

EPCC Newsletter



August saw an extremely powerful group of educators engage in 16 hours of learning, sharing and deep reflection. The diversity of experiences, both in life and work enriched us all. Read more in on Page 3!

How to Choose Good Books for Young Children: Thoughts for Book Selections on Social Justice

WITH PERMISSION TO SHARE, ADAPTED FROM A PRESENTATION BY COLLINS, FARNETH, HOPKINS, AND MITTAG AT FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE, JULY, 2017

Now, more than ever, children deserve to be exposed to high quality books on topics of social justice. Thankfully many, many wonderful books are coming out; however care needs to be taken in selection so as to include all people in ways that respect and honor them.

To begin your search for quality children's books, here goes:

1 In your internet browser, type in: children's books and a (theme, issue, question, e.g. Immigration, environment, peace). You then see about 6 books in a row. (This example uses the Google search engine, if you use another search engine, the appearance of the results may vary) You can choose one that appeals to you and then follow the next steps.

2 Websites to use: Having selected the book you want to preview, then link to the page that talks about a specific book (not the ad, but the book itself), often Amazon is the first one after

the ad. This book page will have a list of sites where you can read about the book.

2A Start with Amazon to check the available formats - hardback, paper, kindle or 3rd party sellers. Also look to see if the book has received any awards. Amazon wants to sell books so they give lots of information, including other book titles on the same topic. Below the book write-up may be reviews by the School Library Journal and Booklist, followed by product information that includes suitable ages for the book, and information about the author, and finally reviews from people who purchased the book. The bar graph makes it easy to see how the book is viewed. If it is not highly rated, then you most likely will want to keep looking.

3 The next step is to go to Good Reads and check their reviews of the book. Their rating is based on 5 points so the closer to 5 the better they like the book. Usually both sites have similar opinions about a book, but not always. (continued on page 3)

How can I get involved?

We are honored that you have opened and perused our quarterly newsletter.

We value your input and support for our peace education work that is so close to our hearts and minds. There are many ways that you can support our work with educators, families and communities across the country.

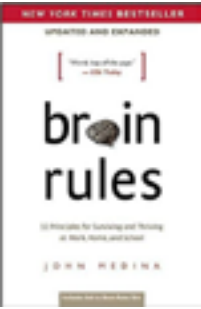
Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- Share your training or workshop experiences with others.
- Think about what you see on our website (educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org) that you might be interested in organizing for your community or sponsoring/funding or participating in yourself
- Tell others about the training opportunities we offer
- Refer others to our website
- Grant writing support, or leads
- Offer leads for training or speaking opportunities
- Offer leads for funding sources
- Offer leads for marketing our project

Please share this newsletter and refer others to our website, educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org. If you have any questions email us at bonzvo@verizon.net.

***Brain Rules*, by John Medina**

BY JOYCE DANIELS AND MARILYN PEARCE



Each of the 12 rules in this book tells us more about how the brain works - the science of it and some practical applications to explore. Some of these things we already know like exercise improving

how the brain works - a great argument for Physical Education and recess in our schools and for places to work out at our work places. We educators know that babies and toddlers need to explore, to learn about the environment by testing actions and ideas, and we also know that exploration all during our lives helps us constantly learn new things.

But did you know that vision is the most dominant sense and that we learn most through pictures, not written or spoken words? What does this tell us about the value of picture books and about including graphics in a powerpoint to sell a product at work or sell an idea in the classroom? Do you know about attention and the ten minute rule? Knowing that after ten minutes, any audience's attention is going to "plummet to zero", is there something we can do to

keep the learning going? According to John Medina there is.

Medina is a developmentally molecular biologist and research consultant. Just his title alone makes you think that this book is going to be "heady". He presents the science of each of the twelve rules in a storytelling fashion so that the science makes sense and then suggests ideas that might be beneficial in applying the rule. For instance, Rule #7 is Sleep and how important it is for learning and creating. So his idea about schools and companies encouraging naps is intriguing. "Naps would be accorded the same deference that businesses reluctantly treat lunch or even potty breaks: a necessary nod to an employee's biological needs. Companies would create a designated space for employees to take a one half-hour nap each work day." Naps at children's centers and siestas in some countries suddenly make sense!

John Medina has also written Brain Rules for Baby. The chapter titled, "smart baby: soil" seems really helpful for new moms and dads. Parents, educators, those in the workplace can all learn from these books and enjoy the journey!



