



[P.E.A.C.E. News for May 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!

Now that vaccinations against COVID are available everywhere, we suggest that your own health and that of your coworkers, children, and families will be improved if you get your vaccination soon. Thank you if you have already done so.

Help Your State Implement the Federal Child Care, Preschool, and Parental Tax Credit Parts of the American Rescue Plan

The recently passed American Rescue Plan legislation includes about \$39 billion for significant improvements in child care and mixed-delivery public preschools for children 3 and older, and it gives parents increases in child care subsidy amounts and eligibility ceilings. The States are implementing these provisions, but some States need our encouragement to restore viability to the child care industry.

In addition, that legislation gives a one-year boost in the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, so that parents get a cash-refundable deduction from any (or no) income tax liabilities of half of up to \$8,000 for the fees for one child in care, or \$16,000 for two, decreasing to \$0 for family incomes between \$125,000 and \$440,000. Please let the parents in your program know about this benefit, which should mean that they can afford to pay for high quality child care for 2021 at least. [Read details on this tax credit.](#)

Urge Your Representative and Senators to Support the American Family Plan

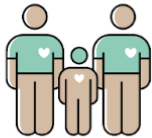
HOW PRESIDENT BIDEN'S AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN WOULD INVEST IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Tax credits: continues expansion of the Child Tax Credit and makes permanent the full refundability of the CTC; allow workers without children, from age 19 and up, to claim increased Earned Income Tax Credit (tripled benefits).



Child care: huge expansion of free and affordable child care for low/middle income families.



Paid family and medical leave: guarantees 12 weeks of paid leave, phased in.



Education: free high quality preschool for 3 and 4 year olds; training and wage increases for teachers; 2 years of free community college and more help affording college.

TOGETHER, WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE NEEDS OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.



P.E.A.C.E., Inc., gives our strong support for the American Family Plan (AFP) introduced by President Biden on April 28, 2021 in his first speech to Congress. The early childhood provisions of that Plan closely paralleled the Child Care For Working Families Act, H.R. 1364, earlier introduced by Senator Patty Murray (WA) and Representative Bobby Scott (VA), with abundant support from [NAEYC](#) and [many other organizations](#)

The AFP would restructure child care throughout the US to make high quality care available to all families, pay child care providers/teachers the equivalent of public school teachers, and help those providers with the costs of professional education and training. The AFP is under active consideration on both sides of the Capitol, and parts or all of it could be included in the budgetary provisions of the President's Build Back Better Plan. ([Full text of the White House Press Release](#); [NAEYC's supporting statement](#).)

At a cost of \$225 billion, the AFP would **subsidize the full cost of care** for families earning below 75 percent of State median income, cap child care expenses at 7 percent of income for families earning between 75 percent and 150 percent of that amount, and have a sliding scale of reduced support for families earning more than that. Families that pay for child care (including after-school and summer care) would be able to get a tax credit for 50 percent of those expenses, up to \$4,000 for one child and \$8,000 for two or more children, if earning less than \$125,000 per year, with a smaller percentage for richer families. The family could choose center or family child care, Early Head Start, or public school Preschool. The AFP would give additional help for dual language-learners, homeless children, children in foster care, children with disabilities, and children whose parents work non-traditional hours. Child care, Head Start, and public preschool programs would be financially supported to have low student-to-teacher ratios, developmentally appropriate curriculum, and inclusive, supportive classroom environments.

The American Rescue Plan's **Child Tax Credit** (independent of child care expenses) **would be expanded** to \$3,000 for a child of 6+ years, and \$3,600 for a child under 6, and would be not just for 2021, but permanent. It would be paid during the year rather than with the taxes, so child poverty would be reduced even more.

The AFP would devote \$200 billion, prioritizing high-need areas, to fund States' mixed-delivery high quality **public preschool systems** for 3 and 4 year olds from low and moderate-income families, and would turn Head Start programs into full day and full year sites.

Child care and Head Start **workers would be paid** at least \$15 per hour to begin with, then **in parity** with public elementary school teachers with similar credentials and experience. Child care professionals seeking additional training and education or starting new child care programs would be helped with free community college classes and other training, and expanded (up to \$8,000 per year) teacher-training scholarships and Pell grants for basic degrees and advanced credentials. Mentoring, coaching, and leadership programs would be supported, especially for teachers and teacher candidates of color.

The AFP's **paid family leave** plan would provide partial wage replacement to allow parents to bond with their new babies, as well as deal with caregiving for other family members. The **Nutrition Help** plan would extend free meals for low-income students to year-round programs, and would expand them to entire schools in low-income areas.

