



A CURRICULUM OF  
HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL  
WORLD

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ISSUE 3  
FALL 2017

# A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

“Let your  
words be seeds  
of life and  
healing,  
instead of  
bullets of hurt  
and  
destruction.”

[http://parenting  
thetruth.com/  
parenting-2/](http://parentingthetruth.com/parenting-2/)

## Editor's Message

I've been thinking a great deal about words lately and maybe you have been too. There seems to be a preponderance of disrespectful, hurtful, callous, unfounded, and damaging words infiltrating our lives. Perhaps it is because every word can be shared with the world in an instant, we are hearing and reading many more words than we ever have before. Social media, tweeting, blogging, news reporting, and even texting make words immediately available, with no take-backs. It seems like it is becoming normal to speak without thinking, without a filter. Are we experiencing a downward shift in mankind's moral compass? I don't know about you but it makes me feel uncomfortable, and often appalled.

The Founder of Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World, Jeanne Morascini, has reminded us in her messages many times, that when our world seem to be out of control we need to focus ourselves on what is in our control. We each control our own words, our own listening, and the thoughts and ideals within our own hearts.

We need to make a conscious effort to use our words for something good every day. Author Gary Chapman, in his book, *Love as a Way of Life*, states that words are either bullets or seeds. Words that are bullets condemn, demean, and tear down. Words that are seeds support, love, and build up. Think of all the good we can do with our words. We can express gratitude; we can say thank you. We can show appreciation and bestow compliments. We can inspire and encourage. Our words can make someone's heart a little happier.

We need to be careful not lose our ability to listen. We do not want to become complacent, as complacency will not lead to change. Within our own relationships we must practice active listening, and work to understand what someone's words are saying, not just hear them.

We need to accept our humanity. Being human means we make mistakes. Our own personal filters come off; we say something that we wish we hadn't said. When this happens we need to say I'm sorry, and we need to forgive others when it happens to them. When someone's thinking comes out into the open, recognize it as an opportunity for dialogue to understand your diversity and to value your differences.

We need to nurture our children. We must teach children to use their words to express empathy and caring, to be kind, to use accountable talk when disagreeing, and to be tactful and respectful. As adults we need to be models, and our words must motivate children and make them feel safe.

Our words are our human power. Use words for seeds to effect change in these bewildering and confusing times. Focus on using words with a mindfulness that reflects forethought and kindness. Let the words that connect us be the fuel to spark the goodness inherent in all of us.

Janice McKusick  
Editor



## Ideas

### The Power of Positive Posting

Help students combat cyberbullying with **Posting Positive**. Posting Positive is posting a positive comment on social media, a photo of an act of kindness, or a video of someone helping. "It's a movement to stand up, share and feel the good in all of us instead of using digital space to complain, criticize, gossip or even make an insensitive comment". Challenge children to take a moment to celebrate someone in their life, creating a new normal on social media.

<http://postingpositive.org/>

<http://yllub.org/>

### Accountable Talk

Even young children can be taught to use accountable talk, which is a way to talk to and with each other politely and respectfully. When students use accountable talk they listen to each other and respond with respectful statements of agreement or disagreement. Go to this video to see accountable talk in action:

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/speaking-respectfully-nea>.

More information can also be found at:

<http://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/accountable-discussions>

[http://ifl.pitt.edu/index.php/educator\\_resources/accountable\\_talk/podcasts/2](http://ifl.pitt.edu/index.php/educator_resources/accountable_talk/podcasts/2)

### 35 Activities Students Can Do To Learn Respect

Dr. Michele Borba, educational consultant, parenting expert, author, and international speaker shares 35 activities students can do to learn what respect and respectful actions look and sound like, helping them to incorporate these behaviors in their daily lives.

