

Turtle Talk

October 2020

What does Peace mean to you?

October Dates to Remember

"If we are to teach real peace in this world... we shall have to begin with the children."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Mon., Oct. 26th

Oak - Storybook Character Parade
(Time TBA)

With such challenging times, one must ask the important question: What does Peace mean to me? And how can I bring about more Peace in my life and community?

Maria Montessori embedded the concept of Peace into her curriculum. It is a natural and sometimes invisible component of the Montessori curriculum. Woven into the classroom day are lessons "with an emphasis in body mechanics, body language, and enunciating words clearly. Grace and Courtesy presentations are an ongoing, collaborative aspects of our curriculum that invite the children and teachers to work together to forge a culture of responsibility, tolerance, and harmony." [Montessori Services](#)

Tue., Oct. 27th

Maple - Storybook Character Parade
(Time TBA)

Read more to hear some examples of how Turtle River engages students in Peace.

Wed., Oct. 28th

Pre-Primary - Storybook Character Parade (Time TBA)

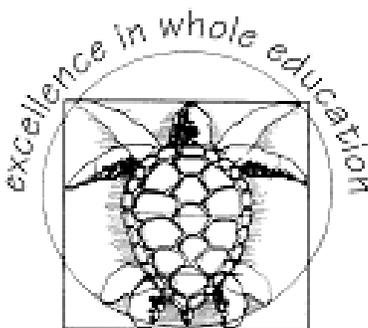
In the Pine Room(3-6 yrs), "we hold a special "Peace Curriculum" circle every Friday morning. During these circles many different stories of Peace are read. These stories help the children to understand what Peace is and the many different ways one can be peaceful or feel peace. We also learn about how everyone has a love light that shines within that never goes out. But that sometimes this love light shines brighter than other times. We have learned that being kind and generous are ways to practice being peaceful and these things help to keep our love light burning bright. We share stories and examples of things that "dim" our love lights followed by moments of silence in order for the children to reflect on how this feels inside. We then follow it with stories and examples of things that help our love lights burn bright followed by another moment of silence so they can actually feel their love light go back to burning bright again. During one of our Peace Circles, the children were each given a tangible representation of their love lights. These are in the form of a necklace that are worn during our Peace Circles. As the children begin to comprehend these feelings more, they will be able to wear them during profound times throughout our day where they may be feeling particularly happy inside from their love light within. This can be brought on by them doing something particularly kind, helpful or generous for someone or by them feeling the sensation of being very proud of themselves for an accomplishment, etc. In particular to International Peace Day, we gathered together with our love lights, shared a moment of silence and then sang all together, "Sing Peace Around the World". We then shared a story called, "We are One" by Jennifer Black. Ms. Monique, Primary teacher

Thu., Oct. 29th

Willow - Storybook Character Parade
(Time TBA)

Fri., Oct. 30th

West Campus Story book Character Day Parade
(Time TBA)



In the Blossoms Room (18 mo - 2 yrs), “we begin our 2nd circle time with our peace song while passing around the peace candle. We've been discussing ways that we can be peaceful and spread peace to others. These simple things include, saying hello, smiling at people, helping friends up when they fall down, planting flowers for butterflies and other insects. The children made peace sign necklaces for their Peace Day craft this year.” -Ms. Samantha, Pre Primary teacher



International Day of Peace, September 21, 2020

This year, Turtle River West Campus was not able to conduct the annual Peace Assembly with all classes together outside. However, the classrooms still completed peace projects and focused on the subject of peace, and what it means to each individual. Read further to hear more about what the classes did....

In Lower Elementary classes, students celebrated by reading about Peacemakers both in whole group read alouds, as well as in their reading groups. They made mind maps about how they can help create peace in the world. The mind maps had four branches: peace within myself, peace in my family, peace in my school, and peace in my community. This has evolved into a more extensive writing assignment that they will wrap up next week. In addition, they learned to draw their own labyrinths and painted rocks with messages of peace which will eventually become a rock labyrinth on the playground. This is a collaborative project with the other Lower Elementary classes. They also made their own peace flags, peace signs out of clay, and colored mandalas in the peace themes. In addition, Ms. Joanna's father, Roy, who worked for the UN came to TRM on Monday and spoke to all the Lower EI classes. See photos below!



Mother Earth Poem

Mother Earth, Mother Earth, it is a great place to be.
 Mother Earth, Mother Earth, home planet for you and me.
 Look after our earth with care,
 Because it is a planet that we all share.
 Humans, animals, plants, and trees,
 Let us live together in harmony.
 Mother Earth, Mother Earth, it is a great place to be.
 Mother Earth, Mother Earth, home planet for you and me.
 In ourselves we must take pride,
 For the future, we need to strive Being kind, it is worthwhile
 Lighting the world up with your smile!
 Mother Earth, Mother Earth, it is a great place to be
 Mother Earth, Mother Earth, home planet for you and me.

Above Poem written by Gardenia's Lower Elementary Virtual Students

In Cedar's Upper Elementary class, the children wrote journal entries about what Peace means to them and how they can bring about peace in the world. Then, they chose sentences from their writing and presented them on paper in the form of a peace symbol. They also acknowledged and held a moment of silence on September 11th in recognition of the attacks on our country. Finally, on Friday, we watched the Lower Elementary class perform their poem on Zoom.

In Poinciana's Junior High, Ava Crawford wrote a Peace Manifesto from the writings of all the students. Additionally, students researched Nobel Peace Prize winners and gave a presentation on their person. Finally, students painted canvas projects which fit together in a hand "Peace sign" which is now posted in the Cedar/Poinciana hallway.



Poinciana's Peace sign art project