

I simply must share 3 things that happened in our building this week involving our **Peace Builders Program!**

I'm doing my best to amp up this program even more this year, and we're already reaping the benefits! It is a **CULTURE** change, not gimmicks or activities, but a way of life, a new environment that is created that makes all the difference!

This week we had guests in our building. Every single guest talked about student behavior and how "friendly, polite, and helpful" the students were. Our national consultant went on and on about it. While the guests were doing walk-throughs in the building, a kindergarten student came up to greet them. She told them her name and asked if she could help them with anything. So sweet. The adults said they were ok and complimented her on her manners and said, "Thank you for your help. You're so helpful." She responded, "Thank you. I'm a Peace Builder and I like to help others."



Each morning we have a morning assembly in the gym to start off our day. Students find out if they earned their next letter in the word P-E-A-C-E on their way to earning "Peace Time." We talk about our PB Principle of the Month. It has been *Praising People* so I model each day how to do that by praising someone, and now we're moving to *Helping Others*.

On August 31st, I passed out the certificates and prizes for PeaceBuilders of the Month. Students were so excited. Then I went on with the business of running the school. This week I commented on how a certain student's behavior had radically improved. He had become so helpful and was so complimentary towards others. This is confidential but this child had been one of our biggest disciplinary challenges last year. I was quizzing his teacher to figure out what had happened for the improvements. She told me that after the assembly, he is trying to be the PB of the Month for September. He went to his teacher and asked her to explain to him what kind of things he could do to become a better peace builder. Melted my heart!! He is a different child! He is an example of the power of this program when implemented effectively.

This afternoon I was in our 1st grade room doing an observation. Students were working at small group stations, so I joined a group reading little decodable readers. The book ended with 3 animals working together to get another animal out of a tree. It was a simple text so the word "help" was not on the page. It just showed a picture of the animals helping another animal. We teach kids to make connections to text so one of the little boys says (without prompting of any kind), "The animals are Peace Builders! Look Mrs. Hanlin they are helping their friend!" How awesome is that?!?!

I've been blown away and also reminded of the benefits of this program. Just wanted to share so you both would know the Peace Builders Program truly makes a difference in schools and in the lives of students!