

# e Peace New birth e



*Newsletter of Peace Education  
Center in School #20  
N 1, 21.12.2002*

## *Information about “Peace Education and Conflict resolution” Project*

“Women for Development” NGO is implementing “Peace Education and Conflict Resolution in Schools of Gyumri” project. It aims to found “Peace Education” Centers in 5 schools of Gyumri, which will organize trainings, seminars, meetings and round tables on elementary knowledge about conflicts, reasons of their birth, ways of their peaceful resolution, will provide information about United Nation organization and its peace activities all over the world.

Conflict resolution teaching will help to stop conflicts among schoolchildren, their violations and illegal actions; will promote positive changes in their behavior and character.

The project members will become “Peace spreaders”, they will spread knowledge gained in our Center and will do everything for conflict resolution skills to become a life style, strong line of character and not remain theoretical knowledge.

Children will learn about the Japanese girl and her 1000 paper cranes story, the pupils will organize entertainments, competitions, exhibitions, meetings, posters and newspapers.

Gyumri will become a member of “Peace cities Network”, which will make an opportunity for our children to make connections with schoolchildren from similar centers all over the world.

Project Director

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Women for Development  
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Director of #20 School Grigor Harutyunyan and his assistant Rafik Hakobyan assist in the project implementation.

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**Dear Schoolchildren,**

We are beginning “Peace Education and Conflict Resolution in schools of Gyumri” project, which is implemented in frames of “Peace Culture Promotion and no violations in sake of children all over the world” International Decade announced by UN, the goal of which is to develop peace culture and collaboration among pupils from different countries.

Teenagers and young people, being 16% of world population, today can say their word and have their investment in Peace culture formation sphere.

You must know that this is your world and it is not like the world that waited your parents when they were in the same age.

Recent years especially in Socialist countries because of many changes brought to poverty and inequality, many dangers: drugs, AIDS, terror, wars and different conflicts. But with all these we gain freedom of speech, presentation of own opinion, one’s self-realization and own way chose.

Let’s use this opportunity and learn to live in peace and make our planet a “Peace Planet”.

***Green Way and Good Luck to You!***

*“Peace Education and Conflict Resolution in Gyumri schools” project staff*

I congratulate the newspaper birth heartily. Let it be the spreader of kindness, warm and knowledge with its humanitarian mission.

Good Luck and Green Way to “Peace New Birth” !

***With great respect Director of School # 20  
Grigor Harutyunyan***

Since October 1 “Peace Education and Conflict Resolution in Gyumri schools” project in School # 20 after George Byron. 7-10 grade 20 pupils were involved in Center system in competition basis. The project is implemented by qualified and experienced lecturerers. It is very actual and it is importnat to develop Peace Culture among middle and high grade students. The project is in frames of UN and plans to make connections among pupils all over the world. We are gong to make connections with pupils from different cities of CIS with center members and adinistration participation. Wec are planning to begin wide mission of spreing Peace Culture and reduction of violation against children among schoolchildren of gyumri with center members participation. Form an open society invironment, wich will promote society dialogue and free discussion. Involve scientists, pegagogues, artists and politicians in joint works with children.

We warmly congratualate the project birth and wish implementation of your many plans.

***Assistant of Director , School # 20  
Rafik Hakobyan***

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## ***Only Three Months Later***

The academic year had hardly begun when a new thing entered the school, which would promote general school education development. It was “Peace Education and Conflict resolution in Gyumri Schools” project. The school headquarter accepted the project readily. Telling the truth when we the chosen project members from the school was acquainted with the project I was a little worried “Will the project become real and interest children”.

And now only three months later I try to summarize the implemented works and gained knowledge and can congratulate us with strong steps and vivid success of the project.

Yes, the trainings provided with such care can't be ineffective.

Today the Peace Center is a reality in the school, which children attend with great love and desire, because there they respect children's rights, responsibilities, members do everything by themselves and they can freely express their ideas. The most important thing is that they realize peace culture step by step, they can feel the value of peace and defend it; they wish to find ways for conflict resolution.