Reaching Out: Sharing Peace Education in the Community

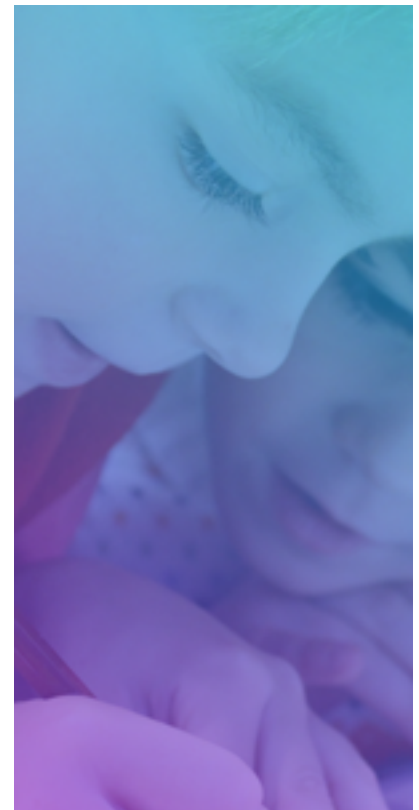
BY WILMA GOLD

EPCC is very excited to have been asked by Saba Islamic Center to present a Level I training for the entire staff of their preschool through elementary school. We are honored to teach and learn from the teachers who are building this community of peace here in the Bay Area. The training will be in early January 2018.

Our work with the Saba Center began in 2016. We have learned together with their

early childhood educators by creating customized 2 - 3 hour trainings to address issues that these outstanding teachers want to implement in their programs with children and families.

We look forward to other opportunities to work with diverse schools and institutions around the state and beyond to build a culture of peace and understanding for children and families.



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- 2** LEVEL I TRAINING
See the results of 16 hours of learning, sharing and reflection.
- 3** CHOOSING GOOD BOOKS
Learn how to choose good books about social justice for children.
- 4** PEACE CAMPS 2017
Three Peace Camps report on the summer activities.
- 5** MENTORS & INTERNS
Find out what was gained by meeting together to share ideas.

OUR ORGANIZATION

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andcommunities.org](http://educatorsforpeacefulclassroomsandcommunities.org)

How to Choose Good Books for Young Children: Thoughts for Book Selections on Social Justice, continued from page 1

3A Another step is to scan the browser page to see if there is a YouTube video. It allows you to see the contents of the book, usually. Be aware that not all YouTube videos are done well so look beyond the presentation.

4 Last, look to see if there are professional organizations that endorse the book. The more positive statements about a book, the better. The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC), at the library school of education at UWMadison, lists many of the major awards related to children's literature with links to the originating web pages. Find the list here:

<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/links/links.asp?idLinksCategory=2>

Helpful Websites for Issues:



We Need Diverse Books

www.weneeddiversebooks.org
Lists of organizations that develop lists of books by topics.

Teaching for Change

www.teachingforchange.org/selecting-anti-bias-books

Child Peace Books

www.childpeacebooks.org
Look at the tab for anti-bias books- it gives a thumbnail description of the books under the categories. (There is a small Activism category.)

Romper

<https://www.romper.com/p/10-childrens-books-that-help-white-kids-understand-what-children-of-color-are-up-against-15238>

Colours of Us

<http://coloursufus.com/multicultural-childrens-books-lists/>
The blog of a woman who has lived in multiple countries.

The Horn Book

<http://www.hbook.com/2016/10/choosing-books/horn-book-magazine/decolonizing-nostalgia-when-historical-fiction-betrays-readers-of-color>

The Atlantic

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/08/reading-racism-in-dr-seuss/536625/>

Literati Books

<https://blog.literatibooks.com/2017/01/31/10-childrens-books-that-celebrate-immigration/>

TRAINING REPORT

Amazing Educators Attend Level 1 Training

BY WILMA GOLD

An amazing group of educators attended Level I Training! August saw an extremely powerful group of educators engage in 16 hours of learning, sharing and deep reflection. Pacific Oaks College hosted a second Level I Training with participants included; college students, parent educators, center teachers, a family child care provider, a state R&R professional and program administrators. The diversity of experiences, both in life and work enriched us all.

The group is already organizing a gathering with the last San Jose group to support their learning and have some fun together. They are planning on attending Level II in the near future. If you are interested in getting together with this group to support each other in your peace education work contact Shira Coleman at shiracoleman@gmail.com.



Celebrating Diversity: Orange County Peace Camp 2017

BY FARBOD MARKAZI

*With our minty green shirts and the blistering Southern California sun (and a lot of caffeine), our staff, youth leaders, and interns were ready to make the camper experience a great one. This year was slightly different at camp than previous years because we have a new camp director, **Farbod Markazi!** He takes on a role previously held by Ana Page and camp co-founder, Chris Lamm.*

Because of the realities of the real world around us, this year at our staff meetings, we wanted to make our theme something that reflects the current state of the world around us. Our theme this year was, "Celebrating Diversity: Be Proud of your Origins". Through each and every experience and activity during the week, we tried to celebrate the differences each individual has and emphasize that diversity can only make us stronger.

On Tuesday, we did a "Refugee Walk" around the park where our Youth Leaders and interns each chose a refugee either from today or in the past, and told their story to the campers as they walked from station to station. "I think I learned about as much as the campers learned from this activity. I didn't know half of the people we are portraying were refugees," said Youth Leader Faraz Markazi who was portraying Albert Einstein as a refugee. In addition to Einstein we had many others that campers as well as staff were surprised about such as Bob Marley and Google co-founder, Sergey Brin. Even though it was an activity for the campers, it ended up truly being a learning

activity for the whole camp. Emphasizing the theme more, throughout the week we did an activity with Persona Dolls and sketching. Each camper was to make a doll or drawing how they think they look. Once all of the sketches and dolls were finished, the campers got to see all of the similarities and differences between each of their dolls. On the fourth day of camp, we used these dolls to make skits and act out scenes to show how your doll can make a difference no matter what they look like.

