



Peace and love starts right here right now.

This is a project that supports the Earth Pledge of Allegiance. It is written by Katie McCarthy, a 4th grade student. Our thanks to Katie! Please visit <http://www.peaceandloveforall.com> to find more activities, projects that support the Earth and her inhabitants. And if you've got an idea to share, send it to us. As we work together, we support our One Planet, indivisible, with safe air, water and soil, economic justice, equal rights and peace and love for all.

Random Acts of Kindness Ribbon by Katie McCarthy

Objective

This activity is for elementary school. Students will create a ribbon of Random Act of Kindness handprints that circle the school.

Materials Needed

Construction paper handprints (handprints should be color coded by grade levels), pencils, markers, tape or stapler

Strategy

Parent volunteers will cut out handprints and make them available in all classrooms. Students will use the handprints to write about a Random Act of Kindness that they have performed or that has been done for them. The date and the information about the Random Act of Kindness (RAK) will be written on the palm of the handprint. You cannot put your name or the name of the other person(s) on the handprint. It's important to keep these RAKs anonymous! Teachers can also write up a RAK they witness in the school. Teacher handprints will be written on their grade level's color of paper but will be marked by a special heart stamp in the middle of the palm.

The completed handprints will be placed in a basket in the classroom. Twice a week handprints will be collected from classrooms and added to the display in the hallway. A starting place in the school to display the handprints will be picked before the project begins. Teachers, parent volunteers, and/or classroom leaders will attach the handprints to the wall so that fingers or wrists touch on alternating handprints. See how long it takes to wrap the school in a giant hug.

You can extend the activity by encouraging students to perform a RAK in the classroom – in their grade – in their school – in their family – in their neighborhood – in their community.

Conclusion

As the handprints begin to go up on the walls take kids on a walk to look at and read the different stories. Talk about the different ways there are to be kind and help others. Look for ideas that really stand out. What makes them special? How can a simple RAK make the world a better place? Ask how kids feel after they have performed a RAK.