

Goals of “Kids Create Peace”

1. Increase the pursuit and enjoyment of **academic excellence**, as a result of increased social skills and self-esteem. These enhance students’ leadership abilities.
2. **Provide opportunities to learn essential life skills**, those of respect, cooperation, critical thinking, discernment and appreciation of diversity in points of view and culture. They learn **effective listening & communication** skills.
3. **Assist students to recognize and be free of limiting negative concepts and beliefs**, and to perceive, speak, act, and create, **free of attachment to judgments and preconceived notions**.
4. **Understand conflict:** how it arises, its prevention, and providing **tools to resolve conflicts and expand peacemaking skills**.
5. **Strengthen students’ connection and commitment** to family, friends, teachers, other adults and their school and community. + Create an enjoyable learning experience of caring individuals who model positive behavior and meaningful interactions.

Major results of attaining these goals are: Enhanced academic performance and personal well-being.

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One Voice of Peace

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Presenting

Kids Create Peace



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Introducing “Kids Create Peace”

Our Mission: provide children and youth the understanding and skills to create lives free of conflict, and to achieve academic proficiency.

The approach of KCP is unique - It's *pre-emptive*. It teaches students how to prevent conflict *before* it begins, by increasing harmony and cooperation in school, playground and home environments.

Program Goals: Students learn how to cooperate, to treat each other with respect, honor diversity, create together as a team, and transform disagreements - even conflict – into peaceful and productive outcomes.

Attaining the Goals: Our Kids Create Peace program is an hour in length, offered once a week for twenty weeks, during or after the school day. A variety of methods engage the students, including *discussion, video clips, skits, games, student presentations* and *roleplaying*. This direct experience of the shifts they can create in relationships, circumstances and events empowers the students to carry what they learn to all areas of their lives.

Sites for the Program are public, charter and private schools in the Coachella Valley. The pilot year (2011-12) was hosted by Vista del Monte Elementary, in Palm Springs. Its success, illustrated by videos and in parent, teacher and student surveys, brought invitations from *four* schools in PSUSD for 2012-13.

KCP serves 3rd & 4th graders as well as 5th and soon, 6th. Because it is so effective, community interest and support for **KCP is growing**. We have expanded to Boys & Girls Clubs, in addition to more schools in the Valley. The program can move easily into statewide and then national presence.

Interest is already being expressed by people in other states and other countries.

Expanding the presence and service of “Kids Create Peace”

Teachers and other educators: are trained in the program's methodology and use of its materials, in summer and/or weekend workshops. Independent funding can keep it free of school budgets' shortfalls.

Parents: (or other adult care-givers) are supported in attending monthly meetings. A parent organizing group for each school will suggest topics, based on their and other parents' input. Teachers and parents will co-create a workbook and interactive exercises to do with their kids, so they too know how to resolve disagreements, and provide positive support and advice. These skills enhance parents' confidence and effectiveness.

Home becomes a place of greater harmony.

Older youth: Once Kids Create Peace is fully integrated into the school culture, we will collaborate with high schools and middle schools to offer a two-level Youth Leadership/Mentoring program. “Graduates” of KCP in high schools and middle schools will be co-facilitators/mentors to elementary age students.

Training: Students will attend a summer youth leadership training center, where they deepen their understanding and practice of the program's core ideas and how to implement their new skills. They serve as teachers and mentors of others -- younger children, youth and interested community members.

Effectiveness assessment: Ongoing evaluation, to allow upgrading from experience. Recording of classroom experience: by video and writing (journaling, by students and teachers)

We do not teach, we reach. They teach *us* what they need.