There is one (and a few more) for each day of the month. <http://www.micheleborba.com/Pages/BMI05.htm>

### Middle School Kindness Challenge

#### Fostering Kindness in America's Middle Schools

A project of **Stand for Children**, the goal of the **Middle School Kindness Challenge** is to make sure all children feel safe and accepted at school. Through a series of classroom activities and schoolwide events, students practice kind behaviors, such as the acceptance of differences and active listening. Teachers and administrators foster and celebrate kindness. During the Challenge, teachers and school staff implement one of three research-based, themed pathways with students: Strengthening Peer Relationships, Developing Positive Mindsets, or Fostering Empathy. "The research and evidence are conclusive: Teaching, fostering, and celebrating kindness in schools not only improves students' sense of well-being, but also their success in school and life." Visit the site and find out more about how your school can join the 211 schools nationwide who are participating.



“Watch your thoughts, for they become words.  
 Watch your words, for they become actions.  
 Watch your actions, for they become habits.  
 Watch your habits, for they become character.  
 Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”

Frank Outlaw

Late President of the Bi-Lo Stores

## Resources

From Stenhouse Publishers  
[www.stenhouse.com](http://www.stenhouse.com)

### Word Nerds

Teaching All Students  
to Learn and Love

Vocabulary

Brenda J. Overturf,

Leslie H. Montgomery, and Margot  
Holmes Smith

Grades K-6

Shows how the authors weave  
vocabulary into high poverty  
school classrooms using art,  
literature, movement, games,  
writing, test taking skills and  
technology.

2013 \$21 184 pp/paper



### Choice Words

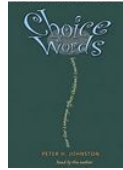
How Our Language  
Affects Children's  
Learning

Peter H. Johnston;  
Forward by Richard

Allington

Grades K-8

Provides examples of the words,  
phrases, and uses of language that  
are pivotal in the classroom. Ground-  
ed in a study of accomplished literacy  
teachers, the book  
demonstrates how the things we say  
(and don't say) have consequences  
for the literate lives of our students.



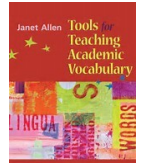
### Tools for Teaching Academic Vocabulary

Janet Allen

Grades 4—12

Centers on four com-  
ponents of effective vocabulary  
instruction to teach general  
academic vocabulary, discipline  
-specific vocabulary, topic-  
specific vocabulary and passage  
-critical vocabulary.

2014 \$15.00 flipchart



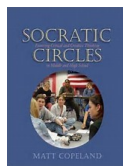
### Socratic Circles

Fostering Critical and  
Creative Thinking in Middle  
and High School

Matt Copeland

Grades 6—12

A coaching guide to use the  
Socratic Circle Strategy to enhance  
reading comprehension, improve  
listening and speaking skills and  
build better classroom community.



From Teaching Tolerance

[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

**Teaching Tolerance** has updated their website to include new tools to help  
educators create welcoming environments.

#### The Moment

Timely resources  
to teach about  
current events.

#### Teaching the Movement

Resources for  
teaching about the  
modern civil rights  
movements.

#### Frameworks

The keys to what it means  
to "teach tolerance,"  
starting with the Teaching  
Tolerance Social Justice  
Standards.

You will also find more than 500 lessons created by  
the Teaching Tolerance staff and a **Learning Plan  
Builder** that provides essential questions, leveled  
texts, teaching strategies and student tasks.

#### Critical Practices for Anti-bias Education

Strategies that set the  
stage for culturally  
responsive and  
inclusive instruction.

### Teaching A People's History

Zinn Education Project

A Collaboration Between Rethinking School and Teaching for Change  
Middle and High School

<https://zinnedproject.org/>

Looking for resources to go deeper and present a more accurate, complex, and  
engaging understanding of United States history than your history book? You  
can search by time period, theme, reading level, and/or resource type.

