

• The Missing Peace

- Facilitators: Teri Canaday and Krista O'Daniel
 - AMS Conference: Philadelphia, 2015
 - meinamontessori.org
 - **Goals**
 - To help you gain an understanding of what a culture of peace looks like in a public school setting
 - To encourage you to create or strengthen the culture of peace within your school
 - To discuss elements that strengthen or weaken this culture of peace
 - To share ideas for monthly peace activities that enhance the culture of peace within your school.
 - Who we are...
 - Public/charter school teacher or assistant wanting to create a strong culture of peace in their school
 - Public school/charter administrators wanting to create a strong culture of peace in their school
 - Public school/charter staff or administrator who has already created a strong culture of peace in their school
 - Non-public school personnel
 - Montessori's Thoughts on Peace
- “Peace is a practical principle of human civilization and social organization “that is based on the very nature of man. Peace does not enslave him; rather, it exalts him... And because it is based on man’s nature, it’s a constant universal principle that applies to all human beings. This principle must be our guide in building a science of peace and educating men for peace.” - Maria Montessori (Education of Peace)
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- Public Montessori does not rest on good test scores alone, but the community that it builds to help children become more resilient as community members at large. We are called to be change agents in the name of peace education.
- Turn to your neighbor and discuss this thought.
- **Looking Back**
- Beginning the first AMS public Montessori school with Nancy Rambusch-1975
- Social Dynamics was the focus
- 1990's-Peace Education to be included in TEP
- Member of Executive Peace Committee focusing on developing peace cultures within public/charter Montessori schools
- Moving from Private Sector to Public Sector
- Quality versus Quantity realization during my time at the school
- Realization of children's need for alternative educational models
- **What is a culture of peace?**
- Basic needs must be met
- Staff encourages children to develop skills that help them with their emotional development.
- Staff encourages children to develop skills that help them with their social development
- Cultural diversity is celebrated
- Environmental awareness is included

- **What components make up Culture of Peace?**
- What it takes to create a culture of peace
- Starts with the **teacher education program**
- Study of Montessori Philosophy
- Readings and discussions on topics of peace education
- Understanding the basic needs of children
- Relating Child Development (social and emotional development) to peace curriculum
- Demonstrating activities that help children and adults develop a culture of peace in the classroom

- **Montessori Method: A Great Advantage**
- Provides lower student/adult ratio allowing for greater social interaction aiding language development in the area of peace education
- Is centered around respect that needs to be modeled in all Montessori classrooms. This varies from the mode of operations in many homes of children in Montessori public schools.

- **But why is there the missing peace?**

- Challenges in Creating Cultures of Peace
- **District demands**
 - Testing
 - Changes in curriculum

- Personnel Limitations
- Afterschool Meetings
- Data Analysis
- Paper Work
- **Does your school have a culture of peace?**
- Turn to your neighbor and answer the question above.
- If the answer is yes, share briefly how it was developed.
- If the answer is no, share why you think this is so.
- **Parkview Montessori in Jackson Tennessee**
- How it got started
- Reflection on population
- Beginning of Peace at Parkview
- Peace shelf
- Peace bear/ Peace rose
- Conflict resolution
- Peace Corners in Public Montessori Classrooms

- Ideas for the Peace Corner
- Peace Shelf
- Peace Corner Activity—calming.....
- Wall Reminders
- Peace Projects
- Celebrating Diversity School-Wide
- More Efforts
- Sign Language
- Community meetings
- Modeling
- Music at dismissal
“A Time for Peace”
- Daily Peace Rituals
- Working with Older Children
- Designated Peace Place no longer required
- Move from using concrete materials to incorporating peace as a way of daily life
- More peer mediation
- Greater ability to express of emotions and needs
- Heroic Journey-
- Self-Awareness-Setting goals
- Community Awareness-Service Learning and “We the People” presentation

- Environmental Awareness-Peace Garden and “Walk for Water”
- Cultural Awareness-Multi-Cultural Market

- Teachers worked together
- Listened to Visitor’s responses
- Leadership Team
- Grade Level Meetings
- School-wide projects like the Peace Garden

- Let’s hear from the Children
- **Then We Moved to a New Site**
- **Disruption of Peace Culture**
- Change in Building site and new identity with changed population
- Change in staff
- Lack of common space
- Change in routines
- Less emphasis on use of sign language

- Personal Observations
- Notice the absence of:

- Peaceful cafeteria
- End of day song
- Lack of closeness of staff due to layout of classrooms
- New staff members awareness of peace culture
- Feeling of unity as staff
- **Efforts to Rebuild**
- Formed Community Impact Team to address needs of school
 - Redesigned cafeteria
 - Encouraged more consistency within each level in terms of overall making for more unity
 - Reintroduced Sign Language
 - Increased adult supervision during transitions-hallway =1/4 mile
 - Professional Development on peace education
- **Cultures of Peace require you to be...**
- Intentional
- Consistent
- Committed
- Supported
- **School Leadership**
- See the need of creating a culture of peace in their school.

- Reflecting on the egalitarian culture of the school
- Solving problems in manner that reflect Montessori principles
- Providing the entire staff with keys to creating this culture-every door leads to this end from the cafeteria worker to the curriculum supervisor.
- In-service on topic of peace education
- Materials needed for peace activities

- **Classroom teachers and assistants**
- Believers in the method
- Models of the culture intended
- Creative problem solvers
- Collaborators for the process of continued peace
- **Monthly peace activities**
- Can you get your school families on board?
- What happens at home...
- Monthly Peace Activities-Fall
- September
- Grace and Courtesy Exercises
- Community Meeting Etiquette
- Responsibility at School
- International Peace Day

- October

- Self-Awareness Activities
- Self-Portraits
- Exploration of Feelings
- I Statements
- United Nations Study
- Character Development

- November
- Medicine Wheel
- Gratitude
- Positive Thinking
- “I can”
- “I am”
- Communities
- Monthly Peace Activities-Winter
- December
- Cultural Awareness Activities
- Holiday Studies
- Needs and Wants
- January
- Cultural Awareness Activities-cont
- Martin Luther King
- People Who Changed the World
- February

- “I have people who love me”

- “I have people who help me”
- Non-Verbal Communication
- Personal Hygiene
- Service Projects
- Monthly Peace Activities-Spring
- March
- Environmental Awareness
- Ecology Studies
- Gardening
- April
- Environmental awareness-cont
- Gardening
- Earth Day
- May
- Discussion on Personal Development in terms of Peace education
- Setting Goals
- Gratitude

- **Challenge for the AMS community**
- **Provide adequate in-service for public school personnel on the topic of peace education in public Montessori schools**
- Help folks newly interested in starting a public Montessori school become aware of the importance of creating a culture of peace in the school (Perhaps a short video could be produced that reflects this message)
- Affordable Webcasts that make in-service at the public schools more accessible to understanding the topic.

- Producing and archiving videos of speakers on the topic that will be available to others in the future
- **Break-Out Group Discussion**
- Form group of five folks
- Decide who will be the recorder to report back to whole group
- Music will be our Gathering Cue
- Questions to consider...
- The spirit of love is the center of peace education. How do you reflect this spirit in your school/classroom?
- What is the role of respect and responsibility in creating a culture of peace in your learning environment?
- What do you want to include in your prepared Montessori environment that will promote peace education?
- Reflect on the letter that Gandhi sent to Montessori regarding peace education
- **Final Thoughts by Maria**

“An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man (the person), the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.” - Maria Montessori (Education and Peace)

- **Contact Information**

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