

The Mosaic Project

VISION

We envision peace: a just, diverse, and inclusive world where individuality and community are both core values and where listening, empathy, and assertiveness guide our interactions.

BELIEF

“If we are to reach real peace in the world...we shall have to begin with the children.” - *Gandhi*

MISSION

UNITE

EDUCATE

EMPOWER

We work toward a peaceful future by uniting children of diverse backgrounds, providing them with essential community building skills, and empowering them to become peacemakers.

Our complementary work with youth and adults not only supports our youngest peacemakers, but also enables us to reach wider communities through schools, community-based organizations, and the workplace.

Together, we create microcosms of the just, diverse, inclusive world we envision, demonstrate that peace is possible, and inspire action.

VALUES

Mutual Respect

Open Mindedness

Self Respect

Attitude (An awesome one!)

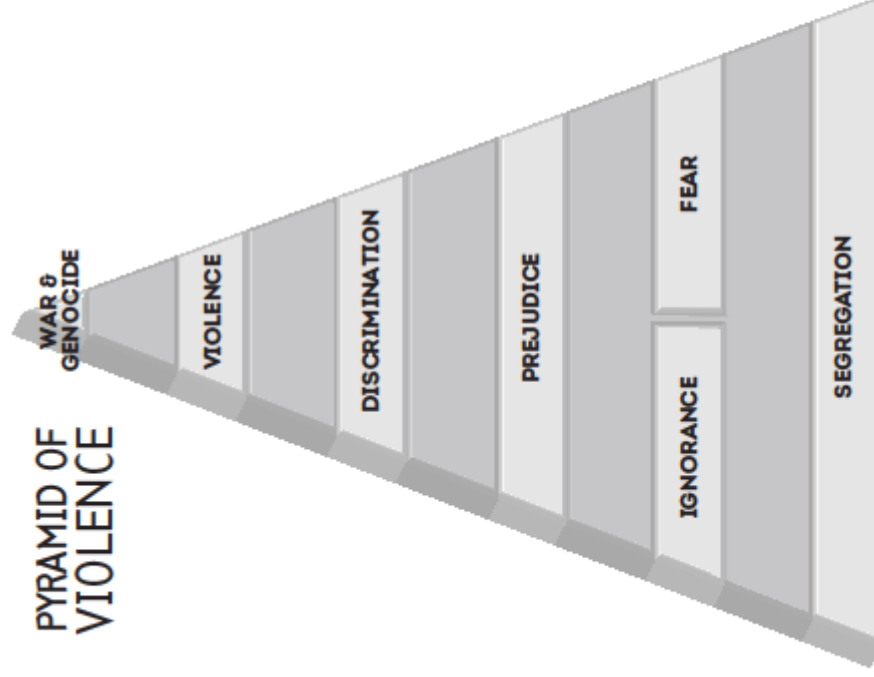
Individuality

Community

FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

We strive to practice what we teach in all we do.

