



International Day of Peace – September 21, 2011 Activity Ideas for School / After-School Programs

The U.N. International Day of Peace (Peace Day) is a global day of ceasefire and non-violence observed throughout the world on September 21. This year's U.N. theme is "Let your voice be heard." Here are some suggested Peace Day activities for children and youth – please share your plans, ideas and activities with us! E-mail: peacedayphilly2011@gmail.com

For more about the United Nations International Day of Peace, please go to:

<http://www.una-gp.org/peacedayphilly2011.htm>
www.internationaldayofpeace.org & www.peaceday.org

To register for FREE Peace Education Resources developed by the non-profit Peace One Day for grades 6-12, go to: <http://www.peaceday.org/en/education/ABOUT-THE-RESOURCES>.

SCHOOL WIDE & GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- ✚ Observe a moment of silence at noon in the spirit of unity and with other children around the world who also wish to live in peace and without violence.
- ✚ Invite someone who is doing peace-related work in the city or somewhere in the world for a special assembly or interactive workshop, including a discussion about what kids can do to further peace in their world.
- ✚ Create peace doves (& signs with words and images of peace) and have a peace walk around your school. Go to: <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns/dove/involved>, look under "what to do" and then the first arrow for how to make large and small peace doves.
- ✚ Practice "random acts of kindness." Help someone or give of yourself when you see a need, even with someone you don't know. It's amazing what can happen!

WRITING & ART ACTIVITIES

- ✚ Write your own personal "Peace Pledge" to put in your desk or locker as a daily reminder. Pledges should be written in the positive. Students can use journal-writing time to reflect on how they are living their pledge. Share your pledge at ipledgephilly@gmail.com.
- ✚ Express "What is Peace to me?" or "How I can create Peace in my world?" in writing and/or art. Consider different levels of peace (individual, family, community, global).
- ✚ Write words and phrases about peace, draw, paint or cut out images & make a collaborative peace collage or flag for your classroom or after-school room.
- ✚ Write peace poetry. Go to: <http://www.poemsforpeace.org/> for examples of peace poems written by youth all over the world. One option: write down 5 words that are related to peace, and 5 words that are related to violence/war. Using these words, create a poem.

- ✚ Discuss views about and experiences with bullying. Create “practice tolerance,” “speak up against violence,” “be respectful” and “bully-free zone” posters for common areas.
- ✚ Write a letter to the Mayor about how to make a more peaceful and non-violent city.
- ✚ Make and display “Pinwheels for Peace” outside your school, with art images on one side and wishes for peace on the other. Go to: www.pinwheelsforpeace.com for more information and a pinwheel template (elementary ages will need adult help).
- ✚ Create a wish box for peace 1 week before Peace Day, with each student taking a few moments daily to write down a word or phrase that represents a wish for Peace. On September 21st, make those wishes into a giant collage/garland/banner.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSIONS

- ✚ Discuss being tolerant of differences, what that means, and share ideas for handling conflict situations. Students can also decide on “Peace Rules” for their classroom/school.
- ✚ Learn about the writing, speeches and perspectives of peacemakers and leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., Kofi Annan, Bono, Wangari Maathai, Thich Nhat Hanh, Mahatma Gandhi, Jane Goodall, Nelson Mandela, Oscar Arias Sánchez, Jimmy Carter, the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and many others.
- ✚ Review facts about child soldiers: <http://www.dosomething.org/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-child-soldiers>. Watch “you tube” video (9 mins.) about a female child soldier and how she testified at the U.N.: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IMjnwztTo>. Write what you felt and thought about when hearing her story in the form of a letter to her.
- ✚ Learn about how being in an area of war effects getting an education. Read an overview: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/nov/21/schoolsworldwide-schools>. Then watch a “you tube” video: (8 mins.) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnpUcQ5WINE>. In groups, research different conflict areas in the world and what education is like there.

SPORTS GAMES

Unite with young people around the world by playing a “One Day One Goal” soccer game (or any sport!) in a spirit of unity and good sportsmanship. For a music video about ODOG go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QUJXtvrLU>. For more information about sport for truce: http://www.peaceday.org/en/action/football_odog/sport-for-truce.

PERFORMING ARTS & VIDEO ACTIVITIES

- ✚ In small groups, create a song, dance, skit, or puppet show inspired by themes of non-violence/peace.
- ✚ Explore: <http://www.pacer.org/bullying> and <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>. In small groups, create and perform (or videotape) anti-bullying Public Service Announcements.
- ✚ Make a short “*My Take On Peace*” video – communicate what peace means to you. Go to <http://www.peaceday.org/en/film/my-take-on-peace> for more information and to submit your video.