



January 2024

Educator Tips

2024 is here, and a brand-new set of New Year's resolutions comes with it. Ours has gone beyond simply hoping for world peace. We want to contribute to educating new generations of leaders who believe peace is the way. Do you want to join us? These are a few ideas on how to do so:

1. **Build a Peace Wall** – combine your ideas for peace with everyone else's to make a thought-provoking display in your school.
2. **Use peace puppets** – to help children act out their feelings and conflicting emotions.
3. **Have a peace corner** – for children to work out conflicts with their peers.
4. **Learn how to say "peace" in different languages** – while learning about other cultures, we can take some time to write, draw or even sing "peace."
5. **Represent "What Does Peace Feel Like?"** – create artwork about how peace feels to you.

Mentoring Moment

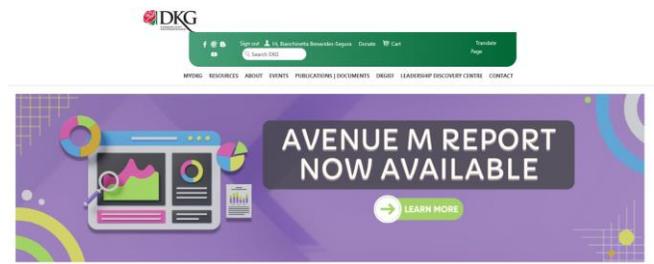
Learning must be happy and joyful for several reasons: a) it develops positive attitudes to school; b) such learning is easily retained in the memory, and c) it helps in the emotional development of students. To make learning joyful:

- Use thought-provoking language.
- Use catchy introductions for every topic.
- Use examples, humor, stories.
- Use aesthetic activities like listening to music.
- Use visual aids about up to date topics.
- Practice instant drama
- Give creative exercises.
- Encourage student participation.
- Build a friendly, cooperative classroom climate.
- Organize school-community activities on current social issues.

Recent Activities

Avenue M - Implementation Plan 2023 – 2024

In October 2023, the DKG Administrative Board released **Avenue M**: an integral plan to recruit, engage, and retain members with the implementation of a multi-channel strategy for demonstrating the value of membership and the ability to engage without requiring a major time commitment.



Click here to read the document.

[Avenue M Report \(dkg.org\)](https://dkg.org/AvenueMReport)

Global Fact



Did you know that ...?

- The illiterate adult population has been reduced by more than 100 million people between 1990 and 2012.
- However, 775 million adults, including 122 million youth between the ages of 15 and 24, remain illiterate.
- The average cost of back-to-school supplies for elementary students around the world in 2023 is \$341.
- In 2023 K-12 schools in the U.S. spent about \$612.7 billion annually, approximately \$12,612 per pupil.
- The average cost to build a school is \$89 per square foot.
- The actual cost to teach a kid how to read is zero.
- Literacy not only changes lives: it saves them!

(Irina Bokova UNESCO Director-General)

EEC Resources

Positive leaders must be able to engage in peer mediation, integrative negotiations, and ways to resolve their conflicts constructively. Here are some suggestions for educational resources to work on the development of such qualities within the classroom:

All In. A Program Guide for Advocacy for Yourself and Others in a Diverse World.

<https://youthcomm.org/wp-content/uploads/SEL-Diversity-Equity-Overview-03.2020.pdf>

A book based on teen-written stories to talk about race, gender, and other complex topics. An excellent resource for developing a greater understanding of student experiences and perspectives while helping teachers and youth have rich and constructive conversations about managing challenges in a diverse world.

Your Identity is Your Superpower

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQJhRDbsDzI>

This TED Talk by actress and political activist America Ferrara aims to value the inner strength provided by one's identity; this resource provides an excellent example of someone who has not let their origins become an obstacle to pursuing personal and professional growth.

Harris, Ian M. and Mary Lee Morrison (2013) Peace Education. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Inc.

This book, available on Amazon, presents ways to practice peace education in schools and communities and explains how it can motivate students. The practice of peace education provides a basis of valuable knowledge about resolving conflicts and violence without the use of force.

EEC Blogs

Those Are My Superpowers!

Comics and movies have brought a spectrum of iconic and thrilling superpowers to modern life. You don't have to be a dedicated fan to know about Superman's X-ray vision or Sonic's ultra-fast speed. However, we need to be made aware of the presence of such superpowers in us. A few years ago, I randomly heard a group of kids talking about what superpowers they wished to have; the list was worthy of a Hollywood production: accelerated healing, mind control, camouflage, changing armor, damage reduction, energy beams, duplication, cloning, hope inducement, empathy, intelligence, danger sense, magic, multilingualism, durability, elasticity, duplication, cold or heat resistance, emotional power-up, latent abilities transformation, hunters instinct, extrasensory perception, love inducement. I hadn't finished listening to the list when I suddenly jumped out of my chair and said to myself: "Hey! I'm all that! Those are my superpowers!". After that day, whenever I struggle with any classroom problem, I envision myself wearing invisible armor and battling over the issues. In a time when every decade seems to come accompanied by a new world battle, teachers must undust our old and new weapons against the opposing leaders. Our students' mental well-being is more than ever in our hands. Let us use our superpowers to become the superheroes the world needs.

DKG International website: www.dkg.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' NAMES AND EMAILS

Bianchinetta Benavides-Segura (SW)	bianchi.benavides@gmail.com
Marsha Brewer (SE)	gnash81@comcast.net
LaVonne Chaney (NE)	lavonnec45@gmail.com
Yvonne Gatley (Ch, NW)	yvonne.gatley@wyo4life.net
Kaija Teikari (EU)	teikarikaija@gmail.com
Eileen Venezia (UN, NE)	evap114@aol.com
Debbie LeBlanc (IP, NE)	debbiel@dkg.org