Peace Camp 2017 was different but important. The youth leaders led by coordinator, Tim Bongco, did a fantastic job leading, inspiring campers, and making them laugh as well. We also had a youth leader, Eric Lee, write a book on the Bill of Rights to help children learn their rights easier. Our interns were great with the younger children, guiding them throughout the parks and keeping them engaged in the activities. Our staff really had a drive this year to make a



difference and it showed. Lastly, our campers were strong willed and determined to grow, learn, and especially have fun. This year at camp everyone in the Peace Camp family, from the Youth Leaders, Interns, and Staff, to our campers and parents were superstars. We'll see you next year in 2018!



Blistering heat calls for extra hydration! Stay cool, kiddo.

Peace Camp Interns of 2017 had just enough time to pose for a quick photo op before returning to their primary role: leading the youth!





Not all heroes wear capes... but these sure do! Peace campers at Peace Camp of the Foothills pose for a group photo wearing the capes they made.

Social Justice Super Heroes at Peace Camp of the Foothills 2017

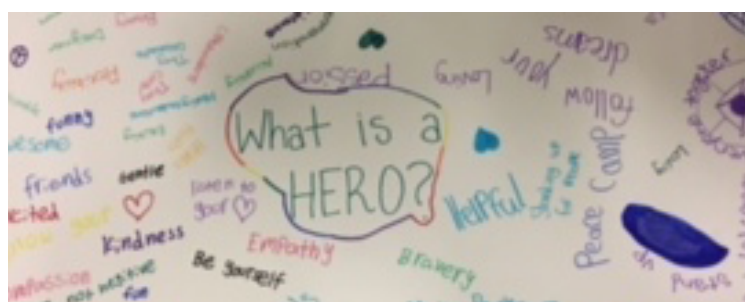
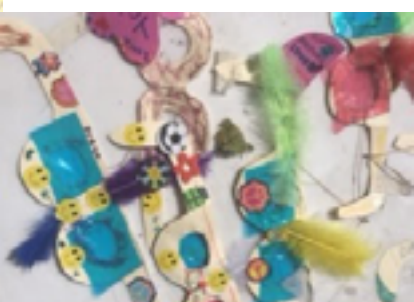
BY LAURA HYATT

Peace Camp of the Foothills (based in Altadena, California) devoted two weeks this summer focused on the theme "Heroes". Campers and leaders explored the heroes in their lives and the values that those heroes represent. In groups, they created Hero Headquarters, determining what their group stands for (human rights, environment, animal rights, etc) and creating a symbol to represent their values. Campers and leaders discussed how each one of us can be a hero and decided what they stand for as a hero in our world. They built awareness of heroes

through skits, arts, cooperative games, music, and filming. Leaders and campers collaboratively created and filmed short Public Service Announcements on social justice topics related to the concept of heroes. The camp was transformed to a magical place filled with youth exploring nature, creating art, singing and dancing, all while wearing capes for peace and social justice. Over 80 registered campers (5-12 years old), 25 youth leaders (6th-12th grade) became heroes this summer. It was quite beautiful...

Campers and leaders discussed how **each one of us can be a hero** and decided what they stand for as a hero in our world.

Campers became heroes at the Peace Camp of the Foothills. See all the great activities below:



Jane Addams Peace Camp 2017

BY GABY GLITSKY

Jane Addams Peace Camp was held the week of August 7-11th this year. It was our 21st year. We were at rustic Orchard School in Aptos, California. We had three groups of campers who learned about non-violent Communications, folded Peace Cranes, made mono prints with recycled materials, learned about saving the bees and made fruit sculptures for snack. A good time was had by all.



From Top to Bottom: Jane Addams Peace Camp Group Photo, Folding Peace Cranes, Printmaking, and Snack!

Mentors and Interns Meet, Face to Face

BY JOYCE DANIELS

Some of the good feedback we received from our first year interns was a desire to meet face-to-face with mentors during the year to answer questions and to keep moving along on their personal and professional development plans, philosophy of education and projects. On Saturday, Aug. 26 Wilma Gold, Gus Gold

on different aspects of Marketing and Outreach. Lola is working on the Training/Speaking internship.

By meeting together we discovered that all the interns had ideas to share with each other. And all the mentors had questions and ideas for all the projects. It was a positive experience for everyone, and we



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and Joyce Daniels met with new interns Cheryl Horney, Lola Cornish and Allison Clabaugh (by Skype) in Oakland.

All three interns have been thinking about their personal and professional development and how it connects to what they want to accomplish for their projects. All three are in the beginning stages of writing a philosophy of education or reexamining a philosophy they've already written to see changes they'd like to make. Both Alice and Cheryl are working

plan to meet again in February. And after the meeting we explored the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse and enjoyed a delicious Burmese lunch!

