

# e Peace New birth e

Newsletter of Peace Education  
Center in School #20  
N2, 15.05.2003



## Up to Now



*It was one of cold December days. The Peace Education center of School #20 was in great activeness. It was as usual peaceful and warm. Even the growing snowstorm and cold couldn't reduce children's happiness. The staff and members of the Center gathered for summarizing results of the first steps and for stating the first success. The invited guests (School directors, NGO representatives, Gyumri Optional School Center children and parents) were present to share with us the gained success and to state, that schoolchildren are under our special attention, that we have started the process of bringing up peaceful and peace loving generation.*

*Apostle of Shirak community Michael Ajapahyan opened presentation. His presence, blessing and speech about peace were very actual. The other important part of presentation was Certification of Center members.*

*Presentation ended with a cup of coffee and sweets. Children and guests were actively discussing their impressions and wished each other Mary Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*Peace Center entered a new qualitative phase with special training about UN. This widened the geography of gained information and knowledge in the Center.*

*Children knew about UN structure, its peace building activities and works in different counties of the world. Before this they have heard only abbreviation UN, but it was presented to them with its depth, importance and necessity. They listened with great attention, the witnesses of which are posters about UN made by Center members.*

*Peace Education Center members can not only listen, understand and do, but they can suggest, entrepreneur and present original ideas. During the training one of the best students suggested to have Constitution of the Center. This is a fact, that the elements of Civil Society are being formed in new generation. And when the Center workers addressed several question to Tatevik, we found out, that she knew what is Constitution and clearly defined rights and responsibilities. The activities of Center gained new power and motivation.*

*We formed a work group for working out the constitution with the help of our staff.*

*We invited a lawyer for making juridical bases for children's gained knowledge. We had an interesting dispute with lawyer.*

*There is an unusual activeness in the Center: children are electing president for the Center. I would like to state, that the Center staff do the maximum for providing legal and honest elections.*



*One couldn't simply help his or her admiration and happiness following the activities of April Peace Month, which included 4 –10 classes. The members of Center practically showed their leadership.*

*They organized talks in classes about Center activities, Sadako and her thousand paper cranes. Nearly all pupils of the school learned to make paper cranes. The school was full of Peace cranes and children's best wishes. If the innocent wishes of these children are fulfilled, we will never see wars and violations on the earth. So, let's all together: young and old, build our peace. The basement was built; let's everybody put a stone, make the mixture stronger and build the roof safer.*

*Teacher of English, school #20, person in charge for Peace Education project in School #20*

*Yes, here children are taught not to quarrel, but to discuss remaining honest and keeping their virtue.*

*After the adoption of constitution and elections of the president were classes of leadership. Though the Center members are leaders, the classes widened their frames of leadership. Mass Media and Conflicts training enlarged children's knowledge about Mass Media activities and their goals.*

*Nine months of Peace Education biography are rich with guests: Michael Episcopo Ajapahyan, Council of England in Armenia Timothy Johns, lawyer Anna Davtyan, wife of Russian attaché in Gyumri Raisa Sulimko and representatives of different NGOs.*

*Summarize activities of the Center and do not mention mailing of children is to except the main part of Center activities. This is a unique opportunity to think about interesting topics with children of different nationalities, about Peace, which is a common value for all of them, it doesn't differ distance, nationality and age.*



# Sadako and the thousand paper cranes



Sadako Sasaki was born in 1943, in Japan. She was only two years old, when the atomic bomb exploded on Hiroshima in 1945. The whole city was destroyed and thousands of people (140 000) died. This bomb was more powerful than usual bombs. It had disastrous power: the power of radiation. It is known, that radiation is very dangerous and can be the cause of cancer, which took 87 000 lives.

Sadako lived not far from Hiroshima. When the bomb exploded she didn't get burns and it seemed, that she didn't suffer. She grew and became a smart and active girl, who liked to go in for sports. In 1955, when she was 12 years old, she lost consciousness during long distance cross training. Doctors found out, that she had cancer of blood (leukemia), which couldn't be treated.

