



Quaker PEACE Centre

Peace Buddies

www.quaker.org/capetown/nonviolentschools

THE NON-VIOLENT SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

This year the **Non-Violent Schools** annual camp was held at Mooihawens in Betty's Bay near Cape Town. The site is a short stroll to a beautiful beach and an even shorter walk to a large penguin colony; both attractions were enjoyed by the learners. The fynbos in the area is rare and varied and the clear skies at night displayed a feast of stars.

2010 was the largest gathering we have had since we began in 2008 with 27 teachers and 60 learners attending from 17 schools.

The learners designed their ideal lessons for the Life Orientation Curriculum under the heading: *The Ultimate Lesson On...* This was at the request of the Curriculum Manager Metro South Education District, Glen van Harte, who wanted to find out what learners think is really important for teenagers to learn and how they think they should be taught. On Wednesday evening we had dancing lessons with Derick Dirks from Lentegeur High School who did marvels in a crowded space with a collection of highly energetic learners and a few left footed adults! On Thursday evening the learners organised and devised their own concert displaying their many and various talents. Everyone worked hard, had a lot of fun and made new friends!

Being a peace buddy and a member of a peace club, has given a purpose to many learners. Many peace buddies have difficult lives and need to know that it is possible to bring about change in one's life; they need to have hope for a better future. Over the last 3 years we have discovered that attendance at the camp has the most meaningful impact on the lives of the participants; this and the indaba are the events that the learners enjoy the most. The **Non-Violent Schools Campaign** gives peace buddies an opportunity to be treated as special and with respect and this can be life-changing for some of the buddies. The campaign has managed to reduce the levels of violence at some schools and increase the self-confidence of many of the peace buddies. Many more peace buddies now see themselves as activists who believe they can change the world they live in.

Although we had to cancel the 2010 Indaba following the teachers' strike, we are planning to hold a gathering early in 2011.

I salute the good work being done by the peace buddies and the peace educators. They are keeping the campaign alive!

Avril Knott-Craig



Happy Campers June 2010!

Peace Buddies

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A special point of interest:

The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody.

Mother Theresa

Contents

The Non-Violent Schools Campaign	1
Editorial Review	2
The Non-Violent Schools Campaign is going from strength to strength	2
Young Women in Leadership	3
Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)	3
Carmen & Thando	3
Editorial Team	4
Contact Details	4
Peace Buddies Poetry	4



The word *PEACE* seems like an intangible entity; there are very few people who reached iconic status in life because of their peaceful beliefs, like Ghandi, Mandela and Sister Theresa. The point is that people are more likely to remember those who inflicted violence and pain onto our lives than those who have enriched us.

I believe that peace clubs at school have become a necessity. Learners need a platform to raise and join their voices to the masses. Children are our true mirrors because they do and say what we reflect to them. Moreover, their insights into our lives tell us exactly what is wrong with our society. And we know this because we all too often tell them to be quiet. The point is, the youth are the future leaders of our country and how wonderful it would be if they did not repeat past mistakes!

We need to encourage, motivate and inspire them. In the peace club we do this by recognising their talents, and praising their efforts to uplift their surroundings and most importantly, we listen to their needs. The truth is that they have a lot to say.

We often claim that they are dreamers who are not in touch with reality, but who's to say that we are not the jaded ones? Are their dreams any different from ours? As an educator, for almost twenty years now, I'm constantly surprised at the lengths they will go to if they truly believe it can be done. The truth is, they need our support, our will and determination to make a difference in their lives. Without it they will live in a hopeless society. We as educators can prevent this.

It's the peace club, the peace camp and peace education that make the difference.

A new peace leader at our school, Abby, remarked after the last Non-Violent Schools peace camp: "Oh! my gosh Miss, I've never met so many kind people in my life".



Peace Buddies working Camp 2010



Lyrice Trussell at Camp 2010



Working hard at Indaba 2009

The Non-Violent Schools campaign is now in its third year and going from strength to strength.

Organised by The Quaker Peace Centre and supported by Metropole South Education District, this campaign is providing valuable support for teachers and learners in schools. Our schools are increasingly violent and the aim of the campaign is to change behaviour and ways of dealing with conflict.

The activities throughout the year, camps, conferences, meetings are based on sound theoretical principles which are embedded in the Curriculum across different subject areas. The first two camps focused on History and Science. In 2010, the July camp required learners to be creative and devise a Curriculum that would respond to their needs.

This is Curriculum design from the ground up! If learners can choose what they want to learn and their school work addresses their concerns, their education will be of value to them. The basic assumption here is that teenagers are intelligent and responsible and may have a better perception of their own future world than Curriculum Designers in offices!

