to meet with them or their local staff. In those meetings, push home the message that we need Federal money and support to rebuild our public and private child care industry on a more affordable, high quality foundation that doesn't require its workers to earn poverty-level wages. Tell them your stories of moms desperate for help, children getting increasingly behind in their development, and center and family child care providers not being able to afford staying in business. And please ask the families you work with to do the same.

The Bilateral Policy Center recently conducted a national [survey](#) of American working parents of young children in which 96% of self-identified liberals and 88% of conservatives supported giving all families effective access to high quality child care, and 96% of liberals and 79% of conservatives supported more government help, including financing, to achieve that result.

This summer may well be our best, last real chance to bring US child care quality up to the standards in almost all of the developed countries with which we compete. Go for it! And our thanks for persisting.

Please Get Vaccinated ASAP!



It's good for your health, it's good for the health of the children in your care, and it's good for their families too. The more eligible people we can get vaccinated, the easier it will be for life to return to normal for all of us.

Picture courtesy of covidfactsnow.com

Resources

Peace Projects 2021

The P.E.A.C.E. Projects is an initiative to sponsor and mentor Early Childhood Educators, in promoting Peace Education for young children in the classroom.

Race and Song

**2021 Peace Project, 'Stories Through Song' [Folk New England](#),
Peace Project Granted to Brian Quinn and Karen Kosko.**

Group: [34] 4th graders, Teachers [3] plus the Music Teacher & Assistant Principal.

RACE AND SONG is an exploration of history and current events through the lens of race — and using the powerful tool of music. Veteran musicians and storytelling troubadours Reggie Harris and Alastair Mook rely on their years-old friendship to discuss complicated issues of race, class, gender and history with intentionality and generosity of spirit. Together in musical conversation, they open up to each other and frame their lived experiences through music (which always helps the medicine go down!) and the use of historical and family photos.



The planning strategy was done through email and phone conversations, since the Haggerty School, Cambridge, MA was in Covid lockdown. The entire budget of \$800 was spent on two sessions for the two musicians. I distributed the link for our Race and Song Conversation. Students watched an initial one-hour video presentation at home with some family members joining the watch group.

This preparation process was important for the subsequent in-person / Zoom Question and Answer event with Reggie Harris and Alastair Mook three days later. Students formed questions so the Q & A went very smoothly. There were honest revelations and much discussion about the video program. The Race and Song video was filmed at Club Passim in Cambridge, MA in 2021.

Handouts and links for Race and Song:

- [Website for “Race and Song: A Musical Conversation”](#)
- [Study Guide for “Race and Song: A Musical Conversation” by Reggie Harris & Alastair Mook](#)
- [Lyrics and Chord Sheet for “Race and Song: A Musical Conversation” by Reggie Harris & Alastair Mook](#)

Sample teacher comments:

“I was impressed by how Alistair and Reggie responded to the questions from students. They were able to talk about their own experiences related to racism in a way that was thoughtful and accessible to the students. They also gave the students a glimpse into how music and the arts can be an avenue to promote justice and peace.”

—Assistant Principal

“Alastair Moock and Reggie Harris visited 4th grade on Monday, March 29 with the program "Race and Song." My class was in the middle of reading a chapter book *Eliza's Freedom Road* by Jerdine Nolen. Many of the songs and lyrics in the video lesson related to our study of the Underground Railroad.

Hearing the songs and watching the musicians perform them provided another layer of understanding for my 10-year-old students. By including the musical genre, fourth grade students are able to learn American history not only through books but also through the song lyrics that shaped our nation. It was my great pleasure to host Harris and Moock over Zoom and connect my students with these two musicians.

Students had a chance to generate questions. Children need to have access to information through many modalities: physical, musical, visual, and traditional book learning. These programs help me find the courage. Without them, I am uncertain I would be able to have these courageous conversations with my students.

