

Rotary



August, 2016

Club of Windsor-Roseland

To be Forwarded (with your blessing) to your Student Council President

Information on applying for Peace School Designation

Dear Principal,

Since 2006, thirty elementary schools in Windsor and Essex County have earned the designation Roseland Rotary Peace School. Over the years -- and because of our program's success, our Rotary Club has been encouraged to expand the program into secondary schools. So, after several meetings with senior administration from both Boards we are pleased to offer your school the opportunity to earn the Peace School designation...and here's how it works:

A Roseland Rotary Peace School is one that encourages, fosters and promotes a safe, caring and welcoming environment. It demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the process of peace and involvement in the community. This is shown by the school's pledge to stop violence in all forms, promote peace, and foster a respect for life and dignity of others.

Goal of Roseland Rotary Secondary School Peace Schools Project: to have secondary school students recognize the importance of achieving worldwide peace by promoting peace at school, locally, nationally and internationally through activities initiated by students themselves. We are aware that such activities are already occurring in varying degrees in all schools. Students today are demonstrating a commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts in keeping with Rotary International's 6 Areas of Focus (see attached) by holding awareness events, drives and fundraisers for polio eradication, gay rights, bullying, abuse (sexual/emotional/physical) to name a few.

So, participation in this worthy project will not only give schools formal recognition by Rotary but also the opportunity to enhance their image in the school community. Our discussions with Board personnel agree that this project is suitable for student council presidents/student clubs to lead.

Therefore, since student council presidents from both Boards meet regularly, we are hoping that these student leaders in each school will be given the responsibility to submit applications for consideration as a Peace School . . . as per the attached.

DEADLINE: The deadline for this year's application is January 13, 2017. Please have your student council president send your school's application to: Public Board – Scott Scantlebury and Catholic Board – Stephen Fields or Email to sdragich@cogeco.ca

Yours in Rotary Service,

Sam Dragich *Julie Dragich*

Sam and Julie Dragich
Co-Chairs, Peace Schools Committee
Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland
519-969-6049 226-350-2625 cell
CC Michelle Marcuz
Mike Seguin

Information on applying for Peace School Designation

Dear Student Council President,

What follows is information for you to consider in making application for Peace School status by the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland.

Since 2006, thirty elementary schools in Windsor and Essex County have earned the designation Roseland Rotary Peace School. Over the years -- and because of our program's success, our Rotary Club has been encouraged to expand the program into secondary schools. So, after several meetings with senior administration from both Boards we are pleased to offer your school the opportunity to earn the Peace School designation.

The attached will provide you with the necessary resource materials to present to your student council e.g.

- What is a Roseland Rotary Peace School?
- **Goal of Roseland Rotary Secondary School Peace Schools Project**
- **Rationale (excerpts from Rotary International Declaration of Peace, June 26, 2013)**
- **Rotary International's 6 Areas of Focus**
- **Application Format/Timeline**
- **What Exemplary/Winning Schools Get**

Resource Materials (re Peace School Designation in Secondary Schools)

A **Roseland Rotary Peace School** is one that encourages, fosters and promotes a safe, caring and welcoming environment. It demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the process of peace and involvement in the community. This is shown by the school's pledge to stop violence in all forms, promote peace and kindness, and cultivate a respect for life and dignity of others.

Further, a Peace School exemplifies a school climate/culture in keeping with the ideals of Rotary International's DECLARATION OF PEACE and is driven by actions which demonstrate understanding of the spirit and intent of Rotary International's FOUR-WAY TEST (of the things we think, say or do):

Rotary's FOUR-WAY TEST

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build good will and better friendships?
- Is it beneficial to all concerned?

Goal of Roseland Rotary Secondary School Peace Schools Project: to have secondary school students recognize the importance of achieving worldwide peace by promoting peace at school, locally, nationally and internationally through activities initiated by students themselves. We are aware that such activities are already occurring in varying degrees in all schools. Students today are demonstrating a commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts in keeping with Rotary International's 6 Areas of Focus (see attached) by holding awareness events, drives and fundraisers for polio eradication, gay rights, bullying, abuse (sexual/emotional/physical) to name a few.

Rationale: (excerpts from *RI Declaration of Peace*, June 26, 2013)

- All human beings have the right to live in a state of peace, free from violence, persecution, inequality and suffering, and
- We all know that peace cannot thrive unless we are willing to work for it. Peace is a way of life, requiring steadfast dedication, and
- "Peace begins with you" is our call to action. Each of us recognizes that we have a personal responsibility to answer it.
- Be a peace-builder in every interaction you undertake with your fellow human beings. Let every action be one that builds goodwill and better friendships.

- **Reject the notion of enemies. Actively befriend people from countries that have traditionally had adversarial relationships with your own country.**
- **Provide opportunities for young people to develop their leadership potential and become active stakeholders in their communities.**

Rotary International's 6 Areas of Focus**

- **Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution**
- **Disease Prevention & Treatment**
- **Water & Sanitation**
- **Maternal & Child Health**
- **Basic Education & Literacy**
- **Economic & Community Development**

****Where Roseland Rotarians contribute financially and with manpower – we have several people from our club who regularly go to Ghana, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc to build schools, dig wells, bring literacy materials and distribute polio drops to children, among other actions as part of Rotary's motto "Service Above Self."**

SECONDARY SCHOOL ROTARY PEACE SCHOOL
REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS APPLICATION FORM 2016-17

SCHOOL NAME:

SCHOOL BOARD: Please check

PUBLIC CITY _____

SEPARATE CITY _____

PUBLIC COUNTY _____

SEPARATE COUNTY _____

Number of students: _____ Number of Full Time Staff _____

SUBMITTED BY:

POSITION:

E-MAIL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

PRINCIPAL'S NAME _____

PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE: _____

NOTES: How it works:

1. Fill out and submit the application form (above) along with your school's Peace School Profile.
2. Please attach your Peace School Profile telling us about your school-wide peace program – i.e. the activities teachers and students do daily and periodically to promote peace and understanding. This is your Rotary Peace School Profile.

