



# PeaceRelease

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## **Dear Partners,**

Whether you work at a PeaceBuilders school site or beyond school site, the fact remains that the summer months offer young people more free time - time they can spend building peace, coasting, or decreasing peace. How they will choose to spend their free time, to some degree, will depend on the expectations we, their wise people, set before the summer begins.

Throughout the regular school year we have reiterated the message that we are all PeaceBuilders all the time, not only while we engage in PeaceBuilders lessons, and not only while at our PeaceBuilders site. We are also PeaceBuilders at home and in our community. Being a PeaceBuilder is not something we switch on and off.

Young people are testing waters and pushing boundaries and learning through their experiences. They are certain to make mistakes and sometimes even bad choices. However, when they identify as PeaceBuilders, when they know we expect them to behave like PeaceBuilders, and when they have a firm understanding of exactly what that means (because we have held discussions and participated in activities to clarify each of the six PeaceBuilders Principles), the choices they make will be smarter.

Whether you are saying goodbye for the summer to a classroom full of students or working with young people in a beyond school facility, be sure to talk to them about making good choices in terms of how they spend their time and who they choose as friends and acquaintances. Remind them that they should be seeking wise people as advisors and friends and that they should be wise role models for others.

And speaking of wise role models, Happy Father's Day to all PeaceBuilders dads and happy graduation to all our PeaceBuilders grads! We honor you for all your efforts and achievements. Enjoy your day.

## **PeaceBuilders Lessons and Activities**

### **Brainstorm the Traits of a Wise Person:**

Talk to young people about the difference between wise people and famous people. Point out the difference between wise people and wealthy people. Ask them to distinguish the difference between wise people and popular people. Together, brainstorm an extensive list of the traits wise people possess (for example, wise people are reliable, good listeners, truthful, helpful, encouraging, good role-models, etc.). Make sure the list is long and comprehensive so that they can use the traits for the following activity.

### **I Am a Wise Person** (materials: pieces of construction paper, clothes pins, washable markers):

Give each young person a piece of construction paper, a clothes pin, and a marker. Ask them all to write the following on the top of the paper (using their own name): *Name is a wise person because...* Once they have the title written, ask them each to pin the paper to their back. Give them instructions to get up and calmly walk around the room. They are to write a wise trait each of their peers possesses on the paper on their backs. They can choose traits from the brainstormed list or think of new ones. Give them time to fill each others' papers with wise traits. Ask them to take their seats, remove the paper from their backs and read all the reasons their peers think they are wise. Finally, remind them that they will have many opportunities to make choices during the summer and that they should always keep in mind that they are PeaceBuilders and wise people.

*Alternative suggestion:* Rather than pinning the papers on their backs, young people can sit in a circle and pass each person's paper around the circle. Give them 30 seconds to write a trait on each person's page as it goes around.

*Alternative for young children:* After brainstorming the list of traits a wise person possesses, ask young children to draw a picture of themselves showing a wise trait they possess. They might draw big ears to show they are good listeners. They might draw a picture of them helping a younger child.

**Staff Activity:** Consider doing the above lesson and activity with your staff.

As an added discussion, ask staff members to think of a person who made a difference in their professional life (a family member, a mentor, an instructor). Hold a discussion about how these people helped them achieve their professional success. Ask staff members to consider how they've helped others achieve success (by encouraging, role-modeling, mentoring, etc.). Reinforce their understanding that they are wise people to each other and to new people joining the staff. Remind them of their commitment to model PeaceBuilders behaviors with consistency.

### **Famous PeaceBuilding Father in History President John Adams**



John Adams was the second President of the United States and the first Vice President, serving under George Washington. He is one of the founding fathers of the United States and is the biological father of our sixth President, John Quincy Adams.

John Adams was a driving force for American independence from Great Britain. He was primarily responsible for obtaining loans to fund the Revolution; and after the war, Adams served as a chief negotiator of the peace treaty with Great Britain.

As a father, John Adams involved his son John Quincy Adams in his political life by bringing him along on his travels as an American envoy. Father and son were not the only members of the Adams family to serve their new country as politicians; the Adams family was a prominent political family in the United States from the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century.

John Adams is our PeaceBuilders father in history due to his positive role modeling for his son and countrymen and because of his commitment to gain independence for all the people of the United States of America. We also honor him for his efforts to build peace with Great Britain once the War of Independence ended. A PeaceBuilder stands up for his rights and for the rights of others but also treats others with respect and dignity. President Adams is a founding PeaceBuilder!

### **Peaceful Quotations:**

*"[My father] didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."*  
- Clarence Budington Kelland

*"Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar."*  
- William Wordsworth

*"Now that it's all over, what did you really do yesterday that's worth mentioning?"*  
- Coleman Cox

*"There are two kinds of light - the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures."*  
- James Thurber



### **PeaceBuilders Book Suggestions**

***The Daddy Book*** (Little, Brown Young Readers, 2002).  
Author Todd Parr. Reading level: ages 4-8.



This book shows the traits of individual dads but also includes comments about all dads: "All daddies like to watch you sleep!" This is a great book to highlight a father's distinctive love and affection.

***Peace Begins with You*** (Little, Brown Young Readers, 1994).

Author: Katherine Scholes. Reading level: 9-12 years.

Scholes explains, in simple terms, the concept of peace, why conflicts occur and how they can be resolved, and how peace can be protected. This is a great book to begin a conversation about how young people can continue to build peace of their own accord.

***Messages from My Father*** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997).

Author Calvin Trillin. Reading level: high school and adult.

In this memoir, Trillin's respect for his hard-working, low-key immigrant father shines through. His dry, understated humor makes the book an easy yet poignant read.

### **Congratulations to the PeaceBuilders Teacher Appreciation Contest Winners!**

- 1st prize: Sweetwater Springs Elementary School in Spring Valley, CA.
- 2nd prize: St. Joseph School in Bardstown, KY.
- 3rd prize: St. Albert the Great School in Louisville, KY.

Although there are only three prize winners, we sincerely praise all adult leaders who use PeaceBuilders to coach young people to take responsibility for helping create a safe environment. Your steady role-modeling and encouragement is a powerful instrument of change at your site and in your community. Thank you for the enormous part you play in building peace every day.

Please return to or register to visit the [Members Only](#) section of our website to download free Implementation Tools, such as reproducible graphics, book lists, the PeaceBuilders Pledge, PeaceTreaties, etc. You can also order materials: curriculum, customizable banners, pencils, t-shirts, etc. in the section titled [Program Materials](#) or by calling us toll free at 1-877-473-2236.

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



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

For more information, click the link below and choose "Course Schedule." Click on the category "Teacher Education." Choose the topic "Training & Education." Then click on "PeaceBuilders."

Click here: <http://www.uces.csulb.edu/>