Chairman Neal of the House Ways & Means Committee introduced another Bill, the ***Building an Economy for Families Act***, on the same day as the President's speech, which would add to his AFP several useful provisions that would:

- Increase funds for the Child Care Entitlement to States program and index the funds to grow with inflation and child population;
- Establish a Child Care Information Network (CCIN) for parents and caregivers to access frequently updated information about available child care slots that meet their needs in their communities;
- Provide a new refundable payroll tax credit for child care providers to raise wages of essential child care workers; and
- Invest \$15 billion in the physical infrastructure of child care facilities.

In short, the US child care system would be made much more like the early childhood support systems in most other developed countries, improving the competitive stance of America's economy for the long term. This Plan is worth our best efforts to persuade your Senators and Representative to give it their co-sponsorship or best support. Unfortunately, the AFP is only one part of a very long laundry list of pleasing policies that the President wants to pass in a divided Congress, so we need to push hard for them to do the right thing for our children.

Your Senators and Representatives need to hear just why we need to give priority to the early childhood parts of the AFP, as well as Senator Murray and Chairman Neal's initiatives. Please call (202) 224-3121 to connect with your Congresspeople, or go to their websites to make comments, and get the families and children in your program to write and call them.

P.E.A.C.E. Seeks a Social Media Intern

Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere Inc. is looking for a social media intern. *This is a stipended, short term position!*

For more details please view the online application:

<https://forms.gle/JRvcm8SJxXuNMZij9>

For questions or concerns please reach out to us at: 1peaceeducators@gmail.com

National Screen-Free Week, May 3-9

Our friends at the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood sponsor the annual [Screen-Free Week](#) to help us all get away from our addictions to TV, computer, tablet and phone screens, whether induced by COVID or otherwise. It's only when children can get out to play with adult companionship and support that they can develop the social and emotional skills, as well as body-mind connections, that face-to-face interaction provides. So please get out and breathe the Spring air and welcome the flowers. The children you care for and your own inner child will rejoice and revive.

Giveaway alert! Celebrate Screen-Free Week from May 3-9 and win a copy of one of the fabulous Annual Screen-Free Week Booklist titles! [Share your experiences](#) after you unplug, or post on social media with the tag #screenfreeweek.

Celebrate the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month by Action!

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, which is designed to recognize the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans' history, cultures, and achievements. Thanks to Jeanie Jew, a former Capitol Hill staffer who approached New York Congressman Frank Horton in 1992 to get that designation. Unfortunately, this year we are fighting to condemn hatred and violence toward our Asian co-workers, parents, children, and relatives, especially women. We must stand up and advocate for one another when ignorance and bigotry threaten members of the AAPI community. Please help the AAPI community and let us know that you are standing with us.

What you can do to help the AAPI community:

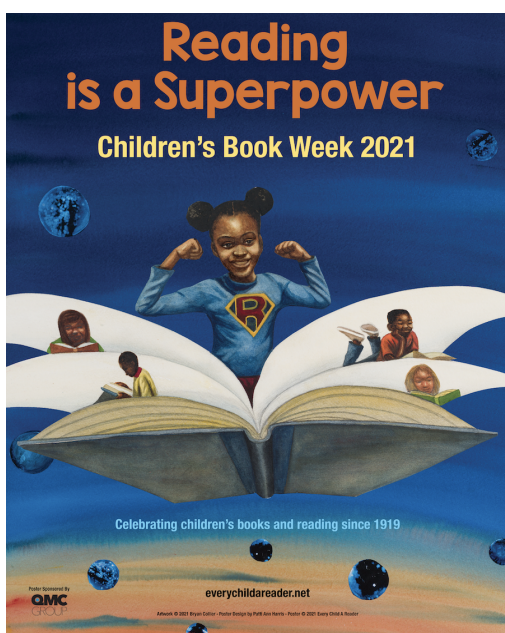
1. Sign the Statement to Condemn Asian Hate from NAEYC Asian Interest Forum in Solidarity with People of Color Caucus at <https://forms.gle/hN3j2hSyx7pN8SXW7>.
2. Share the link with your friends, colleagues, and networks.
3. Speak up and stand up against unfair treatments or violent attacks toward Asian Americans!

Thanks for your support!

Submitted by Shu-Chen Jenny Yen

Resources

Children's Book Week, May 3-9



[Children's Book Week](#), established in 1919, is not only a celebration of books, but of connection. It is a vehicle to unite kids and adults with books, authors, and illustrators in order to foster a love of reading. We are inspired by educators, librarians, booksellers, parents and caregivers and the creative ways they find to connect with kids every day. Check out their online materials, and also resources on the P.E.A.C.E. website, at <https://peaceeducators.org/resources/>.

