

Theme:

**Peace
Through
People**

2016

A Celebration
of Unity

Creative Expression Competition

2016

**Writing Category
Winners**

1st Place

Writing

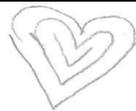
K-4th Grade Category

Maya Noelle Bickel

3rd Grade

New Vistas

"Friendship"



FRIENDSHIP

When we are fighting

there is no fighting

of any friendship nearby

so you're unhappy

but then all of a sudden

there is some friendship nearby

that is just what it is

FRIENDSHIP

2nd Place

Writing
K-4th Grade Category
Kambrie Skuse

3rd Grade
New Vistas
"Peace"

Peace

Peace through People means to me that everyone should accept everyone for who they are. To me, the world would be a lot more happier if each person in the world would do one kind thing a day or say one kind word a day. It would be even more special if you would show kindness to a stranger. Each day I try to make someone laugh or smile. When I do this, I hope their day continues to be happy. It also makes me feel good inside. I like seeing people laughing and smiling instead of being sad. Peace is something I feel everyone can have and everyone can use in a special way if each person chooses to.

3rd Place

Writing
K-4th Grade Category

Garv Sharma

4th Grade

New Vistas

"Peace in the World"

Peace in the World

One of the biggest and most common debates today circles around the subject of "World Peace." Questions that arise are - Will it ever be attained? When? Is it even possible?

I believe one of the most inspirational thoughts on this subject comes from one of the greatest peacemakers of all times, Mahatma Gandhi, who once said that "There is no way to peace, Peace is the way." We can all follow this in our daily lives by seeking love and harmony with others, instead of trying to control them. Patriotism to one's country is a great thing, however I believe that in order to achieve world peace we need not think of ourselves as the citizens of our individual countries, but rather as citizens of one united world! In this united world, nobody should ever have the right to hurt another person or control things. People with bad intentions and tendencies should have no place in determining the future of the society. We need to rid this world awful things such as poaching, drugs and alcohol. Each person should strive to build a better world by strengthening themselves and actively helping others. And one should always remember being born on this beautiful and bountiful planet is a privilege, and not a right.

1st Place

Writing
5th-8th Grade Category

Kira Morris

8th Grade
Payne Junior High
"Peace Among People"

Imagine a system was set up so that working for a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world was the common goal that all families, communities, businesses and nations shared, or a world where the rules really were fair for everyone. Imagine our children learning skills they needed to get along better with others and make the world a better place. If it were easier to choose to do the right thing, people would be more likely to do it. Maybe peace on earth is an impossible dream, but if we changed the rules, this world could be so much better. We should work together to create a better world and bring hope.

Peace among people can lead to greater understanding and cooperation among political parties, faith groups, and people of different races and economic class. For example, the United Nations are a system of organization in world affairs and human welfare. Their goal is to preserve peace and develop international cooperation. Even the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "[We should] promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace."

Thomas Jefferson adopted the symbols of the Peacemaker legend such as the tree of peace that became the Liberty Tree displayed on colonial flags. The Eagle-that-sees-far became the American eagle, still a symbol of American government. On the U.S. Great Seal, the American eagle clutches a bundle of thirteen arrows, representing the original colonies. Our eagle also holds an olive branch symbolizing that the United States of America has "a strong desire of peace, but will always be ready for war." According to Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."

Nelson Mandela once said, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." If there is no longer peace on Earth, there will come a day when society will start to fall apart.

Human history has been recorded as a succession of wars and empires, but a ray of hope has been carried forth throughout the ages by dreamers who have envisioned a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. The Magna Carta, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have all been a part of the quest for creating a better world. We still have far to go, but, according to Robert Alan Silverstein, "we can help create that better world countless dreamers have imagined, wished for, and endeavored to make come true. Every moment has brought us to this moment. We are the ones we've been waiting for to manifest our shared Peacetopian Dream."

