



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE**

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**Malibu Elementary School Hosts International Day of Peace
Celebration called “Give Peace a Chance”**

Malibu Elementary students held a celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace, recently, that included dancing, singing, quotes from famous peace leaders and the formation of a giant human peace sign.

The performance was a culmination of two weeks of collaboration between students and Zoe Langley, retired long time educator, of Malibu Peace Works.

Parents/families, teachers, staff, and students enjoyed the performance and themes of the event were reinforced in the weeks leading up to Peace Day. The activities coincided with the United Nations 2019 theme, “Climate Action for Peace.”

PS Arts instructor, Nicole Fisher, collaborated with Langley and assisted students in making peace flags. The beautiful student art work reflected heartfelt messages of peace and environmentalism.



Photo by Dave Teel



"International Peace Day was a success!" exclaimed Principal Chris Hertz. "Ms. Langley brought this popular program from Cabrillo School to our school, and we are very grateful. We are encouraging and inspiring students in environmental and peace activism as part of our deep learning initiative and this program created a great experience for our students."



Hertz explained that teachers are beginning to develop long-term project-based learning programs that ultimately lead students to be active citizens for the greater good. "While marine science will drive most of our projects, we felt that peace day was a perfect fit for our school," Hertz said.

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“The performance was a joyful, high energy celebration,” Langley said. Students proudly performed multicultural dances to music from around the world to show how music and dance connects us all.”

Students performed and read quotes by famed peace leaders including John F. Kennedy, Malala Yousafzai, Florence Nightingale, Anne Frank, Helen Keller, Mother Teresa, Dr. Martin Luther King, Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, Dr. Wangari Maathai, and Cesar Chavez.

The finale was a sing along to Give Peace a Chance song by John Lennon, with students, staff, parents and guests meeting on the playground to form a giant human peace symbol to wrap up a beautiful day of peace celebration at Malibu Elementary School.

***Producer/Director, Zoe Langley** comes to Malibu Elementary School as a volunteer, following a 35-year career in education with SMMUSD and Child Development Services. She was recently nominated for the 2019 Award for Excellence in Education by the Optimist Club of Malibu. She’s produced similar performances at Juan Cabrillo Elementary during her career, and has volunteered her time to continue her work with elementary school children, teaching the value of global citizenship through multicultural performances. She is passionate about teaching children that they are all special and loved, and the six core beliefs of her initiative, Malibu Peace Works: Global Citizenry, Inclusivity, Appreciation for Diversity, Respect for the Environment, and Social Justice.*

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