

# PEACE AND UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY









#### About the **Sun Sentinel News In Education** program:

Throughout the school year, the Sun Sentinel NIE program provides electronic newspapers, to South Florida schools at no charge. Our goal has been to help teachers help their students, promote literacy, encourage hands-on learning using the newspaper, and assist students in staying up-to-date on the world around them. Another key focus of our program is providing curriculum materials, like Kids of Character, to enhance lessons in the classroom across all subject areas. These complimentary booklets are aligned with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Common Core State Standards.

For more information about Sun Sentinel News in Educa tion and to download educational materials, visit our website at: www.SunSentinel.com/nie



The world-renowned Statue of Liberty stands as a symbol to all people. It is a visually powerful reminder of America as it is meant to be – free from oppression, prejudice, violence and discrimination. A little known fact, however, is this: on the day of her dedication, October 26, 1886, only two women were present at the ceremony, though the statue herself is a female. At that time, women did not even have the right to vote. Yet, there she stood and still stands.

What is a lesson we can take from this fact? One answer could be that a symbol can stand for a goal not yet reached. Although we believe in what the Statue represents, we must constantly strive to reach for the ideals she symbolizes. Over time those ideals can even change.

One strong theme that has not changed is acceptance: no matter your race, religion, sex, or beliefs, you are welcome in this country. No other place in the world has this idea at its very core. This poster is simply a guide to start a conversation about acceptance of the differences between us. We use the term diversity. By learning about and accepting our diversity we can achieve peace and unity. We start the conversation this way:

- by delving into diversity and what it means.
- by taking what you have learned and applying it.



### **ACTIVITY: SHE STANDS FOR US ALL**

- Research to find out the
- Write a short essay to explain is it designed the way it is? why you believe symbols like the statue are important. Define the term "iconic image".
- Next, choose a country and history of the Statue of Liberty. research one of its well-known buildings or monuments. Why it mean to the people who live in that country? Examples: The Eiffel Tower; the Taj Mahal; the Pyramids; Saint Peter's Basilica;

Great Wall of China.

- Using any media or format you like, create a personal symbol that represents you in a positive way. It can be a What is its purpose? What does drawing, sculpture, song, poem In class, discuss each line and or essay, etc. Share with your
- Extra credit: Read Emma Lazarus' poem, "The New Colossus", set in a plaque at the base of the Statue of Liberty. what it means.

# **UNDERSTANDING AND CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

A dictionary definition of diversity looks like this:

The state or fact of being diverse; difference; unlikeness: diversity of opinion. variety; multiformity. a point of difference.

The condition of having or being composed of differing elements: variety; especially: the inclusion of different types of people (as people of different races).

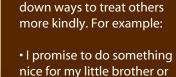
Pretty basic and somewhat unclear, right? We like this description better:

The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing our individual differences. These differences can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies. It is the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment. It is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.

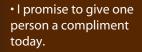
Whew! That's a lot more to chew on. Do you have to "love" everyone you come in contact with? Of course not. Should you be kind to, and respectful of, everyone as best you can? Yes.



## others, it is important to keep kindness in mind. In a diary or notebook, write



1. When interacting with

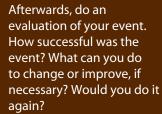


sister today.

2. Using the Sun Sentinel, find articles, pictures and stories about people and communities celebrating diversity. Read them carefully to identify the 5Ws of newspaper reporting: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Define the main idea of the article you chose.

With your class, brainstorm ideas for celebrating diversity in your classroom or school. Once you have some good ideas, make specific plans. Start with the who, what, where, when and why and set up a timeline with goals for completion.



### **SETTING AN EXAMPLE -**A KID OF CHARACTER. **ONE OF YOUR OWN**

Jamielee Rebecca Huther Winner of a Kids of Character Award through Sun Sentinel and **Publix Super Markets.** 

Age: **17** 

School: Piper High in Sunrise Grade: 11th

Hometown: Sunrise Character Trait: Responsibility

Jamie Huther takes responsibility seriously, in school and in her community. In school, she strives to empower and equip students to identify and maximize opportunities in charting their future. How? By co-founding Piper High's schoolwide IMPACT program to help "students reach their dreams and make a difference in the community." She is active in literacy programs and fundraising events and is known for her leadership, organizational and motivational skills and for helping others.

In the community, Jamielee, who worked hard when younger to overcome speech and learning disabilities, also assisted disabled children and nursing home

> residents and participated in benefit walks. She volunteers with her mother at their local church. She lends a helping hand wherever needed. These are just a few examples of her efforts.

In Jamielee's own words:

"To help connect students to opportunities, I co-founded IMPACT. The primary mission is to inspire and guide students to reach their ultimate goals by teaching leadership, life skills, time management, career development and active academic plans in an interesting and creative way.

We also work on boosting morale, self-esteem and a positive attitude toward new challenges... IMPACT originally started at Piper but will be expanding to Bair Middle School, and I look forward to expanding further school by school."

According to Jamielee, her sense of responsibility is motivated by her family, her teachers, her friends and from within herself.











# WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO (PART 2)?

There is a myriad of ways to approach the topic of diversity. Since you are already in a diverse community and school, you have a head start on dealing with this important issue. As you go on to the work force you will find that the knowledge and skills you have now will smooth the way toward peace and unity in your future.

Do you know the term "carpe diem?" It is Latin for "seize the day". In other words there is no better time than now to put into practice positive behaviors and actions toward others. Make it a goal.

#### **POSITIVE ACTIONS**

- · In class, study the legal decisions throughout American history that have had an effect on fostering or erasing discrimination against different groups of people. Start with the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. Define the term "social justice".
- · Read books by authors from other countries.
- Research the last 5 years of Nobel Peace Prize winners.
  From which countries are they? Why were they given the Peace Prize? Do you agree with all of the choices?
- Plan an imaginary trip outside of the United States. Where in the world would you most like to go? Write a short paragraph explaining your choice. To make it more real, research the costs for your trip. Convert U.S. dollars into the currency of the place where you would like to go. Share your "trip" plans with your class.

### **DIVERSITY WORD SEARCH**

acceptance culture empowerment ethnicity fairness identity inclusion justice kindness peace positivity race respect unity e k p z r b q i r a p d m v h h m f d y o x x c o o p n z r n v p n y m c c o k s s q h e k o z o b a e m i j i s b q s j b i v w p e b s e t e k y p h u o s t e y t i c i n h t e y d s a u z r s v a v r l m c k t n t n l s m r r i i d p t q c i n i e c e e a t a z t c e c q n n c e n k n y f p u c l z a d u p e k i p t t l y h t d n i d e n t i t y t k f b e i p y i i v t w i u g l c r k z y m b r v j a r z f n f v e c a e p v p k e h p a d h d



#### **RESOURCES AND READING**

Note: You are fortunate to go to a school in a county that embraces its diverse cultures. The school board has put together a multitude of websites that are a great resource.

Start with: **Browardschools.com** 

**Browardprevention.org** 

Guessmyrace.com

**Teachingtolerance.org** 

**Teachervision.com** 

ADL.org

Inclusiveschools.org

Welcomingschools.org