

## 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 -- *pre-emptive*. It teaches kids how to prevent conflict *before* it begins, by increasing harmony and cooperation in school, playground and home environments.

**Program Goals:** children learn how to cooperate, to treat each other with respect, create together, and transform disagreements - even conflict – into peaceful and productive outcomes.

**Attaining the Goals:** Kids Create Peace is an hour in length, offered once a week, during or after the school day. A variety of methods engage the kids, including discussion, video clips, skits, student presentations, games, and role-playing. This direct experience of the shifts they can create in relationships, circumstances and events empowers the kids to carry what they now know to all parts 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 Coachella for 2012-13.

KCP now serves 3rd & 4th graders as well as 5th . Because it is so effective, community interest and support for KCP is growing. We are expanding to Boys & Girls Clubs, in addition to more schools in the Valley. From there, it can move easily into statewide and then national presence.

**Interest is already being expressed by people in other states**

## Expanding the presence and service of “Kids Create Peace”

**Teachers and other educators:** will be trained in the program’s methodology and use of its materials, in summer and/or weekend workshops. Independent funding will keep it free of school budgets.

**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. With teachers, parents 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 is 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 children.

**Training:** Youth attend a summer youth leadership training center, where they deepen their understanding and practice of the program’s core ideas and skills. They serve as teachers and mentors of others – teachers, younger children, and interested community members.

**Additional:** Ongoing evaluation, to allow upgrading from experience. Recording of classroom experience: by video and writing (e.g. journaling, by students and teachers)

## Goals of “Kids Create Peace”

1. Increase the pursuit and enjoyment of **academic excellence**, as a result of increased self- worth and self-esteem. These also enhance students’ leadership abilities.
2. Provide opportunities to **learn essential life skills**, - those of respect, cooperation, discernment and appreciation of diversity in points of view and culture. They also learn **effective listening and 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.

The major results of attaining these goals are:  
enhanced academic performance  
and personal well-being.



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*Presenting*

*Kids Create Peace*