Poetry

Over the weather

By Naomi Shahib Nye

We forget about the spaciousness above the clouds

But

It's up there.

The sun's up there too.

When words we hear don't fit the day,

when we worry

what we did or didn't do,

what if we close our eyes,

say any word we love

that makes us feel calm,

slip into the atmosphere

and rise?

Creamy miles of quiet.

Giant swoop of blue.

Naomi Shihab Nye is the Poetry Foundation's Young People's Poet Laureate, serving from 2019 to 2021. Awarded by the Poetry Foundation for a two-year term, the Young People's Poet Laureate aims to raise awareness that young people have a natural receptivity to poetry and are its most appreciative audience, especially when poems are written specifically for them.



Submitted by Karen Kosko

Quote of the Month



“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”

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Days of the Month

May - Asian-Pacific Heritage Month



Picture courtesy of Kid World Citizen

[Ways to enrich kids' Asian-Pacific American culture by U.S. Dept of Education](#)

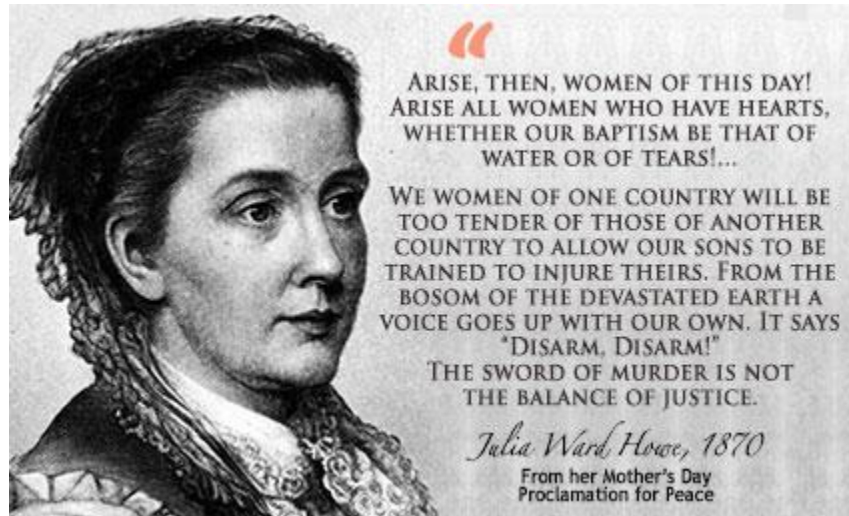
- Explore Asian American and Pacific Island history
- Make a globe
- Make a Lai
- Check out an art exhibit
- Find out more about other cultures
- Have a lau'au
- Learn about the lunar New Year
- Discover more about trees
- Try Asian horticulture
- Make an Asian dish
- Read books with Asian American and Pacific island connections

[PBS: How to Teach Children About Cultural Awareness and Diversity](#)

[Learning for Justice \(formerly Teaching Tolerance\) suggestions for celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage](#)

May 4 - [National Teacher Appreciation Day](#)

May 9 - Mother's Day



Mother's Day in the US was designated a national holiday in 1914 thanks to a campaign by Anna Jarvis, carrying on her mother Ann Reeves Jarvis's efforts to establish an annual celebration in honor of mothers and dedicated to peace. In the 1870s, peace activist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe called for the celebration of a "Mother's Day for Peace" as a pacifist reaction to the carnage of the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War.

[Read more about the history of Mother's Day...](#)

May 15 - International Conscientious Objection Day

[International Conscientious Objection Day](#) takes place on May 15th every year, to raise awareness of those who resist war. Conscientious objectors are those who, for moral or religious reasons, refuse to participate in armed conflict or join the armed forces. War Resisters International, which has been campaigning for the Right of Conscientious Objection and the ending of all war, is 100 years old this year. (P.E.A.C.E. is an affiliate of the War Resisters International based in London, UK.) [Join celebrations all year long.](#)



May 25 - African Liberation Day

[African Liberation Day](#) celebrates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity on this date in 1963, African freedom from colonialist exploitation and strife, and the unity of African people. It is celebrated by many African communities around the world and is an important institution in the worldwide Pan African Movement. In the US the day is commemorated in the form of symposia, where people are invited to attend and participate in political and social issues relevant to US African communities.

African Access [reviews children's books on Africa](#), selects winners of the [Children's Africana Book Awards](#), and provides other extensive resources to help schools, public libraries, and caretakers improve the quality of their children's collections on Africa.

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

Donate

Join the NAEYC Interest Forum

f Follow us on Facebook

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!