3. You should consult the Application Format (attached) . . . to help with your submission . . . and be sure to highlight some new or particularly successful peace activities that happened in the past year (Jan – December) for which you are proud.

4. Our selection committee will review all submissions and determine the schools receiving Rotary Peace School Designations.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

January 13, 2017

For further information on the project, please contact Sam or Julie Dragich

Peace Committee Co-Chairs – Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland
(519) 969-6049.....(226)-350-2625 cell ... or sdragich@cogeco.ca

Application Format (Secondary Schools)

Student councils (each fall) will be requested by the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland to submit a Peace School Profile – a series of paragraphs/statements outlining the peace activities in the past year (January – December) in their school which validate evidence of embracing the principles in *Peace School Criteria, Rotary's Four-Way Test and Rotary International Declaration of Peace*.

In particular, application submissions may include:

- unique rules or policies which make your school a safe place
e.g. anti-bullying and/or anti-violence projects
- opportunities for students to learn and demonstrate leadership skills
- recognition of a diverse student body
- access to counselling for troubled teens e.g. peer-mentoring programs for students with behavioural problems
- reaching out to the elderly, the poverty-stricken, the underprivileged, refugees e.g. food drives to support Downtown Mission, assist seniors with yard clean-up, snow removal and/or home maintenance, etc.
- providing tutors for both high and elementary school students
- liaison with Grade 8's to ensure smooth transition to Gr 9
- Christmas Party, Christmas Dinner, Pancake Breakfast for disadvantaged kids, etc.
- Ethnicity/Multicultural Day e.g. where multicultural groups demonstrate their culture, dance, food, customs, etc.
- Program initiatives that honour/recognize students who make a difference in the school and community
- A response to these questions:
 - How does your school react/offer assistance to calls for need— locally, nationally and internationally in times of crisis e.g. flooding, catastrophes, Flint water crisis, Fort McMurray fire relief, Syrian refugees, etc. Do you have a World Affairs Committee?
 - What is your school doing to show support for the disabled community (physical, learning, intellectual, psychiatric) i.e. what efforts have you made to accommodate and include these individuals to your school culture?

What Exemplary / Winning Schools Get

- Our selection committee will review all submissions and determine the schools receiving Rotary Peace School Designations.
- No more ** than 1-2 First-Time schools per year from each board will be selected
- **A Permanent Marker . . . A stand-alone banner**
- **A plaque inside school . . . with plates to be added each year when a winner maintains its exemplary peace school status**
 - i.e. Re-apply each year to maintain peace schools status and “retain bragging rights”
- ****Please note, we recognize that so many schools are already engaged in many worthwhile peace-school related activities . . . and therefore regret not everyone (due to financial restraints of the Roseland Rotary Club) will receive exemplary status the first time application for Peace School status is made. Thus,**
- **Non-winning schools get a Certificate/Honourable Mention or Honour Roll (With Distinction)**

- **Expectations**
 - From Windsor-Roseland ...purchase Stand-Alone Banner & Media Release + publication in Snapd
 - That Award-Winning schools plan a Dedication Ceremony

Timeline

- **Meet with each new Senate/Student Parliament at their first meeting in September to explain the process of applying for Peace School status**
- **Invite School Submissions in the early fall . . . to be submitted by mid-January each year**
- **Declare Exemplary/Winning Schools . . . in mid-February each year**

Resources

- Rotary International DECLARATION OF PEACE, Lisbon, June 26, 2013
- Rotary's Four-Way Test
- Rotary International's 6 Areas of Focus

Excerpt from Rotary International

DECLARATION OF PEACE, Lisbon, June 26, 2013

All human beings have the right to live in a state of peace, free from violence, persecution, inequality, and suffering. As leaders and friends of the Rotary movement, united in service, we publicly declare our commitment to creating a more peaceful world.

Through Rotary, we transcend the national boundaries and political ideologies that so often divide people and enable conflict to take root. We believe that tolerance is necessary for peace to exist, and we respect one another's rights to freely express political, religious, cultural, and social perspectives and practices that differ from our own. Looking beyond our differences, we come together as global citizens to work for the good that we can collectively accomplish. In this spirit, we envision a world of peace without borders.

We know that peace cannot thrive unless we are willing to work for it. Peace is a way of life, requiring steadfast dedication.

"Peace begins with you" is our call to action, and each of us recognizes that we have a personal responsibility to answer it.

Peace begins when all of us make a conscious effort in our daily lives to ensure that every action we take is one that builds goodwill and friendship...and promotes harmony with our neighbours and creates friendships that transcend the divisions of nationality, politics, religion, and culture. Peace is sustained when we join together, work together, and in turn, inspire young people to hear the call to action and carry the pursuit of peace forward, generation after generation.

We nurture the seeds of peace by encouraging young people's creativity, energy, and idealism, empowering them to become catalysts for change. As our legacy for future peace, we recognize the vital importance of conserving and protecting our planet's resources for future generations. We encourage young people to value peace over war, friendship over enmity, and compromise over conflict, knowing that they will carry these values forward as the leaders of tomorrow. As each generation supports the next, the seeds of our actions will yield a green path to peace, constantly moving forward.

We express our desire for a peaceful world through the action of service. By serving and helping others, we gain empathy and understanding, build lasting bonds of friendship, and empower others to become peacemakers.

Peace is not a final destination to be reached, but an active and continuous process. All of us are capable of becoming peacemakers in our own lives, and through our words and actions, we will demonstrate that peace is possible.