

FOCUS ON PEACE

"If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."

Mahatma Gandhi

In today's world there are very few places set aside where "peace" is given a space for growth.

Like the seeds of a flower, which need fertile soil to grow; peace needs its garden to blossom in.

The environment we provide for our children to grow in is what will decide the future of the world's social environment; if we fill it with violence, fear, greed and conflict their future will likely contain the same.

The time has come for us to **"Focus on Peace"**.

fo·cus NOUN:

1. The distinctness or clarity of an image rendered by an optical system.
 - a. The state of maximum distinctness or clarity of such an image.
 - b. An apparatus used to adjust the focal length of an optical system in order to make an image distinct or clear.

2. A center of interest or activity.

3. Close or narrow attention; concentration

4. A condition in which something can be clearly apprehended or perceived

The "Focus on Peace" Program encourages parents and teachers to bring "peace" into their children's lives.

This can be done by creating peace spaces at home and in classrooms.

(A peace space is a location dedicated to the concept of peace. It can have writings by peace people, peace art, meditation area, music, photography...)

These become the places where we begin to define peace to ourselves. On a larger scale this is what peace museums do for their visitors. We need to bring peace back into our lives.

Special activities that "focus" on peace can be made a part of home and school activities.

Such as:

- Peace dress days. Wearing something to remind yourself and others about peace issues.
- Cooperative games playing and activities, which show how our world gets better when we help others.

There are two video games, "A Force More Powerful" & "Peace Maker" that challenge the players to make social and political changes using the tools of nonviolence.

A third video game, "Food Force" is available for free download online at: <http://www.food-force.com/> along with a link to the "Free Rice Game", where participates help feed people while improving their vocabulary.

- Peace art and creativity projects. Using peace as the theme create new artistic expressions that will bring peace into all forms of the arts.
- Create a peace periodical that reports on the good things happening around us.
- Peace film festivals

*let students come up with their own peace ideas. Help children take ownership of the idea that they can be peace heroes and heroines.

Then we share our ideas of peace with others.

The internet provides an excellent tool for communication and has made our world seem a lot smaller. Through the internet children from various countries will have the opportunity to share their peace ideas with other young people.

Using art, writing, photography, video... young people will get a chance to express their ideas and experience the peace ideas of others.

We hope to have classrooms of different countries connected together for email and video exchanges so students and teachers can learn more about each others cultures on a personal level.

The "Focus on Peace" program in India is a cooperative effort with the LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, District 323 A2, India and the Dayton International Peace Museum.

"Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make, something you do, something

you are, and something you give away. "

Robert Fulghum

Any Teachers who would like to learn more about the Focus on Peace program are encouraged to contact the Dayton Peace Museum at info@DaytonPeaceMuseum.org.
Schools and Colleges in India may contact Lion Padma Ramamurthi at
lionsgalaxy@gmail.com

Peace & Best Wishes,

Steve Fryburg

Peace Advocate & Director

Missing Peace Art Space

www.MissingPeaceArt.org

Board Member of the International Network of Museums for Peace

www.MuseumsforPeace.org

Dayton International Peace Museum

www.DaytonPeaceMuseum.org