



# PeaceRelease

Summer 2008  
July - August

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or if your browser is unable to view this document.

## In This Issue:

[PeaceBuilder in the News](#)

[Peaceful Quotations](#)

[Book Suggestions](#)

[Summer Activities](#)

[Pieces of Peace Tags](#)

[CSULB PeaceBuilders Course](#)

## Quick Links:

[PeaceBuilders Website](#)

[PeaceRelease Archives](#)

[Check it Out!](#)

[PeaceBuilder of the Month](#)

[CSULB University College & Extension Services](#)

## Dear Partners,

As you've realized, there is no great secret involved in creating a safer, more peaceful environment at your site. To build and maintain peace, adults need to be consistent PeaceBuilders role-models. As a team, we adults need to be consistent in our use of the common PeaceBuilders language, in our expectations, and in our strategy for discipline and rewards. These simple actions bring about a positive environmental shift that is powerful and lasting.

Being strong role-models is imperative because young people need to be exposed to PeaceBuilders messages all year round; they need to see and be PeaceBuilders at home, at their school or beyond school PeaceBuilders site, and in their community. As the summer progresses, it is vitally important to keep young people engaged in building peace in various ways. As you work with youth this summer, be sure to review the PeaceBuilders Principles and relate them to the situations they are likely to encounter over these summer weeks.

Along with praising people and giving up put-downs, PeaceBuilding children and teens can notice hurts, right wrongs and help others in many meaningful ways. All three of these latter Principles are practiced when they notice problems in their community and then help to correct them (as when they clean up a public space like a park or empty lot). To determine what you will do with your group of young people, give them an opportunity to brainstorm ways they can improve their neighborhood and help the environment and then assist them in putting their plans into action.

This summer, if we all work together, we can make a difference that is seen and felt throughout our communities.

## PeaceBuilder in the News: Josh Dorfman

Josh Dorfman is the host of a Sirius Satellite Radio program and author of a book, both entitled *The Lazy Environmentalist*. He is also CEO of Vivavi, a company that sells modern, green furniture and home furnishings. Dorfman also created a residential real estate search directory for consumers seeking green homes through the website ModernGreenLiving.com. In all his professional ventures, Dorfman's main goal is to inform consumers about cutting-edge, eco-friendly products and services so that they will begin to make green choices.

Many people care about the environment but their busy lives get in the way of putting their beliefs into practice. Another obstacle to living green, according to Dorfman, is that in the past our earth-friendly choices have often been unattractive or inconvenient. Dorfman started his company Vivavi to introduce green products and services that compete with popular brands and styles. Dorfman's success has proven that we will all make environmentally conscious choices if the products and services are stylish and convenient.

Because of his desire to help the earth and his effectiveness in convincing many people that they can make environmentally-friendly choices and purchase cutting-edge green products, Josh Dorfman is our summer PeaceBuilder in the News. You can learn more about this wise person by visiting his [website](#).

## Peaceful Quotations:

*"Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away."*

- Robert Fulghum

*"The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river."*

- Ross Perot

*"When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others."*

- Peace Pilgrim

*"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."*

- Chief Seattle, 1855

## PeaceBuilders Book Suggestions

**If Peace Is...** (Mondo Publishing, 2003). Author: Jane Baskwill. Reading level: 3-8 years. With rhyming text, Baskwill urges readers and listeners to value peace and to commit to being peaceful in everything we do.



**Planet Earth: 25 Environmental Projects You Can Build Yourself**

(Nomad Press, 2008). Author: Kathleen Reilly. Reading level: 9-12 years. This book will help young people to understand and nurture the environment. It provides an overview, trivia, and 20 hands-on investigative projects to engage children.

**The Lazy Environmentalist: Your Guide to Easy, Stylish, Green Living**

(Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2007). Author: Josh Dorfman. Reading level: 13–adult. Dorfman’s book informs ecologically-minded people, who are concerned about the long-term health of the planet, but who also lead busy lives, about specific things they can do and products they can buy to help care for the planet.

### PeaceBuilders Summer Activities

**Erupting Volcano** - found in the *PeaceBuilding Beyond School* binder (materials: large paper plate, 3 oz. disposable cup, aluminum foil, scotch tape, scissors, water, baking soda, vinegar, tablespoon, red food coloring, cup, pan or tray):

**Instructions to make your volcano:** Tape the bottom of the cup to the middle of the plate. Tear off a piece of foil, large enough to completely cover the cup and plate, and place the foil over the cup and plate turning the foil under the plate edge. Tape the foil in place. Poke a hole through the foil into the middle of the cup. Use scissors to make slits from the middle of the cup to the inside edge of it. Tape the foil to the inside of the cup.

**Instructions to make your volcano erupt:** Place the volcano on a pan or tray to make sure you don’t make a mess. Fill the volcano with two tablespoons of water and stir in a tablespoon of baking soda until it dissolves. Add a few drops of red food coloring. Measure two tablespoons of vinegar into a separate cup. Pour the vinegar, all at once, into the water/baking soda mixture and watch the lava bubble up.

Hold a discussion about put-downs and the way they make us feel. Talk about how important it is to seek wise people to talk to about these feelings and how to handle put-downs so that your feelings don’t erupt in inappropriate ways.

**Pass on the Praise** - found in the *PeaceBuilding Beyond School* binder:

A leader starts a "praise rumor" by quietly telling one person a complimentary story, which is full of details that are hard to recall (time of day, number of bystanders, names, locations, etc.) about a fictitious person. The person who hears the story quietly tells another all the details s/he can recall. The third person who hears the story quietly retells it, and in this way the story gets told over and over one person at a time. The last person who hears the story relays it out loud to the entire group. The original story is also told and the two stories are compared and contrasted.

Hold a discussion about the nature of rumors (good or bad) and how details are changed and omitted when stories are retold. State that negative rumors are put-downs. Although this story was a complimentary one, note how different the story is after being retold numerous times. Talk about how negative rumors are just as often full of untruths and half-truths that can be harmful and hurtful.

**Staff Activity** - Anonymous Praise Exchange (materials: small pieces of paper and PraiseNotes):

Give each staff member a PraiseNote and a small piece of paper (about the size of a stick-on name tag). Ask them each to write their name on the piece of paper then fold it so the name does not show. Collect all the names and put them in a hat or bag.

Tell your staff that they are going to draw a name from the hat and that they MUST keep the name they draw secret. No one is to know what name anyone else draws. After the meeting, they are to write a PraiseNote to the person whose name they drew praising him or her for something meaningful. They SHOULD NOT sign the PraiseNote. It is to remain anonymous, which means they must then find a way to get the PraiseNote to the person without being detected.

### Check Out Our Fun, Exciting New PeaceBuilders Product: Pieces of Peace Tags



Your students will call them **POPs**; you'll call them an incredibly fun and simple way to implement the PeaceBuilders program! These colorful, plastic tags come in eight different designs featuring the six PeaceBuilders Principles along with a PeaceCoach tag and one for PeaceBuilder of the Month.

- A set of thirty tags cost only \$20.00
- Save 25% when you purchase a Master Set for \$120.00

**CSU, Long Beach Offers PeaceBuilders Course!**



PeaceBuilders Behavior Management will be offered every Wednesday beginning on 9/10/08 and ending on 9/24/08 from 6:30pm - 9:30pm (Pacific Time). The course is open to everyone involved with youth and youth-based organizations

Click [here](#) for more information