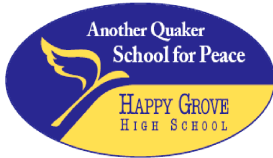


Report on the Jamaica Peace Education Project



HAPPY GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
HECTOR'S RIVER, PORTLAND, JAMAICA



Jamaica Project News, Issue 2

March 2010

There is no difference between living and learning. It is impossible and misleading and harmful to think of them as being separate. -N.Y. Dutton, from a poster at Happy Grove High School

History

Beginning in 2006, a partnership developed between The Quaker Jamaica Connections Committee (of Toronto MM) (formerly the Jamaica Concerns Working Group), Quakers Fostering Justice of Canadian Friends Service Committee (QFJ of CFSC) and the Board of Management of Happy Grove High School (HGHS) in Hector's River, Jamaica. Our goal was to develop a long-term project to offer peace education opportunities for staff, students and community members in Jamaica, while building relationships and learning from one another about peace education in schools.

Since 2006, we have reported twice on our journeys to Jamaica, looking at these trips as key points to report on the project. These reports are available in .pdf online at http://cfsc.quaker.ca/pages/projects_jails.html

Partnerships

Since 2006, teams from Canada have travelled to Jamaica to build partnerships and explore peace education with the Jamaicans (in 2007, 2008 and 2010).

Key partners now include:

- Happy Grove High School Administration, Staff and Students
- The Happy Grove High School Peace Club
- The Board of Management of HGHS
- Seaside Friends Church
- The Quaker Jamaica Connections (Working Group of Toronto Monthly Meeting)
- Quakers Fostering Justice (Committee of Canadian Friends Service Committee)

This project has taken great strides in early 2010 as a result of renewed commitment from all of the partners. As a result, there are several exciting opportunities and key decisions that must be addressed.



Partners of the Jamaica Peace Education Project in front of the Seaside Friends Church, Happy Grove, Jamaica

We are focused on continuing to develop these relationships, and to advance further important relationships with:

- The Parent Teacher Association of Happy Grove High School
- Seaside Early Childhood Centre
- The Violence Prevention Alliance (UWI)
- Change from Within (UWI)
- Kingston Monthly Meeting
- Peace and Love in Schools (Jamaica)

The partners also will be working to include Seaside Primary School and a team of Project Sponsors. We are also exploring potential secondary Canadian partners connected to peace education and work with Jamaicans, either in Canada or Jamaica.



Happy Grove High School students participating in a peace education workshop

If we are to reach real peace in the world...we shall have to begin with the children...and not by passing fruitless, idealistic resolutions, but by going from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which the whole world hungers.

~ Mohandas K. Gandhi

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Visit 2010



Partners in the Project:
Joan Browne (Chair,
Board of Management of
HGHS, left) and Monica
Walters-Field (TMM, right)

In January 2010, a team of four people from Quakers Fostering Justice and Quaker Jamaica Connections travelled to Hector's River and spent a week at Happy Grove High School, Seaside Friends Church and in the community of Hector's River. Two members then spent a week in Kingston, meeting with Kingston MM, Dr. Elizabeth Ward and Mrs. Pauletta Chevannes of the Violence Prevention Alliance at UWI, and the Canadian International Development Agency (through the Canadian High Commission in Kingston). We spent some time at the Research Day at University of West Indies listening to Project Manager Pauletta Chevannes present about the "Change From Within" project.

We were also able to do some publicity about the project through an ex-

tensive radio interview on HOT102 Radio, and reach out to potential "Sponsors" of the project.

Since our previous visit, a whole new administration (Principal, 2 Vice-Principals) had taken the leadership at the school. Two new team members came from Canada as well. Thus, this was a very important visit for building and rebuilding relationships and co-creating an evolving vision for this project. As partners, we all worked exceedingly hard to support this initiative. The Canadian partners were afforded excellent opportunities to connect with and learn from staff, students, and teachers at HGHS, and youth and adults in the Seaside Friends community.

Key Activities

*PEACE IS...
PUTTING DOWN
THE GUNS AND
COOPERATING
WITH EACH
OTHER .*

*- FROM A HAPPY
GROVE HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENT
WORKBOOK*

Friends from Canada met with students, educators, board members and community members in classrooms and at Seaside Friends Church in meetings, workshops and informal encounters. During our time at Hector's River, we participated in the following activities:

Planning Discussions with the Principal, Vice Principal, Guidance staff, and Coordinator of extra-curricular activities at Happy Grove High School, to jointly identify and begin implementing the plans and priorities listed below.

Discussion presentations with 4 Happy Grove High School classes (2 grade 7, 2 grade 8): when the Canadian team asked these students who would want to join a peace club, nearly 100% in all 4 classes raised their hands, and suggested ideas for peace club activities.

Circle Conversation at Seaside Friends Church: The Canadian team had a fruitful circle dialogue with members of Seaside Friends Church about what is happening in their community, and how they might support HGHS's peace education project. We also met with key Friends at SSFC to talk about our evolving partnership, and activities that could be developed together.