Please know that these programs are essential to growing future leaders of our complicated country. The grants you provide are one step toward bringing children one step closer to understanding their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

With gratitude,
Grade 4 teacher”

Dear Alastair and Reggie,

I love the songs you made and the songs that come from your family. You're both really inspiring, and I hope one day I can be just as good a pianist as you are guitarists. I learned that Reggie has white family that he's friends with. I also learned that Alistair and Reggie are really good friends.

Here are some comments from students:

"I love when you guys sing. I learned that music has codes."

"I loved the story's you said and how you guys met! I learned that Reggie had a rougher life than Alastair because of his color, it's really upsetting!"

"It's really interesting that

Reggie was treated badly. I thought that people don't be racist in the United States that often."

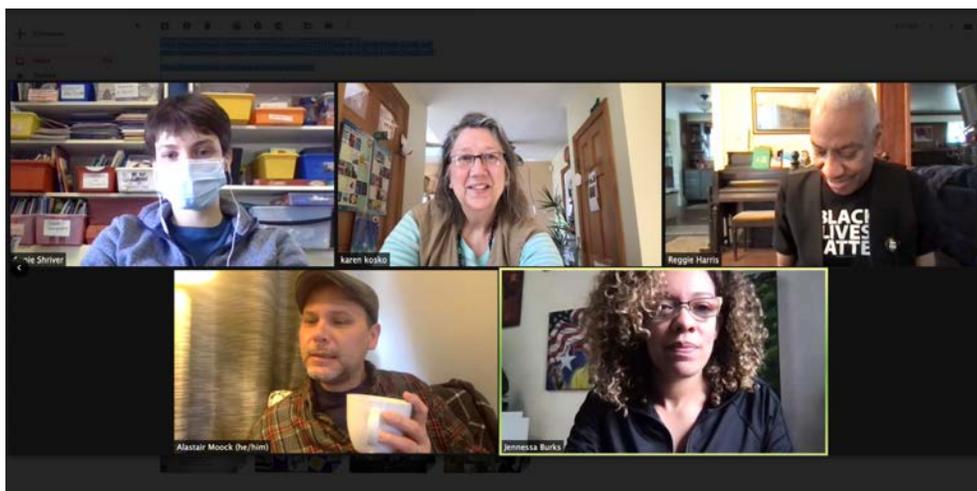
"You guys are so kind and your songs are amazing too."

"I love the songs you made and the songs that come from your family. You're both really inspiring, and I hope one day I can be just as good a pianist as you are guitarists."

"You were very inspiring to me by telling me that you can be anything and you should always keep your inspirations."

"I also play guitar so it was cool to listen to someone else who knew how to play guitar talk about songs. I learned a lot about what I can do to help stop racism."

Brian Quinn and I want to thank P.E.A.C.E for the generosity through this Peace Project.