PYRAMID OF VIOLENCE

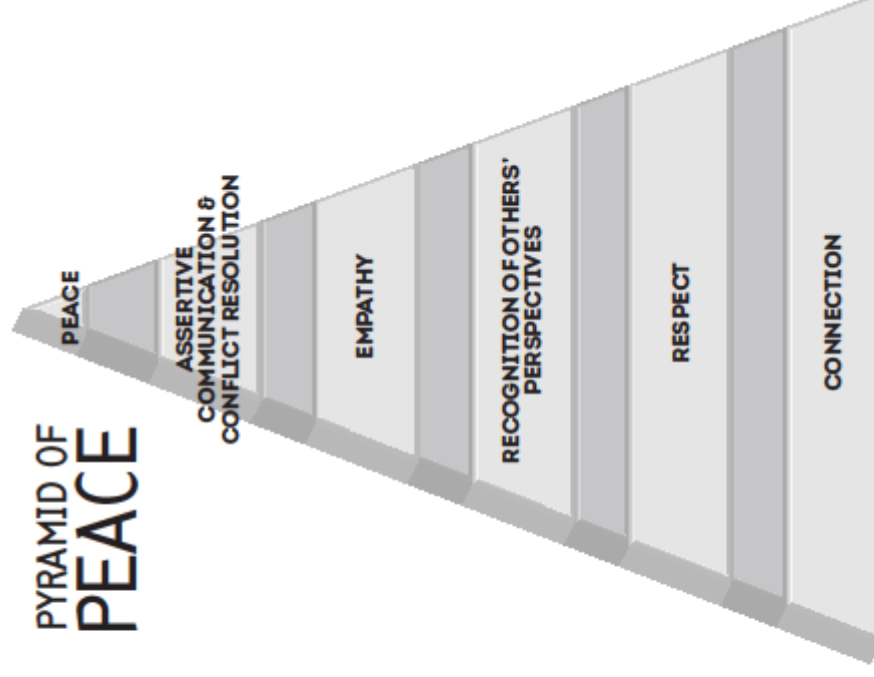


The Mosaic Project works to dismantle this pyramid of violence starting at its foundation and chipping away at each supporting level. Our work aims to transform the pyramid of violence into the pyramid of peace.

Research in Contact Theory supports our strategy, stating that under the right conditions, contact between members of different groups can reduce conflicts and prejudices; however, simply placing a diverse group of

students together is not enough to break down stereotypes and prejudice. Students also need to be together for prolonged periods of time; be treated as equals; share common goals and have opportunities for cooperation, collaboration and positive, noncompetitive interactions with one another; and feel like their intermingling is supported by mentors and authority figures. In addition, issues of prejudice have to be directly addressed.

PYRAMID OF PEACE



Research suggests that the more of these factors in place, the more likely people are to overcome their biases (Fiske, 2008; Van Laar, 2005). Effective communication and collaborative conflict resolution strategies also support healthy integration across communities of difference (Maznevski & DiStefano, 1996). The Mosaic Project's Outdoor School has every one of these factors in place.

Official Mosaic Curriculum

Curriculum Themes:

1. Celebration of diversity and awareness of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination
2. Respect for and appreciation of self and others
3. Teamwork and cooperation
4. Assertive Communication and Conflict Resolution
(including listening skills, empathizing, and expressing feelings productively)

Agreements:

M: Mutual Respect	(no put downs, no hurting each other physically or emotionally)
O: Open-Mindedness	(be interested in different people and new experiences)
S: Self-Respect	(treat yourself kindly, appreciate your value in the world)
A: Attitude	(an awesome one)
I: Individuality	(contribute your own special gifts)
C: Community	(build a community, include everyone)

Daily Themes and Enduring Understandings:

Monday: **Who Are We?**

- M O S A I C
- Mix it up

Tuesday: **Valuing Our Diversity**

- Celebrate diversity.
- Spreading love and respect versus spreading poison (violence).
- Empathy.
- Being an ally.

Wednesday: **The Web of Life & The Web of Humanity**

- Everything is interconnected.
- Be assertive.
- It's not fair. It doesn't have to be that way. We can work together to make change.

Thursday: **Communication & Conflict Resolution**

- It's not you and me against each other. It's the two of us against the problem.
- Forget the blame.
- The focus is on how **I** talk and how **I** listen (not on what the other person is doing).
- 5 Tools for Conflict Resolution.

Friday: **Celebrating Ourselves & Our Community**

- Feeling good.
- Appreciating each other.
- You have the concrete tools. Now go out, use them, and be the change.

Quotes of the Day

TUESDAY:

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

– Audre Lorde

WEDNESDAY:

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything in the Universe.

– John Muir

WEDNESDAY DINNER:

If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

– Aboriginal Rights Group, Queensland, Australia

THURSDAY:

An enemy is one whose story you have not yet heard.

– Gene Knudsen Hoffman

FRIDAY:

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

– Mahatma Gandhi

FRIDAY CLOSING:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

– Margaret Mead