

Social Action

Messages of Peace: Pinwheels in the Wind ...

About the program ...

On [International Day of Peace](#), students in the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board gathered to celebrate peace. At one location, secondary students partnered with elementary students to lead the celebrations which began at the secondary school's peace garden. At a second, First Nations and Métis students opened the celebration with a smudging ceremony, drumming and singing. Elementary students used *pinwheels for peace* (folded windcatchers they created with writing and visuals about harmony and peace on them) to spread their peace messages throughout the world. It was at this event that over 600 students formed a huge peace sign in the gymnasium – students from many schools working as one!



Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students engaged in creative thinking and expression and shared ideas through visual interpretation and music.
- Classroom discussions included topics that contribute to a safe and welcoming learning environment, such as anti-bullying, conflict resolution, inclusion and problem-solving.
- Secondary students collaborated with elementary students to create the pinwheels, to read and to share stories of peace. Secondary students formed an honour guard to guide the younger students from the school to the peace garden, forming a path for them to follow.
- Several school communities came together, cementing new friendships and providing the opportunity for students to see themselves as part of a bigger world. Students identified and shared their reflections about practices and behaviours that lead to peace at home, at school and in the global community.
- First Nations/Métis/Inuit student participation offered insight into the Anishinaabe culture and the importance of respecting sacred spaces. These attributes are also articulated in the ministry's [Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework](#).

Parents, teachers and students come together as a community of learners with a common project and message of “Called to Reflect Hope.”

Pinwheels are still on display in various schools and board offices – a lasting memory of the celebration!

To find out more, contact ...

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