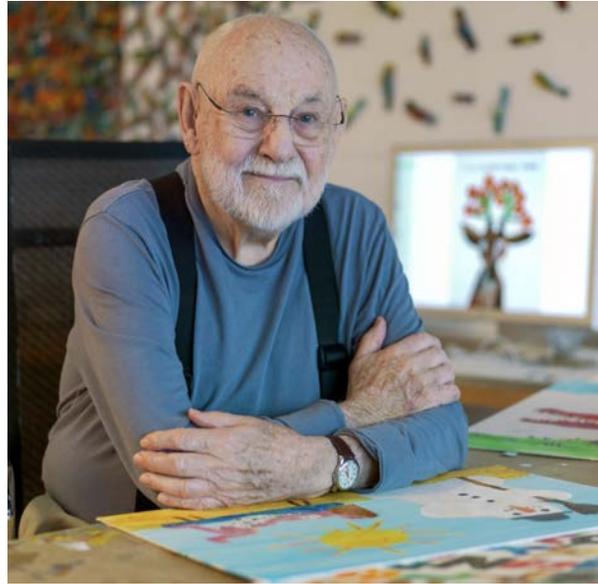
Teacher meeting

Submitted by Karen Kosko

In Loving Memory

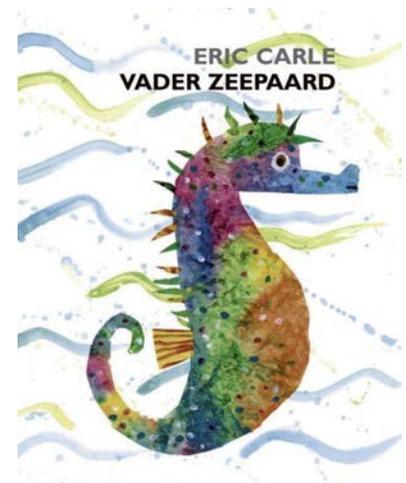
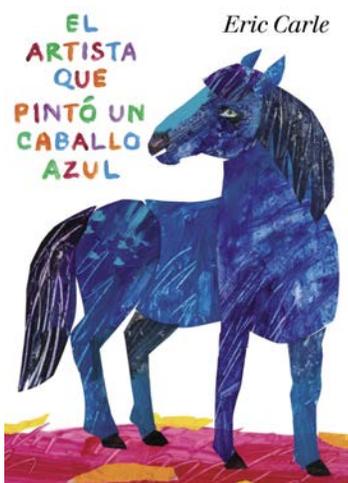
Eric Carle

1929-2021



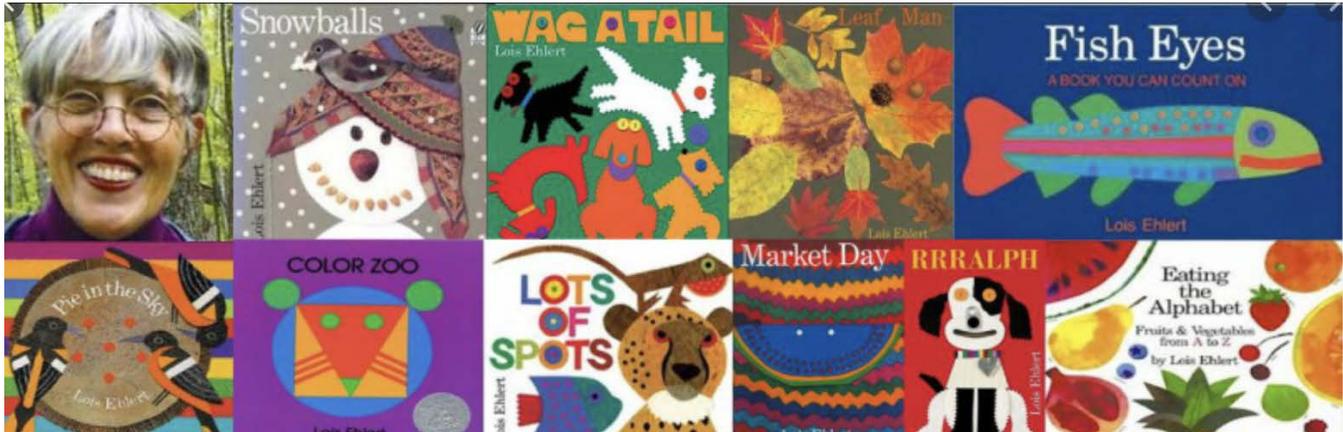
Picture courtesy of Wall Street Journal

Eric Carle was a beloved author and illustrator of children's books, including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (1969), *Mister Seahorse* (2004), *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse* (2011), and *Friends* (2013). His books have been translated into 66 different languages and sold all over the world. He connected many of his creative writings with his happy childhood and his art is recognized through his amazing collage technique. [Read more about Eric Carle and his life as an artist...](#)



Lois Ehlert

1934-2021



Picture courtesy of Lois Ehlert Resource Guide

Lois Ehlert was a well-known illustrator and author in the field of early childhood education. She has sold more than 12 million copies world-wide, including *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, the *Color Zoo*, and *Eating the Alphabet*. She was known for her collage work, using vibrant hues in her illustrations and cut-and-paste shapes. [Learn more about Lois Ehlert...](#)

Poetry

Dreamer

By Brian Moses

I dreamt I was an ocean
and no one polluted me.