Children's effective and interesting resolutions to different conflicts, their active participation, members wish to meet more frequently are the witnesses of it.

I can't describe the discussion on “This is my peace” topic, where children presented their symbol of peace and their own realization of it. The same were “Peace begins from me”, “I will stop the conflict first” and “Stop to all conflicts in Scholl # 20” topics.

Children learn to discuss, listen and respect others opinions, think and come out of everyday usual thinking. This training is a unique way of children's self-realization.

The most important thing is that center members share their gained knowledge and skills with other pupils of the school. They are the seeds of Peace, which are in rich sole and will give good harvest.

As a participant of these works and schoolteacher I am proud that we have children that are potential individuals and leaders.

*Armenuhi Serobyan*



## *! Peace Center and its day*

Peace is the most valuable thing in the world, love is the most pure feeling, and freedom is the greatest wish.

When you love and you are free your soul is in peace.

I don't know what can be more impotent in the world than peace education.

It's a great deed and a great mission that not everybody is able to realize.

I attend Peace Education Center training with great love. During each lesson I appreciate peace more and

more. No matter how cruel is the man with his character, participating in this peace spreading project, in any part of the world, will become tender and peace loving day by day.

Let Peace Education Centers be in every part of the world. Let peace, love and kindness are forever in the world.

*Kanetsyan Karine*

*10"a" grade*

It's already three months I am attending "Peace Education Center" training, where I learn about many things that I didn't know or knew very little. I have learned Conflict resolution skills and can manage any conflict. I hope that my knowledge gained in the Center will be useful for me all my life. I am sure that our knowledge and skills will help us to become "Peace Consuls" later.

I want to visit Peace Education Center more frequently.

*Simonyan Emilia*

*9"a" grade*

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The Peace Education Center of our school is a place where everybody can express his or her opinion. The day of the Center is very different from school day. The trainings differ from school lessons greatly: each new topic is explained by lectures, games, tasks and exercises, which make the lesson more interesting and entertaining. The center also organizes round tables and performances.

During my participation in the Center trainings I noticed that I became more close to my classmates and have fewer conflicts with them as our Center leaders seed peace, kindness and friendship in us.

In Peace Education Center we learn about UN and its peace building activities, about which we didn't know anything. Here we learned what is conflict and how we can resolve it in peaceful way.

I remember the lessons during which we performed "Dog and Cat", "One drop of honey" ballads and tried to find new solutions of the conflicts.

My only wish is to enlarge our Center and involve more children.

*Arusyak Abrahamyan*  
*8"b" grade*



# % School News

New Year is knocking our doors. The world meets it with great love. Everybody has great expectations from it. Everybody waits for it with hope and happiness. But there is a secret that knows only children. We are looking forward to meet New Year not only for presents, entertainment but also for our winter holidays. What can be more pleasant for pupils I think only good marks.

- J** Vocation, it is the most beautiful ward for children, especially winter holidays, when we can play with snow and help our mothers. Winter vocation has one privilege too; it corresponds to New Year and Christmas. We get many presents and later talk about them much.
- J** At the end I would like to bring pupils' most loved words "Let the holidays come and not go". By the way the testing showed that children like winter holidays most of all.

*Zilfimyán Tatev  
7"g" grade*

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- J** Here is the end of year. The school is very active. Children prepare for New Year entertainment. Everybody wants to be the most beautiful.
- L** Others try to improve their marks. But New Year is coming and children decorate their classrooms and school windows.  
Let's go to 2003..

*Avetisyan Armen  
9"a" grade*



**J** As in every school in school # 20 is pre New Year activness, because of semester end. There are children who didn't improve their marks and turn to teachers now.

**L** There are children who do well but there are some that have bad and satisfactory marks. After it the New Year ball will take part. The high-grade students will take part in this entertainment. Everybody's mood is high and the hall is happy. They dance and congratulate each other.

This is our pre New Year school.

