



# Chalk Talk

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

In the movie 'Miss Congeniality', when undercover cop/beauty contestant Gracie Hart is asked by the emcee to describe what the one most important thing our society needs is, she answers, "harsher punishment for parole violators". When this answer draws a less than enthusiastic response from the audience, she changes her answer to "world peace".

As cliché as it may sound, there is no doubt that with ever increasing globalization the desire to find peaceful solutions to problems and conflicts is gathering momentum. But moving the concept of peace from being an abstract ideal to a reality has proven a difficult challenge.



When one thinks of the peace movement, one remembers the turbulent 60's and the prevalence of anti-war demonstrations. As we know, that decade cast a long shadow. While the hippie salutation of 'Peace and Love' has gone out of fashion, the iconic peace symbol ☮ and the V peace sign, used by Winston Churchill as the sign for victory, have survived. And the humanitarian organization, [The Peace Corps](#), begun in 1961 by President Kennedy, recently celebrated its 45th anniversary.

Still global, lasting peace has been elusive. Why if everyone is in favour of it is it so difficult to achieve? This and many more questions will be explored at the World Peace Forum 2006 which will be held in Vancouver in June. Its theme is "Cities and Communities: Working Together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World". There will be a focus on the role education can play in attaining peace. The International Peace Education Conference, which

## International Peace Education Conference

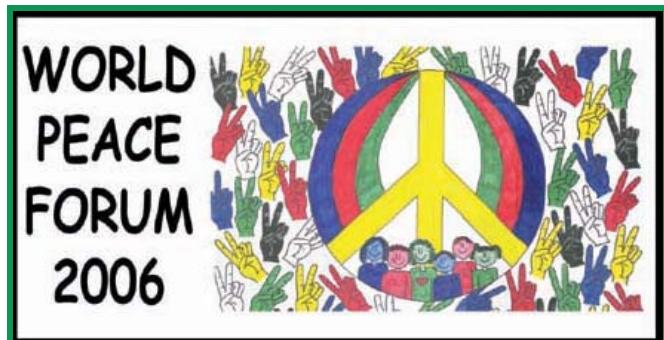


### *Educating a Generation to Create a Culture of Peace*

The [World Peace Forum](#) will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia from June 23-28, 2006. It will provide an opportunity for peacemakers from around the world to come together and demonstrate the growing international commitment to peace, justice and sustainability.

The [International Peace Education Conference](#), a strand of the World Peace Forum, which takes place from June 25-27, 2006, poses the question "How, through education, are we going to create a culture of peace in our classroom and communities?" Teachers, students, elders, and citizens will gather to discuss how society can be transformed to create and share a curricula of peace and develop teaching strategies to sustain efforts to promote peace.

The conference features an exciting speakers' program including world renowned peace activist, Dr. Helen Caldicott, the popular children's singer, Raffi Cavoukian, and **Silken Laumann, Olympian, Founder of Silken's Active Kids' Movement and Right To Play Athlete Ambassador**. Participants can choose from more than 100 workshops offered by presenters active in peace education from around the globe, including two Right To Play — Canadian School Program workshops on Sunday, June 25th.



Registration is being handled by the World Peace Forum organization. To view the program and register for the conference and the workshops, [click here](#).

For more information about the Peace Education Conference being organized by the British Columbia

role education can play in attaining peace. The International Peace Education Conference, which will take place as part of the World Peace Forum, has set its theme as 'Educating a Generation to Create a Culture of Peace'. According to the United Nations 'a culture of peace' is 'a set of values, attitudes and modes of behaviour, and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling the root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation'.

Perhaps John Lennon said it most simply and best with "All we are saying is give peace a chance". What's there to lose?