I dreamt I was a whale
and no hunters chased after me.

I dreamt I was air
and nothing blackened me.

I dreamt I was a stream
and nobody poisoned me.

I dreamt I was an elephant
and nobody stole my ivory.

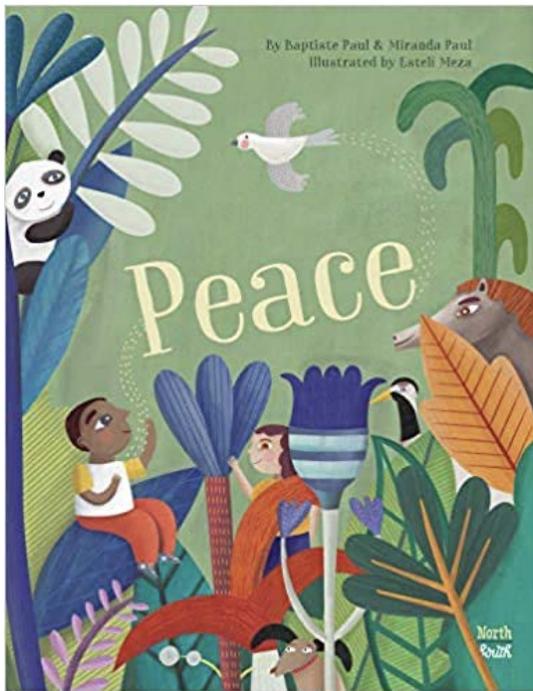
I dreamt I was a rainforest
and no one cut down my trees.

I dreamt I painted a smile
on the face of the earth
for all to see.



Illustration by Piet Grobler

Book Review



Peace

by Baptiste & Miranda Paul

illustrated by Estelí Meza

NorthSouth Books, 2021

Peace is something that could sound so simple to achieve in schools, or families or communities. This gentle book demonstrates that small actions can have a huge impact on our world. We see through these vibrant illustrations by Meza, that peace can start with a friendship as children learn to give instead of take. She also uses her very colorful pages to document the animals that are impacted by conflict in the world.

Youngsters will comprehend “Peace means we talk to each other directly.” As you enjoy the rhyming phrases, think of how the text can spark family/school conversations about personal responsibility. Kids will feel the “peace” of sharing, listening, and apologizing. Young children will feel the joy of being part of something bigger than themselves including preserving nature. We look for students to understand that peace is an activity



and a specific choice which fosters kindness and empathy. "Peace is on Purpose". This picture book depicts symbols of peace: doves, cranes, butterflies, koalas as it considers that the world could live in harmony. This is an inspirational read-aloud and the magical images are universal. Read the authors' note of both Miranda and Baptiste Paul, who explain the effects of a war in Mozambique. Then read this book again and you may look at it differently.

Peace is also available in [Spanish](#) and [German](#) translations. I invite you to visit [Miranda Paul's site](#); she is a founding member of the organization We Need Diverse Books. [View a video book trailer](#).

Submitted and recommended by Karen Kosko

Quote of the Month

"Nonviolence can be taught and it can be learned, thereby taking the next great step in human evolution to the place where 'each shall dwell under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid.'"

—Glenn Smiley

Glenn Smiley's work and life had a huge impact on a series of social movements in the 20th century.