*Israyelyan Kristine*  
*9"a" grade*

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**J** The active life of pre vocation days began connected with entertainment and semester end. Everybody look for a dress for the ball, they decorate the New Year tree and their classes. And the 10 grade students want to celebrate their last New Year in school. **L** And the semester end from the other side. One tries to change good mark to excellent and the other is happy with his marks.

The head quarter is busy with New Year tree and children with their dances and songs.

**J** We will meet New Year with shining smiles as the proverb says, "If you meet the year well it will be so".

*Jipionyan Alice*  
*9"a" grade*



## *Our collaboration with “White Crane” Magazine*

“White Crane” magazine is a perspective of peace building and friendship establishment in our region.

It is publicized in Georgia by UN different department’s support. The goal of the magazine is to establish friendship among Trans Caucasus children, which will promote peace building and stability in the region. Children write letters to the magazine, congratulate other children with holidays, express their wish to become friends with children from other countries, describe their day, send their creations (stories, tales, poems and drawings) and suggest crosswords made by them.

School # 20 Peace Education Center members also have sent their stories and poems, which will be publicized, in the next numbers of the magazine.

This year “White Crane” announced “Caucasus is my Motherland” composition and handcraft competition. We are presenting our pupils’ compositions below.



## Caucasus is my Motherland

I was born in Armenia, but I consider Trans Caucasus my Motherland. And when I hear the word "Caucasus" my heart beats and blood reflects in Caucasus way. People who have been in Caucasus say that there is no place more beautiful the Caucasus. There is something proud, high and inaccessible in these mountains and deep gorges, where you feel yourself closer to God and farther from everyday problems and routine. Isn't the beautiful and highest maintain in Caucasus? The top of which is always covered with white cap of snow.

What can be compared with the beauty of the Armenian pearl Ararat. This bible mountain is the symbol and proud of Armenia.

What can be compared to purness of rivers, alpian pastures, where you can see a group of curly ships. The waters of our maountain lake Sevan copete with waters of Baykal by their purness. Gorki called the lake «a piece of sky in the mountains». It is the beauty, which is defended by Geghama knights. there is nothing testier that Sevan trout.

Caucasus people are unique with their honor, strenght, conservativness to our customs, they respect elders and tenderly love children..

Caucasus is very rich with its curing sources Jermuk and Borjomi, metals, gold and petrol of Kaspi.

We have beautiful and sunny Yerevan, Tbilisi and Baku,

and even my native town Gyumri, which is in ruins after the earthquake. A town the people of which stoped to smile. And now many of them leave them severly, as one can leave his ill mother. But I believe that all Armenians will come back to their historical Motherland and then my Armenia will bloom..

*Ghukasyan Julieta, 13 years*

My Motherland is among high mountains. It stands alone in its highness. Eagles fly above my motherland and people living there are as proud as our high mountains. During many centuries these mountains try to defend my motherland, which many peoples wanted to ruin.

And where does the Motheland begin? It begins from the song that mother sang me. And may be it begins from pictures in my alphabet, or from the banch where we sit with our best friends.

Motherland is everything that we see since our birth. It care for us and we must defend it. It is the most presious thing in the world.

My Motherland Armenian is a holy and bible land. Armenia suffered from many wounds but it survives till our days due to its culture, knoledge, srength and hope, which never leave us. But our Motherland has wounds , which we must treat ourselves as our preceders did.

The last decades Armenians lived well enough, but now because of the disasterous earthquake and wars it lost its power and many people leave it. But the most important thing is that Armenians didn't lose their proud and honor. They have been, they are and will be forever.

I am an Armenian and was born in gymri. If Yerevan is the heart of armenia than Gyumri is its gentle and suffering soul. And there live real Armenians Gyumri people. Though there are many difficulties we must stay in our Motherland and develop it.

