

Spring Summer 2012



One Voice of Peace™

Voices of Peace Newsletter



Establishing Peace Through Education

## Kids Create Peace (KCP)- Pilot Program a Success!

### IT'S TRUE! KCP IS MAKING SOME NOISE!

KCP is changing the culture of public education from the highly competitive, demanding and test-results orientation, to one that honors and respects each child's desire to be acknowledged for who they truly are - and each given the opportunity and encouragement to express their uniqueness.

The 5th graders of Vista del Monte Elementary, in Palm Springs, CA, have come a long way since we began with 31 students in mid-October of 2011.

They're in the ASES program, (After School Education and Safety) because all are from low-income families. One or both parents work. Some are single parents. And most speak very little English.

KCP's foundation is its preemptive approach, using the [Core Principles for Living in Peace](#).

If disagreements arise, kids now have the understanding and skills to resolve them -- with respect, cooperation, and by creating together a strong foundation for classrooms without distractions, where kids can truly learn and grow.

As weeks passed in this pilot year, each Session offered an opportunity to offer ways of presenting that engage the kids and invite them to contribute. Their responses, on [page two](#), show that they accepted the invitation.

These results show how highly relevant KCP is to conditions so many schools nationwide face today – bullying being the

most visible symptom of these difficulties.

### .HOW ABOUT YOU?

Currently our OVP team are all volunteers. We do require funds for materials & equipment. [See Wish List](#)

Would you be willing to adopt a bunch of our KCP kids into your life?

It's easy and rewarding, and you don't have to make their breakfast and send them off to school.

Simply make a [one-time](#) or [recurring donation](#) and become a [KCP Advocate](#).

We will reward you with our KCP 5th grade music video and regular updates on the kids' progress.



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### Special Videos

[WHAT'S GOIN' ON?](#)

[MEDIA & YOUR KIDS](#)

[LOOK AT YOURSELF](#)

[KIDS RAP ON RESPECT](#)

**HELP US EXPAND OUR PARENTS PROGRAM WITH A RECURRING DONATION TODAY**

[INVEST HERE](#)

*(It's Tax Deductble)*



## KCP Expands to 4th & 5th grades at five Valley schools!

Beginning this fall semester, we are expanding the "Kids Create Peace" program to include five of the many elementary schools in Coachella valley (Greater Palm Springs) who are enrolled in the

ASES (after school) program, including Vista del Monte.

In May, KCP staff members Teri Salpino and Isaiah Landers gave KCP program previews to 4th & 5th grade students at eight

elementary schools in the Palm Springs Unified School District. We engaged the kids and encouraged them all to participate in the 1-hour event, which included two short videos about bullying and respect

## LISTEN TO WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT KIDS CREATE PEACE

### THE TEACHERS

We met with all three 5th grade teachers in the middle of winter term.

Even though only a third of their students are in the ASES program, each spoke with feeling about KCP's influence on their classmates.

Each saw that 'our kids' were showing greater respect in the classroom - and for the teacher. All three teachers said they wished all their students could be in our program - and have it during the school day.

Yet each saw that the whole class environment had changed. One teacher, "I hear more apologies, and students trying to reword remarks that might have caused someone distress." Another, "All the students are great now at finding alternative solutions to fighting or bullying."

### THE STUDENTS

- ♦ I learned it is bad to bully. I don't want to be a bully, and I want to help others. (A. L.)
- ♦ I'm not mean to others (E. M.)
- ♦ I learned to care about people (I. C.)
- ♦ When KCP wasn't here I was mean, but when they came, I'm more nice & have kindness & respect. (D. G.)
- ♦ I like myself better - because I'm in this program." (G.J.)
- ♦ KCP helps me understand about myself. (M.A.)
- ♦ When people say mean things about you, it proves something is wrong in their life. (S. R.)

THE PARENTS At school's end we also surveyed the parents, "Have you noticed any changes in your child's behavior?" All answered "Yes!"

- ♦ More helpful with his brother and his pets
- ♦ I've seen a lot of change in her.
- ♦ He's become self-motivated.
- ♦ More out-going, willing to try different things Has more confidence in his parents

### Additional comments:

- ♦ My son is doing very good with his friends and family.
- ♦ I hope my daughter will apply all that she learned from this program in her daily life. Thank you for this wonderful experience she was a part of.
- ♦ The program helped my son a lot.
- ♦ This program has helped my daughter to get better grades, and she became a better reader.
- ♦ Thank god for this program!

### THE PRINCIPAL - Joe Scudder

"The Program ran through the school year but with vacations, holidays and more, the kids spent *only 20 hours* learning and sharing the experiences. How dramatic to see such change, in such short time!

"This illustrates how available kids are to changing behavior patterns, especially as they see and feel that something else works better."

## Meet our new KCP Program Facilitators ~ *Christine Dura & Melinda Adolph*



**Christine Dura** brings unique styles of music to "Kids Create Peace". Her passion for music brought her to One Voice of Peace in its pilot year (2011-12). She's now become a facilitator of weekly KCP Sessions.

A published singer/song-writer, Christine is also an experienced teacher. She has worked with pre-school children at the McCarthy Center, where she was known as "The Music Lady". Here, she brought free dance, drums, free-style art, dramatic play, song-writing, journaling, and much more.

Christine has worked with children 1-on-1, helping them discover their true selves through music.

She's also taught teachers of children how to bring music into the class-

room through varied learning and self-discovery techniques, such as drama play, dance, voice, drums, mirror work, and free-style painting

Christine's approach to music encourages learning, promotes self-help skills, understanding of the power of words, and helps all who are involved recognize the connection between oneself and others.



**Melinda Adolph** has been a co-facilitator with ASES, the after school program that sponsors Kids Create Peace.

As Founder & Director of GardenLife Wellness, and a Certified Holistic Health Coach, she supports and guides families, students, and youth

how to lower stress levels, achieve health & wellness and thus increase their overall happiness.

Melinda is currently finishing her undergraduate work in Positive Psychology, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Human Development and Early Childhood Education. She is a certified Plant-Based Nutritional Coach.

She also gives youth workshops to schools around the Coachella Valley on health, sustainability, and nutrition, using fun and food-based education. She offers compassion, guidance and encouragement to each young person so they will attain the skills and confidence necessary to express and contribute their unique talents to the world and their local communities. She is honored to serve with fellow KCP allies and students to increase harmony and cooperation.