2nd Place

Writing

5th-8th Grade Category

Elise Bouchal

8th Grade

Payne Junior High

"Peace Through Similarity"

Peace Through Similarity

In looking toward the future, one often reflects upon and searches for any indication of peace and hope for the newer generation. While many choose to believe that this can be achieved solely through treaties including only the most dominant nations, they continue to neglect the idea that each individual plays an essential role in bettering the fate of our world.

In order to come upon this realization, one must first reflect upon the fact that no country that makes up our society wants war. From the widow whose newly wed husband was drafted in the Vietnam War and never returned to the two year old child who has had the pleasure of growing up with both parents stripped away from her, citizens and nations alike all pray for peace. If we as human beings can see this of each other and realize once and for all that we have allies in this fight against violence, then we are one step closer to providing a better life for our children as well as those who are born into the next generation, that of which fate's we now control.

One of the instances in which I have realized this personally was when I volunteered at Serenade Assisted Living, a care home in my community for older citizens suffering from illnesses including dimension and early onset Alzheimer's. The routine was fairly normal, as I came back almost every day that summer, but a particularly startling realization hit me when I was sitting outside in an oak rocking chair speaking with a smiling older woman who asked my name nearly every time I spoke. As I answered her question politely I couldn't help but ask myself how anyone in this world could hurt innocent people when they could do so much to help instead. By realizing this, I became one of the many citizens of my society who continues to fight for peace, by doing to others what I believe any human being deserves, no matter their innocence or guilt.

By further realizing the task at hand, we are able to use these similarities to comfort the widows, siblings, and parents who have all lost loved ones due to the greediness of savagery. Although the hardships of war haunt us now, history has proven that by banding together as common individuals, we can make a difference. Even if nothing may come of it immediately, every decision that we make against brutality, from refraining to fight the school bully and instead showing him kindness to comforting the lonely girl in the lunchroom, brings the community as a whole that much closer to achieving peace through its people.

Thus, by refusing to give into the taunting growls of cruelty and instead allowing yourself to be drawn to the saintliness of tranquility, you as an individual, a community, and a nation, are able to assist in the purification of the future as well as the rebirth of the present.

3rd Place

Writing
5th-8th Grade Category

Isra Nasreen Khan

8th Grade

Payne Junior High
"World by Peace"

World by Peace

by Isra N. Khan

The wind blowing through the sky,
Grey clouds fly right by
Leaves blazing through the trees
Desperate to get away by any means



Looking around around to see words of hate
Eyes blazing past the gate
The gate past friendship and peace
The little grissing words upon her crease

Look past the hate
Look past the rage
As you see the good
The hate will fade

As the sun shines right pass through
Smiling upon those who knew
That hate and rage are without fill
That peace and harmony can make the world stand still

No words, no actions,
can fill the hate
to forgive and rid the grudge
makes society calm, happy, and filled with love.

Our parents who have high expectations
and punishments and needs at every station
Don't be strict Don't be cruel
Let your blossoms of hope will someday rule

(Asian cultures)

1st Place

Writing
9th-12th Grade Category
Valerie Valdes Cosilion
10th Grade
Hamilton High School
"Peace On Earth"

Peace on Earth

For years humanity has done nothing but wage wars on each other. They have killed countless of their own kind, and all for what? For land, conquest, freedom, revenge. When has humanity ever been united for one cause? When has humanity ever been at peace? However, there is hope. Just like people have the power to wage war on each other, they have the power to make peace with each other. Every person on this earth has the power to stand up and take a step toward peace. The future I see is a future where the world's citizens decide to come together and take a step toward peace.

