



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

## *A National Affordable, Accessible, High Quality Child Care System Needs Your Help Now*

This month the U.S. Senate approved a massive Budget Reconciliation Bill, with provisions that would include a Federally-mandated and funded, mixed government and private system to improve access everywhere to affordable, high quality child care with much better pay for child care professionals. It would include universal pre-k for 3 and 4 year olds, and permanent income tax credits, so that no family would have to pay more than 7 percent of its income for child care and early education. Later the House of Representatives told its Education & Labor and Ways & Means Committees to propose a similar system to the House by September 15, for a final vote by the House by September 27. That Reconciliation Bill would then go to the Senate for a final vote, which the sponsors hope will be in time for the whole system to be in place at the beginning of the next Federal Fiscal Year on October 1.

Quite a few legislators on both sides of Congress are looking for parts of the Bill to cut, for a variety of reasons. It's an uphill battle to push through these visionary changes, so common in other countries and so lacking here.

We truly have reached the moment when your input to your Representative and your Senators about repairing and improving America's child care is crucial. You can reach them:

- by calling (202) 224-3121, or
- by Googling their websites and sending them a message through it, or
- by visiting their local offices.

In particular, if you have a Representative on the Ways & Means Committee you can find it out [here](#), and the Education & Labor Committee [here](#) These Committees will be making the important decisions on what spending to include and how it's to be spent. Please do it now! And many thanks from all of us at P.E.A.C.E. for the important work you're doing, including advocacy.

## ***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*

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## ***Meet Our New Social Media Intern***

Hello! My name is Natasha Pavelek, I am 16- almost 17-years old, and a senior in high school. I am really excited to start this internship and be part of this great organization. I attended Orange County Peace Camp as both a camper and a youth leader and I have volunteered for the Center for Social Justice, the Fullerton College food bank and helped distribute homeless sanitary packages through our school. In my time off, I like to go running, camping with my family, spending time with friends, and I love to read books. I am looking forward to this new opportunity!



*Camping in Joshua Tree, California*

**In Loving Memory  
Eloise Greenfield  
(May 17, 1929- August 5, 2021)**



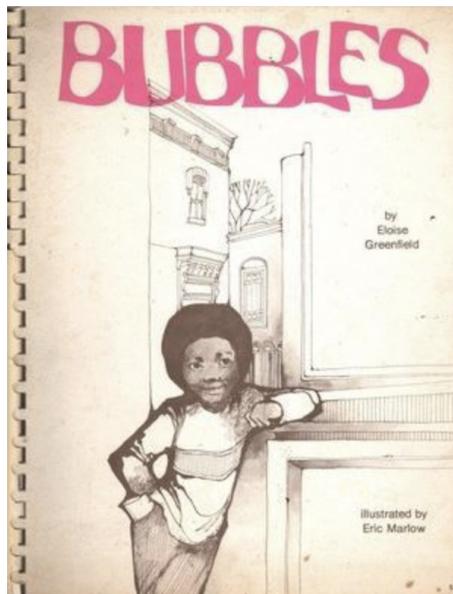
*Picture courtesy of harpercollins.com*

**To Catch a Fish**  
By Eloise Greenfield

It takes more than a wish  
to catch a fish  
you take the hook  
you add the bait  
you concentrate  
and then you wait  
you wait you wait

but not a bite  
the fish don't have  
an appetite  
so tell them what  
good bait you've got  
and how your bait  
can hit the spot  
this works a whole  
lot better than  
a wish  
if you really  
want to catch  
a fish

Eloise Greenfield was a profound author of picture books, literature, and biographies. She revolutionized children's literature which encouraged other African American authors to follow in her footsteps of becoming published writers. She received 10 rejection letters before her first book *Bubbles* was finally published in 1972. She is a true activist in the fight against racism and was a member of the Student Nonviolent Committee. Continue reading more [here](#)



# Resources

## Returning to School After COVID

By Karin Pavelek



*Picture courtesy of Kelly Sikkema*

It's almost fall, and most children are returning to school full-time while facing high levels of anxiety due to various reasons. Some children are experiencing separation anxieties whereas others show fear of having to engage in large crowds. My daughter, who started her senior year in high school, experienced fear during the first week which was expressed in loss of appetite, trembling hands, the inability to focus, and difficulty sleeping. I was so excited for her to finally return to school and socialize with her friends, that I did not factor in the emotional stress that she endured.