Conversation at Friends Meeting, Kingston: Friends in Kingston were welcoming and supportive of our project, and expressed interest in learning more about resources and practices of unprogrammed Friends in Canada and elsewhere.

Inaugural Meeting of The Peace Club

Report to the Board of Management, HGHS



Circle conversation at
Seaside Friends Church

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More Key Activities

Peace Education Workshops for Happy Grove High School students (at space provided by Seaside Friends Church): Three one-session workshops (1.5 to 2 hours) were offered to

- about 25 students who had attended previous (2008) workshops
- 20 students from the Grades 7 & 8 classes visited earlier in the week
- about 24 students from these two groups, who were interested in forming a "Peace Club" at HGHS

These workshops gave students, selected staff, and Canadian Friends an opportunity to interact with one another and to express their ideas for ways to promote peace personally and at HGHS.

Exploratory Meeting with CIDA: Two Canadian team members met with Deborah Duperly-Pinks, who coordinates the Democracy and Governance Fund and Canada Fund for Local Initiatives in Jamaica. She will work with us to develop a Canada Fund application to support this work in Jamaica.

In all of the above activities, we explored together the following questions:

- "What is currently happening in this community that helps to make peace?" *and*
- "How can Canadian partners support Jamaican partners' peace education efforts?"

We learned together a great deal about different ways we could effectively offer resources, student workshops, and professional development on peace education, conflict dialogue, and the curriculum infusion of peace education for the future. These ideas are outlined in Key Plans/Outcomes and Key Decisions.



Miss Joyce Fuller-Walker, key partner at Seaside Friends Church

PEACE IS...
LOVING AND
CARING FOR
ONE
ANOTHER.

- FROM A
HAPPY GROVE
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT
WORKBOOK

Key Plans and Outcomes

After extensive consultation among the partners, the following activities have been identified as priorities. They include:

Collection, adaptation and development of peace education materials

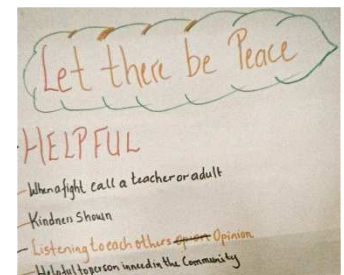
Youth peace education materials (for HGHS Peace Club)

Youth and adult Friends discussion materials (copies of *Advices and Queries* were sent to Kingston and Seaside Friends in April)

Other teaching resources will be jointly developed in the coming months.

Possible 2010 Professional Development Study Tour for 2-3 Happy Grove High School Staff to Toronto, Canada

Canadian Partners Visit to Hector's River in March 2011



Poster describing ways for peaceful living made by students in the workshops

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More Key Plans and Outcomes



Inaugural meeting of the
HGHS Peace Club

The Peace Club: HGHS acted quickly in response to student and staff enthusiasm for starting a Peace Club. The new Club has been meeting since January, 2010, and holding events including a Community Peace March (March 2nd, 2010)! The Peace Club has requested support for the following:

- Development / Sharing of peace education activity resources for Peace Club meetings
- Development / Sharing of resources for Workbooks for students and staff
- Assistance with purchase of "Peace Club" uniforms (to be considered later)

The Peace Phone: To enhance communication between partners, CFSC bought a cell phone for HGHS. This Peace Phone is being actively used; school staff have been in weekly contact with Canadian partners!

Future Visit(s) by Quakers Fostering Justice and Quaker Jamaica Connections teams to Jamaica, likely March 2011, to coincide with Jamaica's Courtesy Week, to be planned in consultations with all partners. For example, activities might include–

One or two four-day workshops for adults and students

Shorter workshops for the general school population

Staff development opportunities

Connecting with parents, and community members (including SSFC), and cultivating their further involvement

We anticipate that the partnership will continue, and might possibly include QFJ/QJC visits to Jamaica in March 2012 and March 2013.

Resource and Material Development and Sharing: This was identified as a key priority, to support Jamaican students and staff, to foster leadership and sustainability for peace education.



Students of
Seaside Basic School

Professional Development for Jamaican Educators: Selected Happy Grove HS Staff are invited to Toronto for the "Educating for Peace and Justice" Conference and related professional development activities and school visits, September 24-25, 2010. The partners have offered to sponsor 2-3 HGHS staff for this trip, to advance staff development and partnership conversations in Peace Education.

Curriculum Infusion of Peace Education materials:

- There is developing interest in cultivating peace education in relation to the existing curriculum at the school, in particular as Citizenship Education becomes integrated (a current initiative of the Jamaican Ministry of Education).

Purchase of key equipment to assist with Peace Education activities:

- a videograph machine (camcorder)

Key Decisions Required

- Proceeding with CIDA proposal
- Material Development Plans
- Professional Development for Staff – training trip in September 2010
- Future Team Visit
- Reviewing commitment time-lines

For more information on how to support this project contact:

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