### Do Something A Global Movement for Good

<https://www.dosomething.org/>

5.5 million young people in 131 countries are making positive change, both  
online and off. Help your students to see the power they have to make a  
difference. Here are some examples:

- *Diversify My Emoji* powered the petition that convinced Apple to create emojis representing people of color.
- *Teens for Jeans* donated over 800,000 pairs of jeans in one year, enough to clothe half of all homeless youth in the US.
- *Game-Winning Drive* ran the largest youth-led sports drive and collected 70,304 pieces of gear for kids in underserved communities.

"By words we learn thoughts, and by thoughts we learn life."

Jean Baptiste Girard

## More Resources



### Peace Songbook, Environmental Songs for Children, Multicultural Songs for Children

[www.childrensmusic.org](http://www.childrensmusic.org)

The Children's Music Network celebrates the positive power of music in the lives of children by sharing songs, exchanging ideas and creating community. Membership includes full-time and part-time performers, songwriters, classroom teachers, music educators, librarians, storytellers, record producers, distributors, broadcasters, parents, grandparents, and children. At the site you can find the lyrics and hear songs focusing on anti-bias, bullying, compassion, conflict resolution, fear, global family, grief, justice, nonviolence, and peace.



### This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World

Matt Lamothe

Chronicle Books (available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble)

Ages 5—12

2017 Hardcover

Inspired by his own travels, Matt Lamothe takes readers around the world to follow the real lives of seven kids from Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia for a single day. This book provides a great opportunity for dialogue and noting our shared experiences and what makes us all different and unique.

### Girling Up: How to Be Strong, Smart and Spectacular

Mayim Bialik

Philomel (available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble)

Ages 12—17

2017 Hardcover

This *New York Times* Bestseller is written by Mayim Bialik, neuroscientist and actress on the show *Big Bang Theory*. Using scientific facts, personal anecdotes, and wisdom gained from the world around us, Mayim Bialik shares what she has learned from her life and her many years studying neuroscience to tell you how you grow from a girl to a woman biologically, psychologically and sociologically.



### 14 Children's Books that Promote a Growth Mindset

<https://selfsufficientkids.com/growth-mindset-childrens-books/>

When you have a growth mindset you believe that through hard work, intelligence can grow and improve. People who have a growth mindset are more successful at work and in life. The opposite of a growth mindset is a fixed mindset, which means you believe that intelligence is determined at birth and impossible to change. We want our children to know that when they have perseverance and determination, they will succeed. Here are 14 books that you can use to share that message. You can find out more about them at the website.

“Since words  
carry power,  
make a decision  
to use your  
words as  
building blocks  
not battering  
rams.”

Craig Williams



- \* **Salt in His Shoes**
- \* **The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes**
- \* **What Do You Do With a Problem?**
- \* **What Do You Do With an Idea?**
- \* **Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin**
- \* **Nadia, the Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still**
- \* **Beautiful Oops**
- \* **The OK Book**
- \* **Rosie Revere, Engineer**
- \* **The Dot**
- \* **Ish**
- \* **How to Catch a Star**
- \* **A Whistle for Willie**
- \* **Thanks for the Feedback, I Think**



# Caring For Our Planet

## Land Recycling

The goal of land recycling is to reuse vacant or underutilized property as a means to sustainable development. By restoring land that has already been used to productive use, and accessing existing infrastructure, land recycling provides economic renewal to urban communities, preserves natural areas, and reduces the carbon footprint of development.

Parcels of empty land in Detroit, MI have been or are in the process of being transformed. Through a partnership between American Forests, the Osborn Neighborhood Alliance, Bank of America, and The Greening of Detroit, the **Osborn Outdoor Education Center**, a space in Detroit's east side, has been transformed into an outdoor education center which combines a shortgrass prairie, a 40-foot gathering space, and a butterfly habitat. It was installed over four days at a cost of \$17,000.

Another project, **Detroit Horse Power**, a nonprofit, was launched through small private donations and grants in 2015. The goals are repurposing vacant land and providing growth opportunities for youth that will build confidence, resilience and empathy. Before kids can ride horses within city limits—a law currently on the books prohibits livestock. DHP founder and executive director David Silver says there's momentum for a new urban livestock ordinance to allow for smaller animals, such as chicken, ducks, goats, rabbits, and honeybees, to be kept in backyards.