The world is filled with a vast variety of different cultures, ethnic groups, and religions. Each culture, ethnic group, and religion is unique in their own way, and sometimes their way of life can lead to conflict with other groups. Differences in a culture, ethnic group, or religion's way of living is what causes conflict. However, just like these differences can cause people to fight one another, they can also bring them closer together and bring peace. In order to make peace with other people, one must first understand and accept the ideals, personality, physical appearance, opinions, and needs of other cultures, ethnic groups, or religions. No one on this Earth sees the world the same way or believe in the same ideals. Nor is there anyone on this Earth who looks exactly like someone else. Otherwise every person on this Earth would be from the same culture, ethnic group, and religion. Therefore, this can sometimes lead to conflict such as simply arguments or large scale wars and massacres. However, by learning more about other people, we can accept and understand their view points better. We can see the world through their eyes and realize why our different ideals lead to a conflict. We are able to come together and work to accomplish a common goal. We are able to find a common ground and resolve our conflicts. We are able to find peace with each other. This is what Peace Through People means: learning about others, understanding their way of life, being willing to accept them, and take the step towards peace.

2nd Place

Writing
9th-12th Grade Category

Kiera Blawn

12th Grade
Hamilton High School
"The Flames of Peace"

The Flames of Peace

As the sun faded and the stars began to dot the clear sky in the crisp November air, the chairs were gathered, the wood was lit, and the voices were accompanied by the white fog from our breaths. Each year I eagerly waited for the frigid weather to settle in, because that is when all the neighbors emerge from their homes that were protecting them from the Arizona heat and join together around the radiant bon fire. I waddled down the sidewalk in my warm boots and a soft blanket wrapped around me absorbing the joy. The energetic boys sprinted up the driveway thumping the basketball and tossing it into the hoop. Giggling girls ran up to hug the two dogs that came out to visit. The adults and some of the teenagers took their place around the toasty fire that was shooting dancing sparks into the sky. After a couple rounds of basketball, I let the fire's glow comfort my chilled skin and listened in on the conversations.

What I witnessed that night was something much more than chatter. My body was filled with a sense of contentment as I bent over laughing at humorous stories and jokes. Everyone shared entertaining stories of the crazy conspiracy they had heard over the years, and we discussed the recent launching of the "missile" of California and Arizona. I was congratulated for my acceptance into college and was given advice for my exciting years ahead. At one point someone had the brilliant idea to cook some quesadillas over the fire. Within in minutes we had a griddle hanging over the burning embers, salsa, cheese, tortillas, and some pulled pork. One of my neighbors brought out her viola at the request of my dad and began playing tunes from memory. We smiled as we passed around the crispy food while enjoying the music flying of the strings of the viola. As I sat there embracing the excellent company and the pure bliss of the moment I realized that what my neighbors had accomplished was so simple yet so profound.

People usually think of peace as something large scale where tons of people cooperate, but my story is something much smaller than that. It's about viola players, quesadillas makers, and storytellers. People from our street came together, shared their stories, and created new memories. We laughed in harmony. We cultivated our sense of community. People don't need to organize huge events to promote peace. Find people who make you happy or maybe people who need to be happy and come together. Forget the stress that life brings and live in the moment of the ember's warmth, the smoky smell, and the constant laughter. If each person on the earth had a group to generate laughter and joy with, the world would have more optimism and less bitterness. That by itself is enough to create peace.

3rd Place

Writing
9th-12th Grade Category

Kamryn Blawn

10th Grade
Hamilton High School
"The Paradox of Peace"

The Paradox of Peace

At first glance, peace emerges as a paradox.

It's an unsolvable problem that begs to be solved.

People strive for peace,

yet there are those who endeavor for the opposite.

These individuals will stop at nothing to inflict pain and utter destruction.

How can peace exist in a world like that?

It truly is a paradox.

Still, this enigma may be one of hope instead of terror.

If there is at least one individual,

a person who fights for peace, a chain reaction will start.

One becomes two and two becomes two thousand,

in a blink of an eye, the world has been transformed.

Humanity has a secret weapon; it is the desire to keep on fighting.

If people continue to fight for a better world, peace through people is truly achievable.

That's the thing about peace,

it's a paradox that allows good to triumph in a world that holds many evils.

Hope is never truly lost when we have our paradox.