She was very sad, as knew die. Her relatives and friends visited her every day in hospital, hoping they could make her glad. Once her best friend Tidzuko told her a story about cranes.

Crane is treated as a saint bird in Japan and it lives 1000 years due to tradition. According to this tradition the cherished desires of one will be fulfilled, if he or she makes 1000 paper cranes. Sadako wished to be healthy and go in for sports. She decided to make 1000 paper cranes. everyday she made more and more cranes and felt, that it gave her power to resist the illness. But she managed to make only 644 cranes. Her classmates made the other 356 cranes and buried all 1000 cranes with her.

Sadako was not the only child, who died from blood cancer. Many children died from this disease.

Sadako's friends decided to build a monument for Sadako's and other Hiroshima victims' memory. Many young people of Japan helped to gather the necessary amount and in 1958 Sadako's monument with golden crane in one hand was placed in Peace Park of Hiroshima.

This monument was called "Children's Peace Monument".

On the monument it is written:

This is our cry,  
This is our pray.  
Peace to the world.

Sadako became the symbol of Peace all over the world.

Sadako wrote "Peace" on wings of cranes. She wished cranes would spread peace all over the world. And cranes became the symbol of peace.

In every country, where Peace Education project is implemented children learn about Sadako's life. Children learn to make paper cranes with love. They present cranes to their friends as symbol of friendship. Children hang paper cranes on Sadako's monument, hoping to see the world peaceful.



# We are Peace Spreaders

*! School announced Month of Paper Cranes. I completed my responsibility of Center member participating in announced Month. I taught 9g class to make paper cranes. They liked the story about thousand paper cranes very much and were eager to make paper cranes for Sadako's monument, expressing their wish to see the world in Peace.*

Jipinyan Alisa

*! I am Abrahamyan Arusyak and, being a member of "Peace Education Center, I participated in Month of Paper Cranes. I introduced 6 class children Sadako's story and taught them to make paper cranes. We have made 55 paper cranes.*

Abrahamyan Arusyak

*! I taught Sadako's story in 5b class. They heard the story with great attention and gave many questions about our Center. They were listening about our Center and were giving questions with great pleasure. During the first class I told about our Center and its activities, explained what is conflict and how to solve it peacefully. Later I told them Sadako's story and taught to make paper cranes. My classmate and I decided to spread our knowledge gained in the Center in our school.*

Grigoryan Ani

*! I have participated in Month of Paper Cranes announced in school and I have been in 3td class. I informed them about our Center and its goals.*

*I told them about Sadako's and thousand paper cranes' story. They were very glad to learn about Sadako Sasaki, learned where was the greatest paper crane and how long the cranes lived.*

*They learned to make paper cranes with love and were eager to be members of our Center.*

Hakobyan Mariam



*I told everything, that I have learned in Peace Education Center with great pleasure. I taught them to make paper cranes, which were symbols of Peace. Children were so attracted with my stories that every time, when I said, "Let's defend for peace and it will not stay only on paper"; they answered "No to wars".*

Mkoyan Mariam

*! We, pupils of 8g class of School # 20, have been in 5d and 8g classes, where told about Sadako and bad affects of war. We present our Center, criticized Iraq war, spoke about conflicts and ways of their peaceful resolution. We taught them to make paper cranes. We wished them "Try to make cranes not only from paper, but in tour hearts also".*

Ani Simonyan  
Merry Aleksnyan

*! It was very interesting for us to work with children. It is especially interesting, when you something, that is interesting for children too. During these lessons 6 class pupils learned how to make paper cranes, knew about UN and its Peace building activities, about Sadako and her thousand paper cranes: Later children expressed their opinions about war. We think, that it is a lesson of life for all of us.*

Tatev Zilfimyan, Manushak Aslanyan





# Our Letters to Sadako

*Dear Sadako, after hearing about you I am very proud of having such a friend. I wish be like you: peace loving and motivated. I know, that you want to live and that is why you are making paper cranes.*

*Many children all over the world follow your example trying to make 1000 paper cranes, as they believe that their wishes will be fulfilled.*

*Harutyunyan Ofelia*



**After reading Sadako's story I was very sad, but Sadako gave me power to be brave, to have will and never give up. This story contains friendship, optimism and peace. I would like all the people, who live in this hard life will have great will and optimism as Sadako.**

*Hakhoyan Hripsime*

Sadako's story is very exciting and teaching. It seeds kindness and belief in tomorrow. She was a girl, who suffered from the cruel war as many others. But she is happy, because all children of the world remember her beside her parents, and she became the symbol of Peace. Her story inspires everybody to defend for Peace.