<http://www.modeldmedia.com/features/land-education-110716.aspx>

<https://www.cclr.org/land-recycling-101>

## Countries Achieved 2020 Renewable Energy Target

China has reached its 2020 solar power target three years ahead of schedule, after installed capacity topped well over its 105GW target. The Paris Agreement of 2016 requires countries to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to limit global warming.

## Sustainability Best Practices Framework



<http://www.ca-ilg.org/sustainability-best-practices-framework>

“Sustainable development is a set of ideas and methods that seek to continue the progress and advancement of humanity, while at the same time ensuring that future generations inherit a planet able to support them.”

<https://www.reference.com/science/general-concepts-sustainable-development-94a6141908154004?>

**Gully Branch Tree Farm** has been used as one of Georgia's premier outdoor classrooms since 1994. Students visit Gully Branch each year as part of forestry education field trips rooted in the American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree environmental education program. Through conservation activities including woodland management, prescribed burning, cultivation of native plants, and pond management, Earl and Wanda Barrs have created a habitat for diverse wild-life species on their land. In 1994, Gully Branch hosted 100 seventh graders, and this number has grown to include some 700 to 900 students annually. Since 1994, more than 6,000 students have visited Gully Branch as part of forestry education initiative.

<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/earlandwandabarrs>

<https://www.plt.org>

## Campus Sustainability Best Practices A Resource for Colleges and Universities

Published in 2008 by the Leading by Example Program at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, this PDF primarily focuses on energy and climate change, but also includes topics such as campus waste, food, and water usage.

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/lbe/lbe-campus-sustain-practices.pdf>

## Peacemakers at Work

**Autumn Peltier**, a thirteen year old indigenous Canadian girl, has been nominated for The International Children's Peace Prize, which is awarded annually to a child who fights courageously for children's rights. Autumn gave her first speech advocating for universal access to clean drinking water at eight years old when she represented indigenous young people in Canada at the 2015 United Nations Children's Climate conference in Sweden. Autumn inspired national action in Canada by calling for highways to be shut down for one hour on December 5th, 2016 to bring awareness to the importance of water protection. The Assembly of First Nations Youth Council passed a resolution supporting Autumn's advocacy with the creation of a fund to assist First Nations people across Canada dealing with water crises. Her work continues with talks and presentations to young people and First Nations communities across her territories. Autumn also makes bracelets to raise money for a First Nation community with no clean drinking water. She hopes to finish school, travel and study law and political science so that she can advocate for her people at a higher level in the future.



*The Bahrain Declaration on Religious Tolerance*, authored by **King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain**, in consultation with Jewish, Christian and Sunni and Shi'ite scholars and clergy, calls for people of all faiths to show respect for, and protection of, the rights of everyone to practice their religious affiliations in dignity and peace. Arab diplomats from across the Middle East, along with representatives of 15 nations from 5 continents and 300 Interfaith leaders from around the world, represented Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists and Baha'i communities at an historic gathering at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles in September.

## Opportunities

**CTAUN Conference**  
**at University of North Georgia**  
 February 24, 2018  
 Dahlonega, 82 College Circle  
 "EMPOWERING EDUCATORS:  
 Taking Action Locally and Globally"  
 Held in cooperation  
 with Georgia State University, College of  
 Education & Human Development  
 For Information about this Conference

contact:

James Badger

[James.Badger@ung.edu](mailto:James.Badger@ung.edu)



### 19th Annual CTAUN Conference at the UN

April 6, 2018 9:30—4:00

"Stepping Up to Protect the World's Children"

An all day conference for educators and concerned citizens, focusing on initiatives by the UN and others to help children overcome today's most pressing challenges.

Register at [www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org)

Consider submitting a project for the Excellence in Education Award.