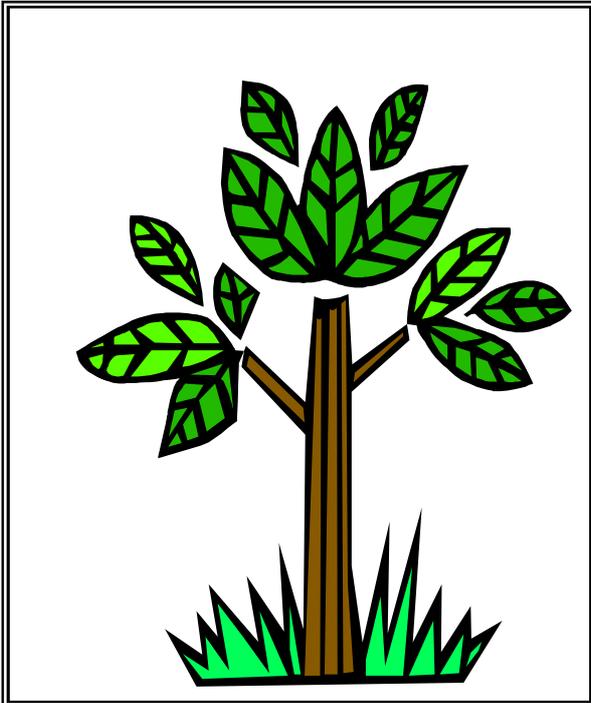
*Zilfimyany Tatev, 13 years*

Caucasus nature is unique. It is rich with high mountains, cool sources and deep gorges, pastures and woods. With woods where Armenian kings hunted. In those fields Caucasian peoples defended their Motherland from many enemies.

Many tourists from differemt countries come to admire Caoucasian nature, freindship of peoples, who passed a difficult way together.

*Abrahamyan Sahak, 13 years*





For everybody the place where he was born and lived is very precious. He is proud of that place. It is the best and single in the world.

But not everybody is lucky to be born in a place like Caucasus. High mountains, wise and proud people, edemian nature and curing water, all these is Caucasus. And everybody (armenians, georgians, azerbaijanians and etc) who consider Caucasus his Motherland love and take care of it.

For centuries Caucasian people are famous with their hospitality and friendship, but now they stopped to understand each other.

The conflicts don't allow us the young generation to travel to each other.

The many century history of our peoples don't allow us to live in strange rules.

I love Caucasus and believe that it will soon become friendly and hospitaly as ever.

*Abrahamyan Arusyak, 14 years*

It was still dark when we started. We were going to Goris and decided to walk there to see our open-air museum closer. The morning freshness was very pleasant. The sun raised from its warm bed just then and slowly went by the horizon. Our native mountains surrounded us; the snowy tops of which were on the blue sky. They stood proud, shoulder to shoulder and back to back. They are the stone witnesses of our history, the pages of which are in blood of many victims. We looked and admired. We looked and became higher as there were. How many wars you have suffered. You have always defended the enemy and the sense of survival strengthened in our soul and body

These stone huge were symbols of our people forlornness. We walked and unexpectedly it rained. The green leaves of trees became more vivid. Than the rainbow tied its colored ribbon on the sky. And the mountaintops were colored with its beautiful colors. The scene was wonderful.

*Mkoyan Mariam, 13 years*

Caucasus how much is in this word. Caucasus is large, strong and beautiful.

I live in armenia in Gyumri. I am proud of my Motherland.

No matter where the Armenians live they always talk about Yerevan. Yerervan is not only the capital of Armenia, it is the hope of all Armenians all over the world. Thousands of people come to our beautiful Armenia. How many churches are built of pink tuf. Armenia is called a meuseum in the open air. Armenians built their houses with stone, planted grapes and fruit trees. Only in Armenia one can see stone cross, in Armenian khachkar. Every khachkar has its story.

Living in Armenia we are surprised with its mineral waters: Jermuk, Bjni, Arzni.

It is imposible to skip lake Sevan, the pearl of Armenia. Many tourists come to Armenia and leave it with deep and pleasant impression.

Armenian geusts always speak about kindness and hospitality of our people. We invite evrybody to Armenia ,who wants to be acquainted with our country and people.