*Simonyan Ani*



*My dear friend Sadako, I am sorry for the happened too. Sadako, I wish you will be the symbol of friendship and Peace, because people like you are very few in the world. I wish you will be cured soon. And I want you to continue making paper cranes, as they give light and hope to people, like me.*

*Sadako, my dear friend...*

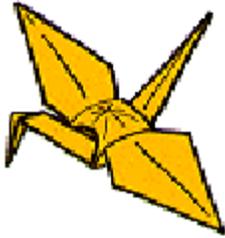
*Jipinyan Alisa*

Sadako was one of the thousand victims of several leaders whim.

Sadako didn't give up and defended for her life. But alas she died without tasting the sweetness of life.

I want to call everybody to end wars and live in peace. And if there are no wars, it will not be such sad stories.

*Avetisyan Lamira*



Hi, dear Sadako. I am Mariam from Gyumri. I know how seriously ill you are. I can imagine, what is cancer. Dear Sadako, continue making paper cranes, and your dream be realized. Hope and believe, that you will survive. Don't be sad, because we all love you very much and wish you will be a famous athlete. I know about you very little, but can imagine how kind, patriotic and peace loving girl you are. I want to make you glad, that is why I send you this poem.

Autumn flowers	Snow storm
Pale and sad	will blow soon,
Are shivering calmly	And will leave dead
In vast fields.	Autumn flowers.

*Mkoyan Mariam*

*We are very proud of you and we want to be like you. Hearing your story, we imagine how strong is your character and will. It is very bad, that your disease and fate is not enough for several leaders, who are starting wars for their interests still. Your example became symbol of belief and great will. We promise you to become councils of peace and be wished even for peace ruining Bush. We will become flowers of peace and will spread our aroma all over the world.*

*Let your bright name light the cloudy sky; let it make the world peaceful.*

*Aslanyan Manushak  
Zilfimyan Tatev*



*Dear Sadako, before learning your story, I didn't think that there were people, who have so much love for life and Peace. I wish to be like you and have your optimism.*

*Hakobyan Mariam*



Dear Sadako, I am very sorry for that awful war in your country and for so many victims. Let peace be spread all over the world on wings of your cranes. I wish any child will not suffer from war impacts.

*Grigoryan Araksya*

I liked Sadako's resistance, her ability to defend the diseases and to give up. She didn't give up and even made paper cranes in her last days hoping she will be cured. Alas, she died. I wish she would be cured and would be a good citizen and a good sportsman for her Motherland.

*Abrahamyan Sahak*

*Sadako was one of thousand victims, who suffered from war impacts. Her life story taught us to hope and never lose belief for the best. Sadako's exciting death causes pain in hearts of people and who doesn't realize the meaning of Peace, will do after reading this story.*

**We all can make cranes of hope in our soles hoping, that our wishes will be fulfilled. We wish peace to the world and let no child to suffer because of ambitious people.**

**Aleksanyan Merry**



I liked Sadako for her resistance. She had great power of will and the process of making cranes gave power for defending the disease. I would like to be like Sadako, to have great power of will like she. I wish all people will be like Sadako.

*Gevorgyan Mariam*



Sadako's thousand paper cranes are symbols of peace all over the world and became a legend. Due to this Sadako lives and is memorized by everybody. Sadako's wish was spread Peace on wings of cranes. This is not only Sadako's wish, it is our wish either, we wish to see our world peaceful and nice.

