

Diane Stirling
CHARACTER^{plus}[®]
314.692.9722
dstirling@csd.org

Karen Sisco
CHARACTER^{plus}[®]
314.692.9723
ksisco@csd.org

basic instructions

We invite your school or organization to create a Peace Ball. Select any month-long period (30 or 31 days) and use or adapt the guidelines below. Essentially, the adults of the learning community “catch” students in peaceful actions.

We encourage you to involve students in the planning and preparation. They can define what peace looks like, sounds like and feels like in your school, and this can become the criteria that adults use to “catch” them. They can also join adults in awarding peace strands to their peers.

- Dates:** Choose a month-long period in which you want your school to focus on peace
- Grades:** Pre K - 8
- Action:** During the month, award students a 12" strand of yarn for each peacemaking act they do.
- Process:** (Please feel free to modify and adapt to your school’s situation or needs)
- Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces. Some schools have enlisted students, student organizations or PTOs to help with this as a service project. Schools have also used the craft “potholder loops” and adults wear several on their wrists so they are immediately available to award.
 - Use your choice of colors, the more the better.
 - Make yarn strands or loops available to the adult members of the school community: Administrators, teachers, counselors, support staff, bus drivers, food service, maintenance staff, parent volunteers, visiting school board and community members.
 - Ask them to “catch” students in acts of respect, cooperation, kindness, understanding, inclusiveness, caring, conflict resolution, self-control, empathy, concern for others, and other gestures that students have identified that promote peace. Award them a piece of yarn when “caught.”
 - Develop a process to connect the pieces of yarn. You might want classrooms or homerooms (advisories) to create their own strands and plan a time to combine these strands into one large ball.
 - Display the peace ball. Have students present it at an assembly, PTO meeting and/or School Board Meeting.
 - **Contact Karen Sisco at Ksisco@csd.org with the following information.** See contact phone numbers in left column
 - The name of your school and district, or your youth organization
 - The address of your school or organization
 - Your name and phone number
 - The weight of your peace ball in ounces or pounds
 - The number of students who participated (usually your entire student body, but sometimes an individual class or group will create a ball.)
 - Attach a digital photo of your peace ball if you have one (as a jpg file)

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peace defined

Peace means working and living in harmony with each other.

— Kate Zust

Peace is a process of responding to diversity and conflict with tolerance, imagination and flexibility.

— George E. Lyon

Peace is that state when each individual fully exercises his or her responsibilities to ensure that all individuals fully enjoy all rights.

— *Creating Peaceable Schools*

Peace is not a gap between times of fighting or a space where nothing is happening. Peace is something that lives, spreads, and needs to be looked after.

— Katherine Scholes

Peace means focusing on strategies that promote living in tranquility without strife and upheaval.

— “Classroom Connect”

Peace is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition brought about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.

— Harry S. Truman

peace pledge

I am a PEACEMAKER.

I treat myself and others with respect.

I listen.

I share.

I care for the earth, air, water, plants and animals.

I am important to this very big world.

I know “PEACE begins with ME.”

peace web sites

<http://www.gatewaytopeace.com>

Gateway to Peace Museum Visit this site to learn about the activities, crafts and challenges that are part of the Peace Ball Celebrations. We partner with Gateway to Peace Museum to provide a memorable, collaborative learning experience for all those who join us. We also encourage schools to bring the Gateway Way to Peace Museum to their buildings and share it with their community.

Lesson Plans For Elementary through Secondary:

http://www.worldpeace.org.au/world_at_peacePBS.asp

World Peace Society provides lessons. Go to top bar, click on "School," then on "Lessons." you'll see "3 and up" and "10 and up" categories. Actual list of lessons will open under each category. "The Peacemaker Pop Quiz," (10 and up) invites discussion about peace heroes and student essays that are not already included on their site. The "Newspaper Fact Treasure Hunt"(3 and up) is easy to adapt to social studies.

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/gallery/index.asp>

The United Nations Cyber School Bus provides access to a collection of peace art by children throughout the world when you click on "Pictures of Peace." This is referenced in an elementary lesson plan that encourages students to imagine a world of peace after learning about the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights and UNICEF's Commission on the Rights of the Child.

<http://www.teachwithmovies.org/>

Teach with Movies: Go to right side and click on samples: "Wizard of Oz" for elementary students and "October Sky," for middle and high school students. "Wizard of Oz" is almost self-explanatory. "October Sky" is based on a true story and the book *The Rocket Boys*. It is framed by Sputnik and the threat it posed to a U.S. philosophy of peace by technological dominance in the late 1950s. It tells of how Homer Hickam and his "outsider friends" from a coal mining town became the Rocket Boys, apply science and calculus skills to their own vision, win the national science fair competition, and go on to college. It demonstrates the rewards of working toward a goal against daunting odds. This is often what it takes to pursue peace. The movie and book have natural links to science, literature (comparing the book to the movie), math, and history.

<http://www.peacepoles.com>

Peace Poles: This web site provides cost and ordering information for peace poles in sizes ranging from 7 inches to 6 feet. There are more than 200,000 Peace Poles in 180 countries and several throughout the St. Louis area.

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ksisco@csd.org

Peace Ball Creation

Charlotte Hoover
Gateway to Peace
314.739.6631
cmkhoov8929
@sbcglobal.net

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CHARACTER^{plus}[®]
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dstirling@csd.org



Bring the Gateway to Peace Museum to your school community

CHARACTER^{plus}[®] partnered with the Gateway to Peace Museum to create a fun, memorable, collaborative learning experience as part of our Peace Ball Celebrations. We now encourage you to bring this marvelous traveling museum to your school community.

Gateway to Peace Museum is a service to the community and charges only for paper, art supplies and mileage. The average cost to a school is \$300. There are 40 different crafts, exercises, and activities, developed around these themes:

- Peace for Me
- Peace for Us
- Peace for Everyone
- Peace for the Planet

Schools can select all or portions of the traveling museum. They can choose between a single event, 2-day, or 4-day learning experience. To see the actual crafts, games, and challenges that are part of the Museum, please go to www.gatewaytopeace.com

Eligibility: Elementary Schools, K-6, Public or Private

Timing: You can bring the Museum to your school at any time during the year.

Suggested Model: Students experience the exhibits during the day(s) and are encouraged to return with their parents to share the experience with them in an evening event. This is usually a 2-hour "Family Peace Festival."

Host School Requirements: An indoor location: 2,000 square feet for entire Museum; You can scale down the number of exhibits to fit your space.

You will need 1.5 adult volunteers (over 21, safety-checked) per activity. The number of adult volunteers determines the number of exhibits you will can accommodate.

Responsible liaison or contact person to work with Gateway to Peace Museum on scheduling and logistics.

2-hour site tour and planning session with Gateway to Peace Museum.

Four volunteers to help unload, set up and load.

Contact: Charlotte Hoover • 314.739.6631 • cmkhoov8929@sbcglobal.net