



P.E.A.C.E. News for September 2020

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

ACTION ALERTS!

WE ALL NEED TO GET OUT THE VOTE!

P.E.A.C.E., Inc., as a non-profit organization, cannot take sides in political campaigns, but we can urge you and everyone you know to cast your ballots, preferably soon by early voting or mail ballots. Please do talk to all your friends and neighbors, urging them to vote so that their voices will be heard. Thank you.





Picture Courtesy First Five Years Fund

RECOVERING FROM THE CHILD CARE CATASTROPHE

Throughout the United States child care centers and family child care homes are shutting down, either because the child care providers and parents worry for their health in the pandemic, or because the safety rules designed to minimize that risk for all make it impossible to earn enough money to operate. Some estimates show 1/3 to 1/2 of the providers closing permanently. Meanwhile parents are going crazy trying to care for their children and work (often from home) at the same time. Children are losing the affection, social interaction, physical activity and self-initiated play that they need to grow.

Federally the House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act, which would go far to restore healthy and build high quality child care for all, with a \$50 billion infusion to overcome the financial and other obstacles now in the way of getting back to a healthier early childhood development system. The Senate, however, offered only a \$15 billion addition to the existing Child Care and Development Block Grant, then went off for a month-long vacation while Federal aid stalled, people started starving, and evictions became rampant. The Senate won't return until next week.

We need to continue to push our Representatives and Senators to make a meaningful contribution to the resumption of healthy and economically sound child care. And we need to keep in mind what our elected officials are doing in this area when we decide on our votes in the coming General Election.

Resources

New Defending the Early Years Website Launches

Our friends at Defending the Early Years continue to advocate for us to fill the needs of young children (and older ones too!) for child-initiated play, for their own development and integration of the whole child. Their new website does it well.



Defending the Early Years is delighted to announce the launching of our brand new website with a fresh new look!

Check it out at dey.org and let us know what you think.

How to Manage Screen Time During the Pandemic



Picture courtesy childrenandscreens.org

Due to the pandemic, many families are struggling with how to manage their child(ren)'s screen time. Not only are we as adults exposed to the use of more screen time due to Zoom and Facetime meetings, our children engage in more screen time as well especially with the new school year ahead of us. The website *Psychology Today* provides the following 5 tips for families:

1. *Safety*: thinking about a healthy living style focusing on food, sleep, physical and group activities.
2. *Minimize screen exacerbated anxiety*: avoid live television for children, in which casualties are front and center, since this can cause more stress and anxiety in children.
3. *Increase "healthy" activities, not just screen time*: enjoy more outdoor time such as hiking, biking as well as indoor activities such as yoga and dance.
4. *Maintain your family's sanity*: provide structure and expectations.
5. *Model care, concern, communication, and cuddling in your own screen time*

Read more about this in their blog, [5 Tips to Manage Screen Time During Quarantine](#).

Peace Projects

The Peace Projects is an initiative to sponsor and mentor Early Childhood Educators, in promoting Peace Education for young children in the classroom. Here are two examples of Peace Projects that concluded successfully.

The Art of Storytelling

By Mary Ann Beck

Fullerton College Child Development & Educational Studies Lab School

The Child Development & Educational Studies (CDES) Lab School has incorporated the art of storytelling into the curriculum throughout the years, exploring personal interests and stories from both children and teachers alike. Storytelling has allowed relationships to deepen in many ways, whether it is between peers, children and teachers, families and even between the materials and environments of the CDES Lab School. Storytelling has allowed children and families to continue to communicate and connect with others in a “nonviolent, just, inclusive and respectful way,” especially as the CDES Lab School has transitioned from meeting in-person at school to virtually at home.

Over the past few months, the Lab School has utilized the Story Park online platform, as well as “Community Zoom Gathering Meetings” to help us all stay connected during the pandemic. Throughout the Story Park posts and Zoom

Gatherings with the children and families, the interest in storytelling still lingered from our work together in the previous months. We revisited some classroom favorite books and stories, some of which included the books that were purchased through the Peace Projects award. Children began sharing original stories and illustrations online, and also recreating extended stories from their favorite books.



Children engaging in storytelling at the CDES Lab School, Fullerton College CA

Some children and families also presented their newly created stories in a digital slide presentation or through songs and a variety of musical instruments. The children and families' storytelling inspired the CDES Lab School teaching team to continue exploring storytelling together, and also was an encouraging sign for me to contact Baba the Storyteller again to reschedule what should have been an in-person visit to a virtual visit instead.