Luckily, her anxieties were short-lived. I ended up doing some research and found a great article written by Caroline Miller, that supports parents and caretakers on how to help your child handle fear and gain back their independence. I remember my child coming home on the second day of school, responding: "Mom, I think I lost all my social skills". After reading the article, we came up with some strategies to support her in this process. Here are some examples:

- Talk about how your child feels and validate those feelings
- Encourage journaling
- Avoid asking leading questions; instead, set the tone

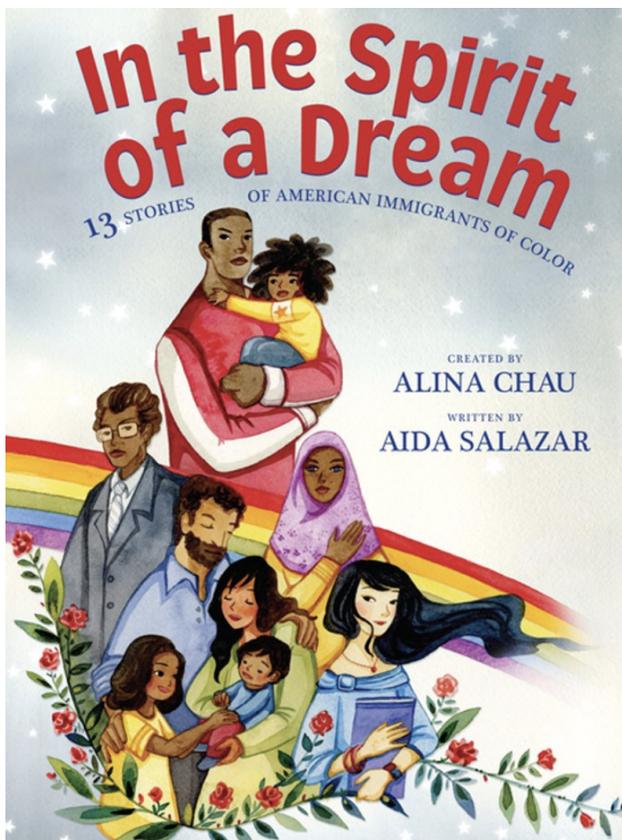
- Engage them in positive thinking
- Practice being apart from one another
- Develop a routine and include mindfulness practices (i.e., meditation, engage in art, listen to music, daily walk in nature, practice yoga)
- Emphasize safety measures (Don't focus on mask removal, they will take it off when they feel comfortable enough and it's safe to do so)
- Encourage flexibility: be prepared for future changes
- If needed, consult a therapist

[Read more about these strategies included in Caroline's article.](#)

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## Book Reviews

### *In the Spirit of a Dream: 13 Stories of American Immigrants of Color*



Created by Alina Chau and written by Aida Salazar, Scholastic Press, 2021.

A new book which is a tribute to American immigrants of color, written in poems and illustrated by 14 first- and second-generation immigrant artists.

One poem to share from the book is about Haitian author Edwidge Danticat and illustrated by Haitian American illustrator [Tracy Guiteau](#)

Stories slid into Edwidge's curious mind  
when as a child, she listened to her elders  
retell their lives and myths in the midst  
of blackouts on her island home of Haiti.  
a home she would leave for the US  
when she was twelve years old.

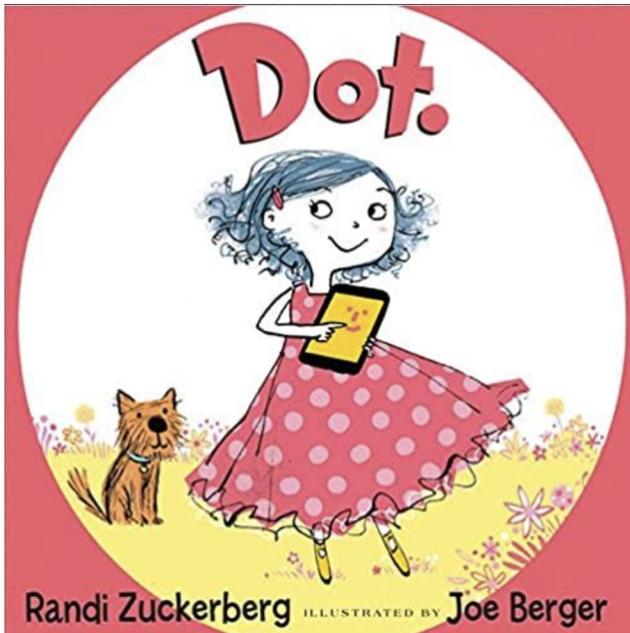
As she grew in Brooklyn,  
the shape of her life was sculpted  
by new city streets that moved her,  
by what she remembered,  
by the will to read, to write,  
to dream, to call into being  
her own stories, whispered by ancestors,  
and an abundant imagination.

