

Ottawa Montessori School sings peace around the world

On Monday, September 21, 2009, Montessori Schools from around the world sang for peace, once school after the other, circling the globe to acknowledge the United Nation's International Day of Peace. One hundred and seventy Elementary and Junior High Ottawa Montessori School (OMS) students joined over sixty thousand Montessori children around the world in this international effort.

The singing of "Light a Candle for Peace" began in New Zealand at 11 a.m. and continued for 24 hours ending in the Hawaiian Islands. OMS sang at 10:45 a.m., repeating the song for five minutes until it was taken on by the next school. The music teacher had rehearsed the song with students in their classes the week before. Everywhere throughout OMS, you could hear groups of students enthusiastically practicing. This event truly caught their imagination; they were part of a world-wide event.

Peace, both as a study and as a way of being, is integral to Montessori education. Dr. Maria Montessori who founded the Montessori Method in 1907 was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in creating peace through her work with children. Montessori wrote that "Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war." This event was a way of making a commitment to peace a reality for students around the world. More of the celebration can be seen at <http://singpeacearoundtheworld.blog.spot.com/>

This article originally appeared in the November 2009 issue of Capital Parent Newspaper