**Khachatryan Hermine**



Dear Sadako, I am very glad to be acquainted with you and I would like to be brave, peace loving and motivated like you. Here everybody knows about you and they are making 1 000 cranes like you, hoping their wishes will be fulfilled.

Abrahamyan Astghik



I liked Sadako's tolerance and her great motivation. She had will and defended the illness bravely. She wished to be cured by making cranes, but alas, she died. She could become a great sportsman.  
I wish, she will be cured and rise her voice of Peace all over the world.

*Avetisyan Armen*



The story about Sadako and thousand paper cranes, monuments in USA and Japan devoted to her memory, left great trace in my memory. I would like to see such monument for Peace in Armenia.

<No wars!>

Abrahamyan Arusyak



# We are against war



Iraq war entered our homes from TV screen and worried millions of people.

Today Iraq daily air-raid warnings and military alarms are awful roars.

Many countries of the world get out with anti war demonstrations. War can cause ecological damages not only to Iraq, but out of its borders. But children will suffer most of, because the disaster of war will be printed in their memories. They will hear roars of bombs in their dreams for a long time. But children are not responsible for grown up's mistakes. We, children of Armenia raise our voice in sake of peace in the world.

It is difficult to foresee impacts of war. The country will be clever and strong, if peace is spread there, because peace can't lose.

*Grigoryan Araksya*  
*VIII class*

The most cruel phenomena for mankind is war. Modern war will not care for people or countries. Nobody can be hidden in bunkers. Atomic war will be the end of the world. We mustn't disappoint, but we shall be careful. Sadako's death and many other victims are witnesses of this disaster and everybody must realize, that better living can't be gained by wars. Human being is intelligent then animals and there must think, that the beautiful world, created by God, can be ruined in seconds.

The only pledge of peace in the world can be people's kind will. Nobody is better and everybody is vulnerable. This is the main thing, that people must realize. Peace and only Peace is our future.

*Shamtsyan Svetlana*  
*VII class*

No war is ever glorified. I think that America is wrong starting war, but it is searching its interests in Iraq. Going after its interests, America is causing damages to many countries. Germany, France and Russia are using Iraq oil and they suffer.

Asian countries (Iran, Syria, Turkey, SAE and even Armenia) suffer from Iraq war too. Our country is seism-active and the disaster can be repeated. Who will answer for human victims and for material damage? Of course, not America will do, because the weak is always guilty.

I am against any war!

*Jipinyan Alisa*  
*VII class*



The war between America and Iraq was ended. People lived 20 days of horror. There was a war between America and Iraq in 1991 too. Then the president of America was Bush senior. The main reason of the war was Iraq intervention to Kuwait. And America willing to outsource them, attacked Iraq. Now the war started Bush junior. I consider it a great political mistake. They are destroying Peace. The main victims of wrong policy will be children, which need to be defended, because they are constructors of bright future.

I think every country must defend Peace and be against wars.

***Ghazaryan Lilit***  
***VII class***

War is the greatest disaster in the world, which takes lives of not only troops, but peaceful people too: women, children and elders. Many beautiful monuments, cities, historical buildings are ruined during wars. Economy and industry goes down too. War is the greatest disaster from which suffer not only attacking, but defending parties too.

I criticize countries and governments, which start wars. I recall UN and the whole world to assist conflicting countries in finding peaceful resolution, in order not to see new disasters, victims, crying mothers, wives and children.

I turn to all children of the world to join and fight for peace with their parents.  
I wish all, all children Peace and blue sky.



2003, Iraq, war... Can it be safe for lives, can it defend peace, of course, no. Iraq war will give nothing to America, besides victims and hate of Iraqians. Can person, who considers oil as a greater value than human lives, understand it, of course, no. Iraq war will cause only trouble to the world. People will die: others will live with horror. I wish peace to the world, let it not be wars, let people live in peace and let it not be new victims. This is my cherished desire: Peace.

War is trouble, hunger and diseases. Why should we destroy this ideal earth created by God, why damage child's smile, why ruin bright wishes.

So, let's raise our voice against wars.

***Mkoyan Mariam***  
***VII class***

