Share the Love: Peace Education Programs and the AMS Peace Table
By: Ann Baumgardner, TNSM

During the annual AMS conference, Kira Hinkle (6-9 teacher at The New School Montessori) sets up and runs the AMS Peace Table, as a member of the American Montessori Society’s Executive Peace Committee. The Peace Committee works to support teachers and the greater Montessori community in educating children for peace, placing particular emphasis on humanitarian work, global citizenship and service learning.

The AMS Peace Table serves as a resource center for conference attendees to: practice presenting lessons with materials directly related to peace education, peruse book titles, and learn about service-learning and peace education initiatives from Montessori schools around the world. The center serves as a hub for educators committed to further implementing the study of peace in their classrooms.

Since first reading the writings of Maria Montessori, Kira has found herself drawn to Montessori’s emphasis on peace education. Kira recognizes the importance of developing the whole child and finds it is increasingly overlooked in the education of young minds, and yet, it is at the center of the Montessori philosophy. It is for this reason, that as an educator, she was drawn to the Montessori method and was interested specifically in The New School Montessori, which teaches and practices peace education with its staff and children.

Kira is always happy to work with Montessori teachers in consulting on the development of a peace curriculum that works for their individual environments. This can include assistance in broad, general peace education curriculum, to specific consultations focusing on service-learning, meditation practices, etc. She is also able to connect schools with leaders in peace education within the Montessori community who can provide professional development opportunities to schools.

Additionally, she is always looking to showcase strong peace education related ideas and projects on the national level at the annual AMS conference. If your school has an interesting project or if you’ve developed a peace education lesson or program that you’d like to share with the greater Montessori community, please let Kira know. She would love to showcase Cincinnati’s commitment to peace education at the Peace Table for next year’s conference.

If you are interested in starting a peace education program at your school, please contact Kira Hinkle or any of the representatives on the AMS Executive Peace Committee.

Contact Info: kira.h@newschoolmontessori.com