We were fortunate enough to reschedule online visits with Baba the Storyteller in mid-June, who had also transitioned all of his work and presentations to a virtual platform. Prior to his presentations, the Lab School teaching team was able to meet with Baba to learn more about his storytelling history. Two virtual presentations/visits were held for each classroom of the CDES Lab School, and the timing of these visits helped to serve as a culmination of our storytelling journey and end of the school year. Each visit with Baba was exciting and engaging, and even after the virtual visits, many children continued to talk about him and ask questions about him throughout our Community Zoom Gatherings. Baba was kind enough to share his email with us to continue communication, as many children wanted to share messages with him after his presentations with us. The stories Baba shared with us during his presentations introduced us to the character of Anansi, along with many other animal characters. The reduced price of his virtual visits provided allowance to purchase additional storytelling materials and other books, some of which include books about Anansi, to help build the connection between our continued storytelling journey and Baba's shared stories.



CDES Lab School Zoom presentation with Baba the Storyteller

MenTeach New England Sponsors Rodney West

By Craig Simpson, Dorchester, MA

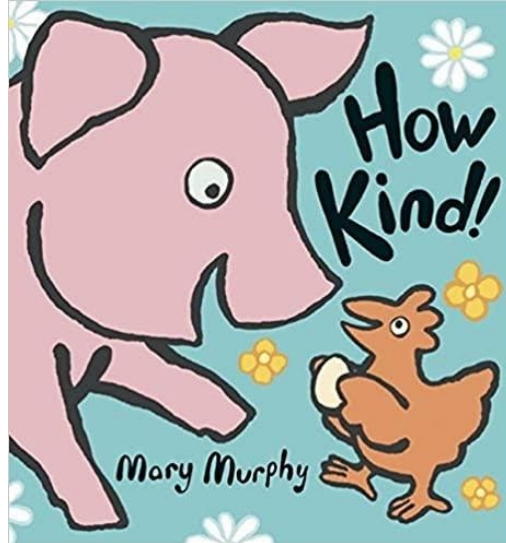


Rodney West at the Grove Hall Child Development Center, Boston, MA.

MenTeach New England, a group throughout New England supporting Men in early Childhood Education, applied and received a Peace Projects award to help sponsor a speaker to attend the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children (MAAEYC). Rodney West, co-facilitator of the Men in Education Interest Forum of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, agreed to come to Massachusetts to meet with members of MenTeach. Rodney came after the award was approved. He held a workshop at the MAAEYC conference titled *Working With African American Boys*. He met with Amy O'Leary, the national president of NAEYC, as well as members of the BostonAEYC, and center directors about the importance of men in early education. He gave a boost to men in New England working with Young Children.

Book Reviews

We are starting the “school year” off with a combination of two titles sharing the value of KINDNESS.

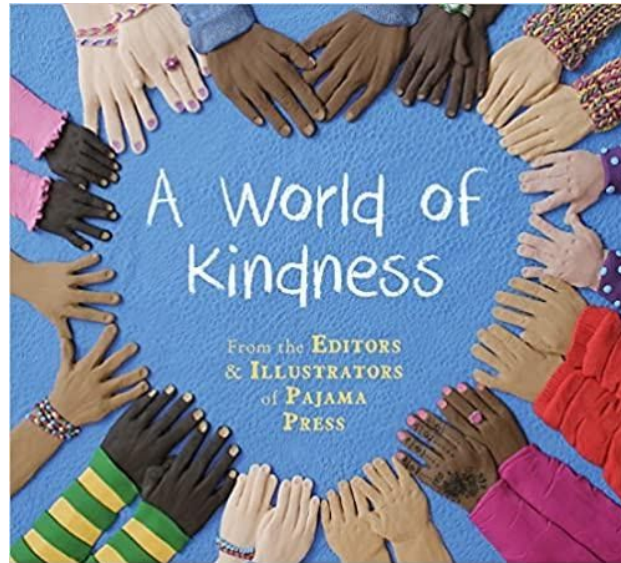


How Kind!

By Mary Murphy, Candlewick Press, 2002.

This book had been around for over 15 years, but it’s always good to revisit old friends. The back-cover blurb covers it all: “One kind deed leads to another... and another in this delightful tale of barnyard benevolence.” Kindness is paid forward in this sweet tale of compassion. How each animal decides to give their gift is important too, for example after rabbit gives cow some flowers, cow ponders, *“‘Rabbit is very kind’, thought cow. ‘How can I be kind too?’ She gave cat some milk. ‘How kind’ said cat.”* And so it goes, with the act of what goes around comes around and everyone realizing that being kind makes you and others feel good. Generosity is not just about “things”, it’s about **helping** neighbors too.

