

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

United Nations, New York



Each year on September 21st, Vermont Peace Academy invites students and teachers to the United Nations to attend a world-wide ceremony on International Day of Peace. This year's ceremony will not only mark a day of "global cease-fire and non-violence" but it will also involve the United Nations Messengers of Peace. Last year Michael Douglas, Jane Goodall, Midori Goto, Yo-Yo Ma and Elie Wiesel attended the commemoration and interacted with students participating.

More information for teachers and students can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>

<http://www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus/>

<http://www.un.org/events/peaceday/2008/>

<http://www.peaceday.org/>

<http://www.worldpeace.org/peaceday>

<http://www.children-of-the-earth.org/dir.htm>

<http://www.serviceforpeace.org/newsview.php?id=27>

Following opening remarks by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and the President of the 64th General Assembly, the program will feature short, live videos depicting the daily life of young people in some of the peacekeeping missions around the world. This will be followed by a discussion between the youths in New York and those assembled at peacekeeping video sites.



The state of Vermont has taken a leading role in promoting Peace Day programs and activities state-wide. Governor James Douglas signed an executive proclamation in support of the International Day of Peace stating, “Vermonters share a common interest with people around the world in promoting a more peaceful way of life for ourselves, our families, communities and nations.”

Over the past 6 years Vermont students have been inspired by this day. Amelia Hagen-Dillon was encouraged to work for peace when she saw the UN dignitaries believing in the student’s power to change the world. Amelia stated, “To see them believing in us as young people, and knowing that’s where to start and get the message across—they just had so much faith in us.”

The world flag ceremony also inspired Vermont youth in meaningful ways as they realized how small the world truly is. Nola Parker shared her feelings, “Just to be with people from other countries that were clapping while we were clapping gave me a better sense that we’re all connected. It was very positive.”

Jane Hill, a chaperone from Orchard Valley School expressed the fact that the eighth grade students “were inspired by the brave and selfless deeds of their contemporaries working in different ways toward peace and a higher quality of life for the world’s poor. We have begun a dialogue with each other and within our own hearts on how we can make a difference and promote world peace.”



Each year, Vermont youth not only generate new ideas about how to build upon this one day of peace but they walk away from their experience at the United Nations empowered to be the change they want to see in the world.

We would like to extend an invitation to have students from your school join us. The cost is \$85.00 – \$150.00. This year we anticipate taking six to eight schools with about five students and a mentor from each. Some partial scholarships are available. The trip is being offered on a first come-first served basis. If you are interested, please contact Sally Black by email or phone for more information or to reserve a space.

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