



## **P.E.A.C.E. News for June 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***

## ***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*

## ***Big Early Childhood Plans Getting Bogged Down: Tell Congress Why They Must Invest in Children***

The hard-pressed child care industry has received some significant help from earlier legislation, which the States now have begun to implement, but the structural changes envisioned in the President's American Families Plan proposed last month are facing stiff headwinds in Congress. The major early childhood initiatives in the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, as described in [last month's P.E.A.C.E. News](#), have become overshadowed in Congressional negotiations on many other issues. And the traditional opposition to government support of a high quality early childhood care and education system, saying that mothers should stay home and take care of their own children, has been joined with squabbles about the taxes that the President is proposing to pay for better care.

Now is the time for all good advocates to come to the aid of our children and their teachers/caregivers. Those of you who are still working in child care have many [nightmare stories](#) about current conditions to relate to your Representative and Senators. Others, who had to go out of business or lost their jobs because of the pandemic, have equally persuasive stories of what it's going to take to restore and solidify the early childhood foundation for a successful life for all Americans.

Members in both Parties in the Senate Finance Committee have just introduced a Building Child Care for a Better Future Act, which will join the House Ways & Means Committee's Building an Economy for Families Act to increase mandatory funding (not needing annual appropriations) for the Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) to \$10 billion per year and a new, \$5 billion per year permanent grant program to improve child care supply, quality and affordability, particularly in areas that lack options for affordable child care. The House version also would include a permanent extension of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). When you address Congress, please add your support for these important new Bills.

Please get in touch with both the local and DC offices of your U.S. Representatives and Senators, to light a fire under them to get the action needed to give our children a real chance in the brave new post-pandemic world, after 18 months of almost total disasters in their growth and progress. This is the only way these great plans for the future will have a good chance, legislatively.

## **Protect Human Rights in Palestine & Israel**

The recent resumption of warfare between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank has resulted in far too many innocent lives, including many children, lost. Amnesty International is asking us to [sign a petition](#) to urge the authorities involved to do whatever they can to avoid a resumption of the violence.

# Resources

## Defending the Early Years (DEY) *Summer Institute*



We are stronger & louder together. [Join us](#) for three days of learning, building community and strengthening your #ECE Advocacy arm.

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215176171>

Days & Times: Jun 28 – Jun 30, 4 PM – 6 PM ET

Price: Free

## Children Advocating for Climate Change

Ivana Kotasova, a journalist for CNN, wrote an article on children taking action regarding climate change, and taking governments all the way to court. From around the world, children and young adults are stepping up to have their voices heard about the increase of carbon emissions and fossil fuels, and how this generation is demanding governments to change.

In the United States, 18-year-old Jerome Foster started protesting in front of the White House calling for action on climate change. Due to his advocacy, Foster has been included into a group of advisers regarding environmental justice, under President Joe Biden. His focus is on people of color and low-income communities who face the greatest fallout from pollution and climate change (The Guardian, April 2021).



*Picture courtesy of YES!Magazine.org*

Please read the full article ["Kids are taking governments to court over climate. And they are starting to win."](#)

## Global Protests for Freedom and Peace



*17-year-old Russia Olga Misik reading the Russian constitution. She is being praised globally for her courage and is being referred to as one of the most powerful images in the era of modern feminism.*

*(Picture courtesy of devdiscourse.com)*

Wearing a bulletproof vest, 17-year old Olga Misik was taken into custody after protesting for political freedom in her country of Russia. Olga stated she is not supporting one particular party, she simply wanted to emphasize the Russian constitution, valuing the rights of people.

"I read four sections," according to Olga. "An article talking about the right to peacefully protest, an article saying that everyone can take part in elections, has the right to freedom of speech and that the people's will and power are the most important thing for the country."

[Read more about this courageous teenager.](#)

# Juneteenth

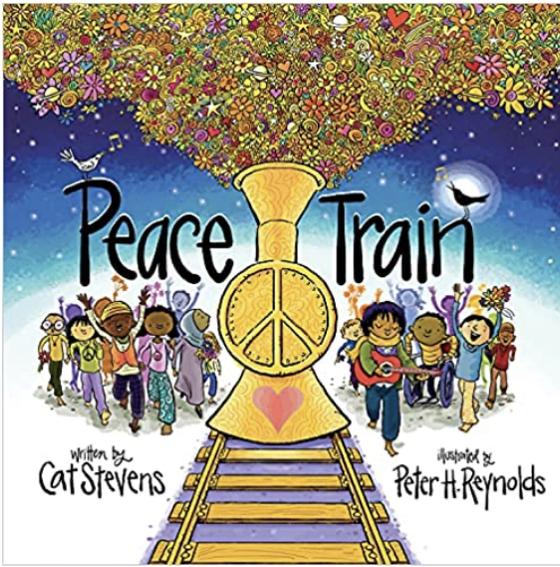


*Picture courtesy of Askideas.com*

June 19th, known as Juneteenth, is a day of celebration for the African American communities around the United States. This day symbolizes freedom and is shared through different festivities such as people enjoying art, food, and music. There are many different ways we can educate children about this day as well as the tragedy of enslavements and racism.

