

PLANNING FOR SCHOOL'S PEACE WEEK AOTEAROA 2010

Possible Peace Week Activities

Theme: YoUth Can! From personal to global

"Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will live as one." - John Lennon

Peace Week is a national week designed especially to help schools educate students about peace issues. Peace education is about helping students to understand and manage conflict in their own lives and from a greater perspective learning how peace is fostered both nationally and internationally.

Peace Week can be planned in many different ways, according to your school's individual message. For example, Christian School's may want to shine light on the various peaceful biblical messages.

Here are some general activities you may choose to do in your school:

1. Assembly Presentation
2. Peace Week Banner
3. Competitions
4. T-Shirts
5. Face painting
6. White Ribbons for students
7. Peace Bracelets
8. Peace Passport

The first thing to do is to hold a general meeting for all mediators. Brainstorm what you can do as a school to celebrate Peace Week. When you have chosen which Peace Week activities you want to do, break off into sub-committees. Keep in mind that some activities (such as the assembly presentation) require more people. So when choosing activities and subcommittees, ensure that you take on a realistic goal.

When you meet as a sub-committee, plan a detailed outline of your event. Who, what when, where, why are very important questions to answer.

Assembly Presentation

This is one of the larger activities to plan out, and requires plenty of dedication and commitment. It would typically require anywhere from 5-20 people, depending on the strength of the mediators. The assembly presentation typically consists of a skit, music and dance—so get your creative juices flowing!

1. The first, most important part of planning this is getting a slot in your assembly. If you are up to it, you could even block an entire assembly.

2. Think about the final message you want students to walk away with, and plan a plot outline based on that.
3. When writing your script, make sure it appeals to the audience and doesn't offend people at the same time.

Peace Week Banner

The object of the Peace Week banner is to capture the essence of peaceful messages in the community. You may choose to have anywhere from 5-10 people working on the banner.

1. Brainstorm a concept for your banner
2. Make a list of supplies (e.g. material, paint, etc.)
3. Allocate one or two people to buy the supplies
4. Meet regularly to finish the banner.

You may choose to show your banner in the assembly, and explain the concept/significance of it.

Competitions

Competitions always bring out spirit in students. You may choose to do one big competition or many little competitions:

1. Song writing competition
2. Quote of the Day – a peace quote is placed in your school's daily notices. The first person to guess the origin of the quote wins a prize.
3. Peace Poster Competition

Be creative here—it's totally up to you!

T-Shirts

Mediators could all wear special Peace Week T-shirts during peace week.

1. The first thing you **must** do is get approval from your administration. You may only proceed if you do so.
2. Figure out what you will purchase:
 - You may choose for mediators to bring in their own shirts
 - Paint, Screen Printing equipment
 - You may choose to get the shirts screen printed professionally
3. Whatever you choose to do, keep an accurate record of money spent
4. Appoint one or two people in-charge of buying the equipment/ getting the shirts made

Face Painting

Face painting is a fun way to involve the entire school in the vibrant spirit of Peace Week. This is an activity, which all mediators may choose to be a part of. All you really need to do is grab hold of some face paint, some paintbrushes and a few unpainted faces!

White Ribbons

These ribbons are symbolic of peace, and may be worn throughout Peace Week. This group can be as big or as large as you like. However, larger groups tend to be faster and more efficient- so get as many mediators to help out as possible!

1. Once again, ensure that you gain permission from your administration before you carry through with this
2. Purchase white ribbon and safety pins- try having enough for your entire school, or a large part of it
3. Hand out white ribbons during Peace Week for students to wear!

Peace Bracelet/Bands

Look on the internet for some clues of what sort of bracelet you can make. Collect all materials (wool, beads, elastic, etc) to make your bracelets. Give out to students in classrooms. Use your classroom visit as an opportunity to talk about Peace Week, to promote the peer mediation service at school and to answer questions.

Peace Passport –teacher stamps this for each “peace action” the student is involved with.

Peace Action Books

1. Helping a friend by ...
2. Offering to help my family by ...
3. Organising a litter patrol within the school
4. Recycling rubbish campaign within the school community
5. Country – conservation focus
6. Pen pal or email students in another country with a “peace” message
7. Organise an activity together and share results/photos, on line.

*Ideas from Mt. Roskill Grammar School
Stanhope Road School and Yvonne Duncan*

Planning the school’s Peace Week can be loads of fun! It always works out to be a great team-building experience for your mediators. So most importantly, have fun with your school’s Peace Week and use it to spread the message of peace and love!