



# PeaceBuilders®

## PeaceRelease

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### Dear Partners,

March is a marvelous month to be a PeaceBuilder. Spring is on the way and everyone feels it. Sometimes that means young PeaceBuilders have even more energy to burn; and sometimes it makes building peace a little more challenging.

This is an important time to remember that we adults set the tone for children in our class or group. They are affected by our actions and our moods. We need to be sure our responses to their behaviors help to increase the peace for everyone. This means remembering to stay calm and to model PeaceBuilders behaviors even when we're at our wit's end. It's not always easy, but it is always effective!

One way to model PeaceBuilders behavior is to *Notice Hurts* and to help young people learn this skill. Although we try, we are not perfect PeaceBuilders. When we adults lose our temper (which includes a sarcastic or frustrated tone or facial expression) we need to model noticing the hurt and righting the wrong. That means we take responsibility for our action by claiming it out loud and by making amends. When our young people cause someone else pain, we must expect them to do the same, and we must help them figure out how to do it.

Since March 2nd is "Read Across America Day," consider reading books or assigning texts that illustrate the PeaceBuilders Principle *Notice Hurts* (you will find some appropriate texts listed in the PeaceBuilders Book Suggestions section below). This will prompt thoughtful discussions about why, how and when to notice the hurts we cause.

Enjoy the blooming daffodils and tulips. Enjoy the warmer weather. Enjoy the young people who rely on your guidance and your modeling. Know that you are making a difference.

### PeaceBuilder in History: Dr. Seuss (Theodore Seuss Geisel)

It is Dr. Seuss' birthday we celebrate on "Read Across America" day; and it is for good reason. Dr. Seuss was a successful writer and cartoonist before beginning to write children's books, but children's literature provided a brilliant opportunity to use his skills as a story teller, as a poet (using various poetic meters to solidify his unique and dynamic style), as an illustrator, and as a PeaceBuilder.

Dr. Seuss began writing children's books in the 1940's with classics like *Horton Hatches the Egg* and *McElligot's Pool*. After reading an article on illiteracy that claimed children were not learning to read because their primers were too boring, Dr. Seuss was challenged to write a book using only 250 of the 400 most important words for children to recognize. The result of