In addition there is the idea that if children are happy, enthusiastic, and committed to school, if the work is relevant to them, if the teachers are empowered to deal with conflict, schools will become safe learning environments. It is when young people are alienated from the system that they consider dropping out, and they become vulnerable to gangs and at risk of violent behaviour.

The exercises are easy for the teachers to do practically and it has been found that the methodology we use is easy to imitate. Teachers need to reclaim their role as mentors and advisers to respectful children.

The Non-Violent Schools Campaign encourages learners and teachers to support one another in their difficult environments with the establishment of the Peace Buddies at school. It is hoped that bullying, hate speech, and other provocations to violence will end, and our schools will become oases of peaceful learning.

Geraldine Goldblatt



Connect with other peace buddies on **facebook**. Log onto **facebook** and join: "Peace Buddies in Action"

Young Women in Leadership

The project recruits young women through the Peace Clubs at high schools in four areas per year; we now have some 90 participants. We are currently working in Delft, Elsie's River, Philippi and Mitchell's Plain. Each group of 20 to 25 young women meets after school for two hours a week. A needs assessment for each group is conducted initially to establish the issues that each group wishes to address. These generally include awareness of women's rights, healing of trauma, building self-esteem, leadership skills and advocacy and lobbying.

We also run programmes for parents and caregivers and young women which focus on positive communication skills, peace-building and parenting skills. This will lead to the establishment of four Young Women in Leadership Forums for these areas. The project will have a camp once a year and also host a 2-day Indaba with young women and their families.

Nokuthula Mbete

Young Women from Aloe High School attending an after school session



Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)



AVP with the Peace Buddies at St Andrew's FET College

I am very proud of the peace buddies. I see young people wanting to make a difference in their schools and striving for peaceful co-existence in the midst of challenging and violent situations.

AVP proves to be a popular way of doing this! Workshops enhance self-esteem, in order to deal better with conflict, and affirmation, one of the pillars of AVP. Peace Buddies from St. Andrews FET College, Heideveld High, and Aloe Junior High learnt about building self-respect, caring about oneself and others, and expecting the best, in their workshops this year - they revelled in the fun, laughter, and learning. A journey of discovery, of introspection, of putting yourself in the shoes of others was explored.

I hope to see the other schools offer AVP to their Peace Buddies in 2011. I wish the Peace Buddies and their dedicated teachers all the best with the year-end exams, and a peaceful and blessed holiday.

Stan Jarvis

Carmen & Thando 3

The new "Carmen and Thando" CD is out!

It's called "To Be a Man" because – yes, you guessed it - Thando has arrived at that point in his life where decisions have to be made about going to the bush... His dad is no longer alive – so what's he going do? And Carmen? What does she think about it all? Who is Spook? And what has he got to do with it? And Pinky? Is she his girlfriend or what?

The new CD looks at the problems of sex, identity and tradition that young people are facing today.

Watch this space!

Athalie Crawford

Athalie and Thandi talking it over at Indaba 2009



Peace Buddies

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If you have any news, views or opinions that you would like to have featured in the next Peace Buddies newsletter, please contact Marlene.

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Cape Town TV interview with a peace buddy from Maitland High School

Peace Buddies POETRY

Being with People

by Phiwe Sophe

I am always around people but
they are not like you
When I am with you,
I feel different
I feel I can speak my mind
I feel that I can dream big and
nobody can stop me
I feel like I can spread my wings
and
fly away to persuade them
I feel like I should go out there,
see the world, meet new people
Peace club members, you give
me hope
you give me strength
You make me believe that I am
worthy
to have more than I have right
now
and for that I thank you!
KEEP ON BEING REAL

Heritage Day

by Mandisa

Remember us
remember me
Black child with inferior
existence
remember my heart being shattered
into a million pieces
Remember my cry
when I ran in the dark because I
had
no right to walk where I pleased
in the land of my
ancestors
Remember the fear in my eyes
when torched like a slave
When they bruised my body and
sinned against
Remember how many times I
prayed for justice
Remember oh,
Remember when finally fear
gave birth to courage
and then I learnt how to fight
Remember my battle cry
when finally I had fallen down

because death had struck me
But never forget
my battle
cry which was the fuel of
the glory against the enemy

Remember the blood
that poured down the bodies of
those who
joined the army
of the greatest
Remember the pain
that brought peace into existence
in my nation
Remember my nation
as it was before
Remember me
Remember us
Remember those
who fought for us