For guidelines and an application form go to <http://www.ctaun.org/excellence-in-education-awards/>

### 2018 General & Special Education Conference

Brain-based Science,  
 Learning & Achievement Pre K—21 years  
 March 7-9, 2018  
 Seattle, WA  
 Washington State Convention Center  
 May 2-4, 2018  
 San Diego, CA  
 Town & Country Resort  
<https://rehabseminars.org/>

### The 38th Annual International Conference on Critical Thinking

July 16 -20, 2018

at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park, California

You are welcome to submit a proposal for a Concurrent Session or Roundtable Discussion. Proposals from educators, business and government leaders, educational administrators, and anyone advancing a substantive conception of critical thinking with something of significance to share with others is welcome. To submit a proposal, email Jon Kalagorgevich at [jon@criticalthinking.org](mailto:jon@criticalthinking.org). Proposals must be received by Friday, February 26, 2018.

### 2018 NELMS CONFERENCE

**New England League of Middle Schools**

April 5 –6, 2018

Providence, RI

RI Convention Center

<http://www.nelms.org/pages/conferences/annual/annual.html>

Early Registration before December 1





## Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter Subscription Information

Dear Readers,

It is that time of year when we ask each one of you for your continued support. We greatly appreciate those of you who are subscribers and patrons. Your dedication to our peace efforts and generosity toward our monetary needs are vital to our continued work on several projects. We have made the move to digital subscriptions which has saved on paper and postage, helping us be more environmentally and fiscally responsible. The PDF version is in color and has live links, making it more convenient to use.

This Newsletter is sent to over 1,400 individuals and organizations in 22 countries and it is often distributed onward to others. The creation and mailing process are done by dedicated volunteers. Copying is done willingly by our State Executive Secretary. The cost of paper, toner and labels is borne by Alpha Kappa State, CT which also contributes 25% of the proceeds from their annual fund raiser. All other expenses are covered by subscriptions and contributions. We are blessed with 25 patrons whose generosity has helped to sustain us throughout the years. As we move into our 32nd year of continuous publication, our distribution continues to increase. If you know of schools or individuals who would benefit from our publication, please let us know.

Please indicate your wishes on the form below and mail to Jeanne Morascini, 9 Old Willimantic Rd., Columbia, CT 06237. Current email subscribers will continue to receive the newsletter until you request to be removed. Any questions or comments, contact Jeanne at [Jemora@aol.com](mailto:Jemora@aol.com) or 1-860-228-9293.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please renew my postal mail subscription.  
My check for \$8.00 payable to Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be a Patron for Peace to support your work.  
Any amount of \$20 or more is greatly appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you are not currently receiving a PDF version, and would like to be on our subscriber's list, send your email address to Linda Shea, Subscription Manager [hshea@snet.net](mailto:hshea@snet.net). The PDF is in color and has live links to websites.  
Please indicate if you are changing from postal.

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## Four Magic Words

Long ago an Eastern monarch called his wise men together and asked them to invent a motto,  
a few magic words that would help him in time of trial or distress.

It must be brief enough to be engraved on a ring to be ever present.

It must be appropriate to every situation, as useful in prosperity as in adversity.

It must be a motto wise and true and endlessly enduring,

words by which a man could be guided all his life, in every circumstance, no matter what happened.

The wise men finally came to the monarch with their magic words.

They were words for every change or chance of fortune ... words to fit every situation, good or bad ...  
words to ease the heart and mind in every circumstance. The words they gave for the ring were:

*This, too, shall pass.*

<http://www.inspirationalstories.com/four-magic-words/>



If you would like to receive a color PDF version by email, please contact

**Linda Shea**, Subscription Manager [hshea@snet.net](mailto:hshea@snet.net)

Our newsletter can be found online at: [HTTP://dkgct.weebly.com](http://dkgct.weebly.com)

Curriculum of Hope is a Standing Committee of Alpha Kappa State Connecticut.

Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

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