Kindness indeed starts with one small act.



A World of Kindness

By Ann Featherstone, and Suzanne Del Rizzo, Pajama Press, 2018. [preschool to elementary school]

Almost every page of *A World of Kindness* has a simple but profound question. Starting with “Are you kind?”, nine talented artists unite to offer original illustrations to enhance each question. The art styles range from oils, watercolor and collage, all wonderfully designed to support the text. This book actually becomes a ‘How-to book’ with the last page stating, “*And that, my friend, is how a little kindness grows into a world of kindness*”. The endpapers are covered with words, which look like they are written in white chalk - [compassion, patience, sympathy, gentleness, honesty, empathy, tolerance, etc.] When shared aloud, this book not only sparks conversation and valuable discussion, it can lead to children showing the world a way to explore kindness.

All royalties donated to the “World of Kindness Movement” provided by the publisher.

<https://thinkkindness.org/rockstar-teachers-podcast/ep-07-how-to-inspire-resilient-students-during-covid-19/>

Submitted by Karen Kosko

Days of the Month

September, 2020

September 13 - Grandparents Day



Grandparents Day Around the World: When is Grandparents Day Celebrated in Other Countries?

The website GrandParently.com provides us with the following information in regards to Grandparents Day: “Grandparents Day began in the United States in 1978. It has spread to numerous countries world-wide. While many countries celebrate some form of grandparents there is no recognized worldwide Grandparents Day. [Read more about this day...](#)”

September 21 - International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution 36/37, the General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to *“commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.”* [Please read more about this important day...](#)

The [Global Campaign for Peace Education](https://kidsforpeaceglobal.org/) provides great resources, conferences and workshops.



Peace Day Challenge

In honor of the United Nations' International Day of Peace, we challenge you to complete as many acts of peace as possible.

Acts of Peace

- Smile at 25 people
- Learn to say "Peace" in 5 languages
- Volunteer or raise funds for a worthy cause
- Take a deep breath
- Design and display a peace-themed poster
- Say "Good Morning" to 5 people
- Make a wish for a child in another country
- Share food with someone in need
- Compliment 5 people
- Draw a peace sign in the sand or dirt
- Play a collaborative game
- Pick up litter in your community
- List 5 things you're grateful for
- Thank your caregiver creatively
- Help a sick or hurt person
- Write a peace poem
- Discuss the meaning of peace
- Plant or hug a tree
- Brighten an elder's day
- Do yoga for 10 minutes
- Write to a pen pal in another country
- Uplift a friend in need
- Read a book to a younger child
- Make a new friend
- Recycle or reuse your litter
- Recite the Kids for Peace "Peace Pledge"
- Advocate for a cause you believe in
- Design a gratitude card for someone
- Learn 5 facts about a Noble Peace Prize Laureate
- Send a note to your personal peace hero
- Be kind to an animal
- Connect with nature for 10 minutes
- Discover 1 fact about the United Nations
- Create a dove, flag, or pinwheel for peace
- Make a treat for your neighbor
- Apologize and make things right
- Thank a community leader
- Speak in a kind way
- Start a peace chapter or club
- Meditate for 10 minutes
- Do a happy dance
- Sing a song for peace
- Hug your sibling or friend
- Forgive yourself or someone else
- Interview an elder about his or her life
- Lend your skills to help someone
- Learn about a different culture
- Look for the best in others
- Create your own act of peace
- Congratulate yourself for being a peacebuilder

[KidsforPeaceGlobal.org](https://kidsforpeaceglobal.org/)

<https://kidsforpeaceglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Peace-Day-Challenge-Checklist.pdf>

Quote of the Month

Women are half the society. You cannot have a revolution without women. You cannot have democracy without women. You cannot have equality without women. You can't have anything without women.

Nawal El Saadawi

www.idlehearts.com

You're Important to Us!

We Have a New Donate Button!

Since we don't charge dues, ***we count on donations*** from those who are able to continue our work. Please help us financially, if you can. Now you can help us more easily, by clicking the "donate" button below. We're finally part of the 21st Century. As we're a non-profit under the IRS Section 501(c)(3), all donations are tax-deductible. Thank you.

[Join Now](#)

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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.

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,
www.peaceeducators.org!