*Grigoryan Araksya, 13 years*

# Christmas, where does it come from

*The word "Christmas" comes from old English Christ's mass term. This is the name of celebration where they celebrate Christ's birth on December 25. We used to believe that Christ was born in Bethlehem, in several miles from Jerusalem. There wasn't correct statement of his birthday and they need to take a day coming out from this or that information. East church accepted January 6 and the West church accepted December 25.*

*Christmas celebration takes all December. It is the most popular holiday of Christians.*

## Christmas Celebration and Rituals

*Christmas is the most colorful holiday of year. The most accepted custom is the presents, which are given by Santa Claus. The other costumes of Christmas are the New Year tree, decorating the house and surrounding with lights, red and green colors, preparing tasty food and drinks. The Motherland of Christmas tree is Germany. It came to England in 17 century and later in 19 century to America. Before the beginning of 19 century it was famous all over the world. The European symbol of Christmas is green flower bunch. They use bushes for decoration during the holiday, which symbolizes the bushy crown of Christ and the berries are Christ's blood drops. The candles during the holidays symbolize the light spread by Christ on the world.*

### **Christmas Post cards**

*Artist John Hoarsely made the first Christmas cards in 1843 in England. He drew a family gathering and write "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" below.*

### **Music**

*The most famous songs of Christmas are the carols. Carol means open air dances. It is a simple and merry church song.*



### *If I Were*

2002 is passing. It will close its doors before us soon. It will allow us to forget sadness. It was happy for some people and let not disappoint those for which it was not successful. Think about the coming year and the happiness, which it can bring to you.

I would like everybody to think as me, to hope that the coming year will be happy and effective, full of joy and smile.

My cherished desire is to see Armenia strong, developed, rich and full with professionals. I want to see more transparent electing system and human resource policy.

I want every Armenian to appreciate himself. I don't want them to leave their Motherland for a piece of bread. I hope the coming year will rise immigration instead of migration. I want every child to have his shelter this year and Armenia to become united and peaceful.

And the most of all I want peace in the world.

Let all these be reality...

*Zilfimyán Tatev*  
*7"g" grade*

### *My expectations from 2003*

The most important of my expectations is peace all over the world as friendship among countries. I want to see my country economically developed and wish good luck everybody, let him or her does well in school. I wish everybody to realize their ideas and happy childhood for children.

*Abrahamyan Sahak*  
*7-"b" grade*

### *My expectations from 2003*

Children like New Year most of all holidays. All children have wishes connected with this holiday. The wishes are different: one wishes to go to Paris, the other to become like his parents, the third wants to have his own car or house. My cherished wish is peace all over the world. I want the kind magician to fulfill my desires.

*Grigoryan Ani*  
*7"d" grade*

### ***New Year***

New Year is the best holiday. It celebrates the whole world. It brings new hopes, love and believe. New Year lights warm many cool hearts. Happiness knocks every door and everybody dances sing and smile. Everything is new and kind.

Let the New Year bring peace, white horses, blue dreams, deep oceans and new achievements.

***Kanetsyan Karine***  
***10-“A” grade***

### ***My expectations from 2003***

I hope in the New Year elders will live in better condition, let not be unemployment, poverty and let our town become beautiful.

And most of all I want the children’s rights not to be violated, because they will build our future.

I hope my wishes will become real in 2003 and everybody will be jalousie to our town.

***Jipinyan Alice***  
***9”a” grade***

### ***I believe***

I gained enough knowledge this year and want to share it with my classmates. I hope we can visit UN office in Armenia in 2003. I believe that my wishes will be fulfilled.

***Aslanyan Manushak***  
***7-“g” grade***

### ***I would like to***

2003 will come soon and I have many hopes. I wish all Gyumri people have job and our town will be as beautiful as before and people will only smile. I wish 2003 would bring kindness, peace and justice.

I hope all these will become real.

***Simonyan Emilyya***  
***9-“a” grade***

# Japan crossword

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*Armen Avetisyan 9''a'' grade*