



Hello!

We are contacting you with a special request to determine your interest in becoming part of the Global Review Team for the *World Peace Passport's* Schools program. It is a specially designed curriculum in cultural understanding for schools, that we plan to expand to an online global learning community for students and teachers around the world. The *World Peace Passport* (WPP), a non-profit organization based in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA with a global network of educators and educational institutions, has a very ambitious and powerful vision. Through its Schools program, WPP aims to connect students, teachers and classrooms around the world in the common study of cultural understanding.

The program is not affiliated with any political and religious organization. It comes from our belief that the purpose of education is to help our young people successfully meet current and future challenges, and to provide them with the understanding and skills to work more effectively with people of diverse backgrounds in order to create a more peaceful and prosperous world in the future. As the lives of our young people become more shaped by what happens in other parts of the world, so it becomes more vital that they connect with each other, learn from each other, be more skilled in dealing with divergent views and in finding common ground.

With this in mind, our first phase is to design a cultural understanding curriculum that is "global friendly." But we need your help! We are currently developing lesson plans for Kindergarten and Grades 1-4. Each grade level targets what we have identified as the 4 major principles of cultural understanding:

1. Understanding Culture
2. Breaking Down Stereotypes
3. Respecting Cultural Differences
4. Celebrating Diversity

These lesson plans are being reviewed by our global network of educators who have worked with us on many different educational projects in the past. But there is no substitute for actually teaching the lessons in a classroom and having teachers from all over the world provide us with valuable feedback as to what worked, what didn't and how they think the curriculum could be improved. **This is where we need YOU!**

Beginning May 1, 2007, WPP will be implementing its first global pilot program in over 30 countries around the world. We would like to invite you to participate and join us in creating a small piece of history! We are excited at the prospect of working with so many different teachers and schools worldwide, all teaching the WPP curriculum at the same time and sharing their comments and experiences with us and with each other.

#### **What you need to know about participating in the pilot program:**

- Ideally we would like to have 5 teachers/classrooms in your school participate, teaching our cultural understanding curriculum to Kindergarten, Grades 1,2,3 and 4 (or equivalent).
- We will provide you with Teachers Guides for each grade that include the Lesson Plans and tips for teaching the different lessons.
- Each teacher will teach 4 different lessons to their class. Each lesson takes 45 – 50 minutes to teach.
- These lessons can be woven into your existing curriculum when teaching other subjects if you prefer to teach them in this way – we want to make this as easy as possible for you and to minimize the time impact your participation will have. They may fit well with humanities, geography, history, life skills or other similar subjects.
- You will have from May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to teach the 5 lessons to your class and to complete the WPP Evaluation Forms.

- Your evaluation will include your experience of teaching our curriculum, how appropriate it is to the age group/grade you are teaching, its appropriateness and relevance to your particular culture and traditions, its value to your students, how globally friendly/appropriate the content is and any improvements you would suggest.
- You will need to have access to the internet in order to download and print lesson plans and to post your evaluations online.
- We would require a letter from the Principal or Headmaster of your school agreeing to participation in the program under the above conditions.
- We will need a list of all teachers participating, which grade level they teach, the number of students in their class, their individual email addresses or an email address of the teacher who will be responsible for disseminating the lesson plans to all teachers involved and full contact details of the school and its Principal.
- Your school will need to sign up to become a think.com member school in January, 2007. Think.com is an online learning environment created by the Oracle Education Foundation. Further information is provided below.
- Your school's name will appear on the WPP website and in future curriculum publications in recognition of your pioneering spirit and willingness to assist us in developing and perfecting this important study program.

WPP is excited about a new partnership with the Oracle Education Foundation (OEF) that provides us with access to Oracle's state-of-the-art technology products and services. We intend to use their [www.think.com](http://www.think.com) website as our communication platform for the pilot program. Think.com is a specially designed online learning environment that is safe, secure and easy to use. It has been created by OEF to connect classrooms around the world providing cross-cultural learning opportunities and the chance for classrooms to work on joint projects, regardless of where they may be located.

This is a unique opportunity to participate in a ground-breaking educational initiative to benefit our children in their future lives as they learn and grow in a rapidly changing world of globalization and increased interdependence of nations.

Join us in a small step towards creating a global classroom dedicated to creating peace through cultural understanding. Help us pioneer the development of a whole new curriculum designed to change the face of education by dissolving geographic, religious, racial, cultural, economic and educational borders.

Share your knowledge and experience and that of your students - and together we can foster a global spirit of understanding, acceptance and respect for all cultures, races and traditions, providing real hope for a better, more peaceful and prosperous future!

Please view our website at [www.worldpeacepassport.com](http://www.worldpeacepassport.com) and download your own *World Peace Passport*. If you are willing to participate or if you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible at the email address or phone number below. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to help make our world a better place to live and learn.

In Peace and Friendship,

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