[Read more about his fascinating story..](#)



Picture courtesy of wagingnonviolence.org

Days of the Month

July

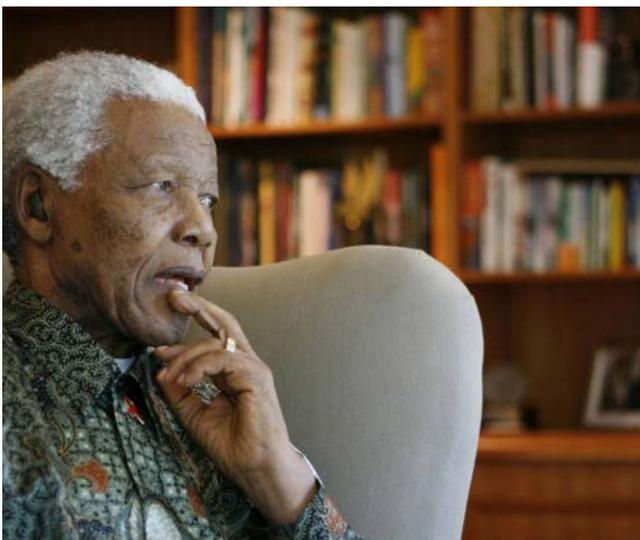
July 3 - International Day of Cooperatives

Since July of 1923, the annual celebration of the cooperative movement has taken place on the first Saturday of this month. The United Nations together with International Cooperative Alliance, have established themes for the celebration of this special day, to increase awareness and the emphasis that cooperatives are people-centered, not capital-centered and thus community-based. The theme for this year is *Rebuild Better Together: facing the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with solidarity and resilience and offering communities a people-centred and environmentally just recovery.* [Read more on this special day...](#)



Picture courtesy of timeanddate.com

July 18 - Nelson Mandela International Day



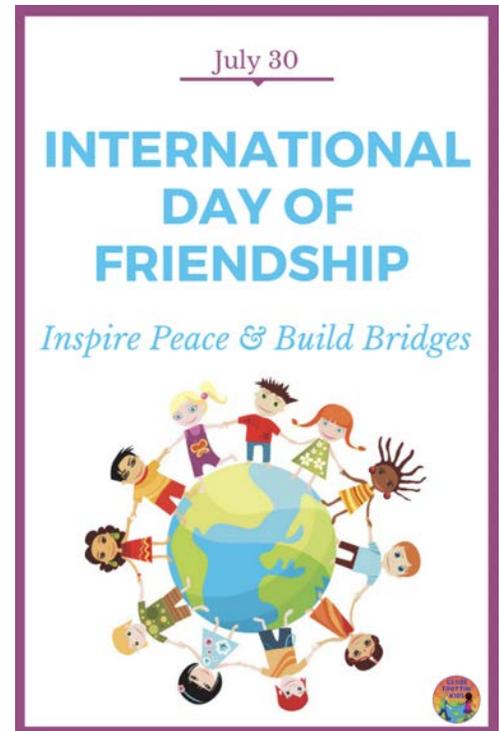
Please mark July 18 as Nelson Mandela International Day, a day to make a difference in your communities. We all have the ability and responsibility to make changes for the better. Like Anne Frank said, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”. Mandela Day is an occasion for us to become proactive and inspire change. [Read more on this special day...](#)

Picture courtesy of the Nelson Mandela Foundation

July 30th - International Day of Friendship

In 2011, the UN General Assembly declared the International Day of Friendship. The idea is that friendships between people, countries, and cultures support peace efforts and can build bridges between communities. The Assembly emphasizes the importance of involving young people in community activities, promoting international understanding for diversity and respect for others. [Read more on this special day...](#)

Picture courtesy of globetrottinkids.com



You're Important to Us!

Help us keep in touch!

Please contribute to our future as we support the peaceful world we and children need to thrive.

We are eager for new members, and active members. Membership is free, although you're encouraged to help us as you can. Spread the word and let us know how you would like to be engaged at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com.

Join Now

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f Follow us on Facebook

Join the NAEYC Interest Forum

Help bring peace education 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.

Particularly on [NAEYC's HELLO open forum](#) we have seen opportunities to engage on these issues.

Join actforpeace@googlegroups.com to follow our members' recommended actions and share your own! You can sign up at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com or directly through Google Groups. We hope you will spread the word about the actions by forwarding them on to others.

Visit our Website, peaceeducators.org!