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. We invite you to visit our website at [4edu.ca](http://4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

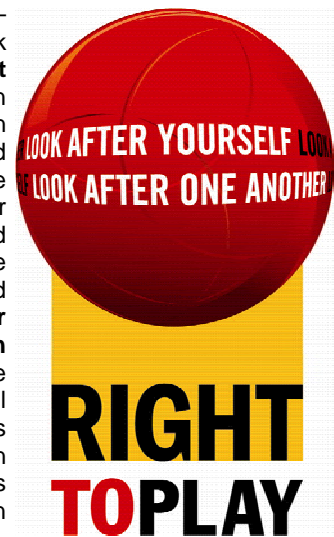
As always, your feedback is important to us. [Let us know your thoughts.](#)



Mary Kovack

For more information about the Peace Education Conference being organized by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, [click here](#).

Guided by the philosophy — Look After Yourself, Look After One Another — **Right To Play** is an athlete-driven international humanitarian organization using sport and play programs to promote opportunities for development, health and peace for children living in the world's most disadvantaged countries. **To order your Right To Play Canadian School Program kit**, a free grades 4-6 educational resource which integrates curriculum-based lesson plans with creative play ideas on how to increase activity in our schools, [click here](#).



#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace.  
You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one.  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one.*  
— John Lennon, 'Imagine', 1971



*The Strawberry Fields Memorial in Central Park, New York City*

#### Facts & Figures—Nobel Peace Prize Recipients



#### Notable Past Recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize:

- Lester B. Pearson (1957)
- Martin Luther King Jr. (1964)
- Amnesty International (1977)
- Anwar Sadat & Menachem Begin (1978)
- Mother Teresa (1979)
- Lech Walesa (1983)
- The 14th Dalai Lama (1989)
- Elie Wiesel (1986)
- Mikhail Gorbachev (1990)
- Nelson Mandela & FW DeKlerk (1993)
- Yassar Arafat, Shimon Peres, Yitzak Rabin (1994)
- Doctors without Borders (1997)
- Jimmy Carter (2002)



[Source: [Nobel Prize.org](http://NobelPrize.org)]

#### Education News and Recommended Links

[Bringing Back Fun. Olympian Silken Laumann says the solution to childhood obesity is simple: play](#) — Anne Marie Owens, National Post, April 18, 2006

"As evidence of how far off track modern childhood has strayed, a new book on the importance of play offers detailed instructions for such classic children's games as tag, hopscotch, hide-and-seek and capture-the-flag. The former Olympian, whose book Child's Play is being released today, says many of these games are being lost in the hectic scramble of over-protective, hyper-scheduled, time-crunched parenting."

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[Drought saps Kenyans' dreams](#) — Craig and Marc Kielburger, GLOBAL VOICES, The Toronto Star, March 30, 2006

You may not have heard about it, but history is being repeated. Anyone old enough to remember Ethiopia's 1984-85 famine will find the facts of this story familiar. They deal with poverty, climate change and a 14-year-old's dream to exercise his universal right to education. Nambala stands with pride in front of us, looking confident in his crisp school uniform: brown shorts, a blue shirt and a tattered green sweater. The large holes near his elbows are from "studying," he says.

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[Kids pick Kielburger for prize. Former winner of same award inspired young activist](#) — Curtis Rush, The Toronto Star, April 18, 2006

“Craig Kielburger, a child rights activist and the *Star's* newest columnist, has been awarded the 2006 World Children's Prize, commonly referred to as the 'Children's Nobel Prize.' The prize, established by the Swedish Children's World Association in 2000, recognizes Kielburger's leadership and development efforts through his youth-driven charity, Free The Children. The Toronto-based organization works to free children from poverty and exploitation by creating accessible education possibilities.”

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[“Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World” - UN exhibit](#), February 2004, The International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

Secretary-General Kofi Annan has observed that “It is not enough to send peacekeeping forces to separate warring parties. It is not enough to engage in peace-building efforts after societies have been ravaged by conflict. It is not enough to conduct preventive diplomacy. All of this is essential work, but we must also act at a deeper level if we want enduring results. We need, in short, a culture of peace.”

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**T 416.955.9526**  
**F 416.955.0815**

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • [www.coedcomm.com](http://www.coedcomm.com) • [info@coedcomm.com](mailto:info@coedcomm.com)