What sprung forth was a lineage of books -  
one after the next, awarded for excellence -  
with stories of Haitians, immigrants,  
women, brothers, and families  
who collect their pains and their loves  
and offer them in the palms of their warm hands.

The stories Edwidge tells resound,  
Krik? Krak! a Haitian call and response,  
carried into fullness by her immigrant pen  
and the breath of the island.



## Dot.



Author, Randi Zuckerberg  
Illustrator, Joe Berger, Harper Collins, 2013

With school back “in session”, here is a reminder that not everyone learns in the same way. This picture book begins: *“This is Dot. Dot knows a lot”*.

The important message for parents/caregivers/teachers is about exchanging technology entertainment for the outdoors, nature and physical activity. Dressed in polka-dots, Dot is a spunky young learner who sees herself as a technophile.

She uses electronic devices and knows how : to tap . . . to swipe . . . to share.

The lively art encompasses 1 to 2 brief sentences on every page. Because Dot pays little attention to anything else, her mother urges her to “recharge” outside. But will Dot be able to unplug in order to tag...surf...and share with friends?

I am suggesting this book as a way to alert students about screen time, especially if they are participating in remote learning. They become aware of how the use of technology needs to be balanced. The verbs in the book are interchangeable describing Dot's **online** and **offline** activities, like searching, tapping, sharing and tweeting. What a conversation starter for Screen Free Week with an opportunity to discuss the role of technology.

Dot happily reconnects with nature and “the real world” with in-person social connections. They have lots of **screen free** time together, playing as children have always played. After her interactive adventure with the world surrounding her, the book ends with: “This is Dot. Dot’s learned a lot.”

*Dot.* can start a dialogue, encourage kids to unplug and spur kids to PLAY BALL.

Both reviews submitted by Karen Kosko

# Days of the Month

## September

### September 13 - Grandparents Day

The website GrandParently.org 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.



*Picture courtesy of Liz Brenden*

### 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.*”

The [Global Campaign for Peace Education](#) provides great resources, conferences and workshops.

*Picture courtesy by UN.org*

### **September 23 - International Day of Sign Language**

The International Day of Sign Language is a day when we acknowledge the cultural diversity and the linguistic identity of not only deaf people around the world, but other sign language users as well. There are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide, of which over 80% live in developing countries.



*Picture courtesy of Unicef Malaysia*

### **September 26 - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

One of the oldest goals of the United Nations is to achieve global disarmament. Today, we still see 13,080 nuclear weapons remaining. While the number has strongly declined, we still have a long way to go. This day provides us with the opportunity to bring awareness to the world community that global nuclear disarmament needs to be a priority.



*Picture courtesy of Unfoldzero.org*

# Support P.E.A.C.E. Projects!

P.E.A.C.E. Projects are an opportunity for early childhood teachers to receive an award to promote peace education in their classrooms. We rely exclusively on donations to fund these innovative, educational programs.

## P.E.A.C.E. Project Awardee 2020 - 2021

Hanan Alwaheba, English Immersion junior kindergarten teacher, Kennedy Longfellow School, Cambridge, MA. This past school year Hanan had 9 students, fewer than in the past due to COVID. The students' home languages were Amharic, Bengali, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Pakistani, Serbian and Spanish. Hanan chose to focus her Peace Project on creating an enhanced sense of belonging and a sense of cultural identity for each child. She recognized the increased stressors associated with the pandemic and created a calming corner in the classroom with P.E.A.C.E. Project funds.



Hanan wrote in her P.E.A.C.E. Project report "Having a planned mindful classroom where everyone feels a sense of belonging also helped to build a multicultural community. The children were able to illustrate this through painting using skin colors and mirror their families using the ethnic dolls."

All of Hanan’s 4 and 5 year old students are English language learners. She noted “The emotion stones helped develop emotional language in my classroom.”

She added “The yoga and mindfulness cards were very helpful to help maintain a sense of calmness in the classroom (during COVID).



Currently P.E.A.C.E. funds four P.E.A.C.E. Projects annually. With your generosity we can fund more proposals.



P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is recognized as a charitable Section 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are fully tax-deductible.

# 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

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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](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)!

