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CRYSTAL LAKE MONTESSORI SCHOOL SINGS PEACE AROUND THE WORLD

This week, Crystal Lake Montessori School joined in a song that literally circled the Earth. Monday marked the 27th Annual United Nations' International Day of Peace. This global holiday, celebrated every September 21st since 1982, highlights efforts by individuals, communities, nations, and governments to end conflict and promote peace. Peace Day activities involve millions of people around the world sharing events both large and small.

Crystal Lake Montessori School participated in "Sing Peace Around the World." Organized by Shelley Murley, a Canadian educator and musician, over 80,000 Montessori school students in 35 countries sang Murley's song, "Light a Candle for Peace." Each school was assigned a five-minute slot in which to sing the song, thus creating one continuous song over the 24 hours of Peace Day beginning in New Zealand and ending in Hawaii.



CLMS students prepared for Peace Day with help from the CLMS Peace Committee, led by Early Childhood teacher Svetlana Taylor, Music teachers Sandy Doran and Lindsay Gilmore, Art teacher Laura Malo, and classroom teachers. Students painted peace rocks and learned the music and sign language for "Light a Candle for Peace."



On Monday, students walked through the school's Peace Garden placing their peace rocks while Taylor played cello. Once in the gymnasium, the children and staff formed a large circle around an Earth rug that held four symbols of global peace, each placed by students: a candle, a globe, a peace pole, and a peace rose. Co-Administrator Pamela C. Zirko led the children in sharing their thoughts on the importance of peace, followed by Doran reading a poem about peace. At the assigned time, Doran began playing piano, and CLMS's approximately 300 students and staff began singing and signing "Light a Candle for Peace" as parents looked on.

To view videos and blog entries from hundreds of the participating schools from around the world, visit www.ShelleyMurley.com. For more information on Montessori education and CLMS's birth through eighth grade programs, contact Pamela C. Zirko at 815-338-0013 or go to www.clms.org.