On the *Learning for Justice* website (formerly known as *Teaching Tolerance*), educators and parents can find numerous resources emphasizing celebrations of culture, activism, and the humanity of people. [Please continue reading...](#)

# Book Review



## Peace Train

Written by Cat Stevens  
illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds  
HarperCollins, 2021.

*'Dedicated to Greta Thunberg and all the children of this beautiful world.'*

Some may know of [Yusef] Cat Stevens, as a troubadour, singer-songwriter and inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His iconic song “Peace Train” was originally a track on the 1971 *Teaser and the Firecat* album. This legendary anthem has now become a delightful picture book celebrating its 50th anniversary, while continuing to spread a powerful message to a brand new generation.

Readers are invited to join the harmonious gathering of passengers who are ready to celebrate peace.

*“Now I've been happy lately  
Thinking about the good things to come  
And I believe it could be  
Something good has begun*

*Oh, I've been smiling lately  
Dreaming about the world as one  
And I believe it could be  
Someday it's going to come”*

These timeless lyrics are illustrated vibrantly by the exceptional artist, Peter Reynolds. He uses the images and symbolism to inspire tolerance and love for people of all cultures and identities. The bright golden train, with a plume of psychedelic “smoke” initially travels across an unknown landscape.

As the train moves along, a young barefoot guitar player makes his way to the train, sometimes walking alongside, as an ethnically diverse group of children join as passengers.



The words of the song are brought to life through Reynolds' use of color and lively characters. Reynolds has placed planets and many symbols in the billowing engine smoke for kids to identify. The striking smiling images of children are a testament to the art and the music.

The author note includes, *"Each of us has the power to imagine and to dream. The heart is where peace begins, so fill it up with as much love as you can and let it spread outward until other people can see it and feel it- be like the sun in the shadows."*

**The book's proceeds are going to benefit the fight to end child poverty worldwide.**

**All aboard.**

Submitted by Karen Kosko

# Poetry

## Kiss

By Ellen Bass

When Lynne saw the lizard  
floating in her mother-in-law's swimming pool,  
she jumped in. And when it wasn't  
breathing, its body limp as a baby  
drunk on milk, she laid it on her palm  
and pressed one fingertip to its silky breast  
with just about the force you need  
to test the ripeness of a peach, only quicker,  
a brisk little push with a bit of spring in it.  
Then she knelt, dripping wet in her Doc Martens  
and cameo T-shirt with the neck ripped out,  
and bent her face to the lizard's face,  
her big plush lips to the small stiff jaw  
that she'd pried apart with her opposable thumb,  
and she blew a tiny puff into the lizard's lungs.  
The sun glared against the turquoise water.  
What did it matter if she saved one lizard?  
One lizard more or less in the world?  
But she bestowed the kiss of life,  
again and again, until  
the lizard's wrinkled lids peeled back,  
its muscles roused its own first breath  
and she set it on the hot cement,  
where it rested a moment  
before darting off.

(Reprinted from *The Sun*, Issue 522)



## Quote of the Month



*“Sometimes something wrong is going on in the world and we think it is the other people who are doing it and we are not doing it. But you are part of the wrong-doing by the way you live your life.”*

— Thich Nhat Hanh

*Photo by Jim Forest. Thich Nhat Hanh with Anne Forest (Jim’s daughter), 1984.*

## Days of the Month

### June - LGBTQ Pride Month

[The Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\) Curriculum](#) helps ensure that LGBTQ students see themselves reflected in lessons and creates opportunities for all students to gain a more complex and authentic understanding around them.

### Caribbean American Heritage Month

[Caribbean American Heritage Month](#) is designated to celebrate the history, traditions, and culture of Caribbean Americans and to honor their contributions to society ([2020-2021 Planning to Change the World-A Plan Book for Social Justice Educators](#))



## June 4 - UN Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

According to the UN, June 4th has been commemorated each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression Day. The General Assembly was appalled on August 19, 1982, at the large number of innocent Lebanese and Palestinian children who became innocent victims actions of aggression. [Read more on this day...](#)



*Picture courtesy of un.org*

## June 12 - [World Day Against Child Labor](#)



## June 16 - [International Day of the African Child](#)

June 16th is Day of the African Child. It was first established by the Organization of African Unity in 1991. The day aims at raising awareness for the situation of children in Africa, and on the need for continuing improvement in education (World Health Organization).



Picture courtesy of National Day Review

## June 18 - Autistic Pride Day

On June 18th, organisations from around the world celebrate Autistic Pride Day. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness among those who are not on the autistic spectrum disorder, to see people who are on the spectrum as unique individuals and not as individuals who are in need of treatment. [Click here to read more](#)



Picture courtesy of Autism Canada

## June 19 - [Juneteenth](#)

Juneteenth resources are featured above.

# ***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](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com).

Join Now

Donate

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](mailto:actforpeace@googlegroups.com) to follow our members' recommended actions and share your own! You can sign up 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.

**Visit our Website, [peaceeducators.org](http://peaceeducators.org)!**

