

# Children's World Academy

## LaSalle, Quebec, Canada



## Peaceful Schools International Featured School – November, 2008

Children's World Academy (CWA) is proud to be part of **Peaceful Schools International**. CWA is committed to create and maintain a culture of peace within the entire school. CWA's belief statement proclaims that:

***"In our school, every person has the right to a peaceful teaching and learning environment."***

At CWA, teachers, parents and students work together to foster an atmosphere of cohesive cooperation, conducive to good citizenship and promoting responsibility, respect, civility, and academic excellence in a safe learning teaching environment. CWA believes and recognizes that young people and adults are constantly learning and that together they will learn self-discipline, tolerance and respect for others.

Children's World Academy is a public co-educational elementary school located in LaSalle, Quebec, and part of the [Lester B. Pearson School Board](#). CWA offers an early Immersion program as well as an International program to approximately 500 students.



CWA was built in 1973 and throughout its history has offered a variety of programs. The development of the whole child, as well as preparing its students to live in the world as responsible citizens, have always been fundamental values in shaping the future of CWA. As a result, CWA offers an International Education program while respecting the standards, obligations, and requirements of the curriculum of the MELS ([Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport](#)).

In 1993, CWA received its accreditation by the International School Association (ISA). In September 2000, CWA applied for authorization to offer the curriculum of the Primary Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). Following a successful IBO accreditation visit in February 2005, CWA is now authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

There are all kinds of opportunities for parents and grandparents to participate in school life through library work; supervising field trips; helping out in the classroom; making telephone calls; baking; crafting costumes, props and back-drops for concerts; sharing professional experiences, etc. Volunteers are recognized as an integral part of the CWA community.

## Mission of CWA

Children's World Academy is a microcosm of the world. The mission of CWA is to:

- To educate the whole child, developing each student's intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual and physical competencies.
- To encourage students to become active, compassionate and responsible human beings who are respectful of the plurality of cultures and religious beliefs.
- To nurture intellectual curiosity and actively involve students in developing good work habits, positive attitude and critical thinking in order to become lifelong learners.
- To provide students with opportunities to connect the experiences of the classroom to the world outside.
- To continue to provide a peaceful teaching and learning school environment via our attitudes and conflict management/peer mediation programs.

**When students leave CWA, they are:**

- inquirers,
- principled,
- balanced,
- caring,
- communicators,
- open-minded,
- risk-takers,
- knowledgeable,
- thinkers, and
- reflective.

## Developing Positive Attitudes

At CWA developing social and emotional competencies is highly valued. The following attitudes are considered to be of high importance and are nurtured in all students:

- Appreciation:** appreciating the wonder and beauty of the world and its people
- Commitment:** being committed to their learning and showing self-discipline and responsibility
- Confidence** feeling confident in their ability as learners, having the courage to take risks, applying what they have learned and making appropriate decisions and choices
- Cooperation** cooperating, collaborating, leading or following as the situation demands
- Creativity** being creative and imaginative in their thinking and in the approach to problems and dilemmas
- Curiosity** being curious about the nature of learning and of the world, its people and cultures
- Empathy** imaginatively projecting themselves into another's situation, in order to understand his/her thoughts, reasoning and emotions
- Enthusiasm** enjoying learning
- Independence** thinking and acting independently, making their own judgment based on reasoned principles and being able to defend their judgments
- Integrity** having a firm sense of fairness and honesty
- Respect** respecting themselves, others and the world around them
- Tolerance** feeling sensitivity towards differences and diversity in the world and being responsive to the needs of others

## Giving Back to the Community

At CWA, children are encouraged to appreciate that, "It is always better to give than to receive". In the spirit of this belief, students and staff at CWA are involved in many projects focused on community service.

Students at CWA have been very actively involved in twinning activities with their sister school in Maso, Sierra Leone. As one of CWA's creative fund raising projects, children made bracelets for sale. Here are a few examples of their beautiful work:



When the children of Maso, Sierra Leone, hear about Canada, they think about their friends at Children's World Academy in Quebec. As the first school to exchange email letters through our school twinning program, CWA has served as an inspiration and a model for others to follow. Staff warmly welcomed our Sierra Leone-based volunteer to their school and have continued their student-to-student contact for a second year. Also, with friendship bracelets sales, and production of a beautiful student artwork calendar, CWA has raised funds to help the school purchase chalkboards and doors for classrooms, paint the school, purchase student desks and seats, and develop the goat project (up to 12 schools will be receiving several goats each plus agricultural extension services to teach students and staff how to raise, care for, breed and market goats). On behalf of all in this small community in northern Sierra Leone, we extend our deepest gratitude to the staff, students and families at Children's World Academy.



Carolyn van Gorp, PSI volunteer in Sierra Leone

### Other examples of CWA's "Sharing Humanity" projects:

- A donation was made to assist with the devastation from the earthquakes and recent aftershocks in China.
- A \$1,000 donation was made to the HOPE Society to help continue to assist families in need when food bank supplies are at their lowest.
- The Kindergarten classes collected \$300 towards a computer for patients at the Montreal Children's Hospital.
- A "Spread-the-net" Campaign to help reduce malaria in CWA's sister village of Maso in Sierra Leone (organized by Hannah H.) "netted" a total of \$500.00.
- Operation Smile 1, 2 and 3 has raised \$ 2400 with the partnership of the Canadian Armed Forces (over the last three years) to support literacy in Bosnian schools by purchasing books and creating libraries in their schools.
- Music concerts are held around the Holiday celebrations that raise \$1000 annually for local food banks and shelters.
- The school holds bi-monthly "Dress down days" that each raise \$500 for each of the following: The Week-end to End Breast Cancer, Pearson Education Foundation, St-Justine Hospital, Montreal Children's Hospital, and for our sister school in Sierra Leone (Maso School).
- CWA raised \$9800 for the Terry Fox Run (for cancer research) this year.

## Environmental Awareness

Creativity runs deep in the students and staff of CWA. Here is their response to PSI's "TRASHFORMATION" challenge to create art from recycled materials:



In the spring of 2007, Cycle One students of Children's World Academy created a mural. Students were asked to illustrate a response to the question, **"What is love?"** The images of hearts and the Earth were quite prevalent, thus resulting in the wall's design. Nearly every student was able to design and paint her/his own heart. These hearts represent the love they have for Children's World Academy, as well as their desire to care for and protect the Earth for generations to come.



At CWA, Internationalism is developed throughout the school program of inquiry. Students are provided with opportunities to research contemporary world issues and to establish links between the classroom and the world outside, thus enhancing global awareness. Needless to say, a great sense of school pride and spirit are natural outcomes from this focus.



The efforts of CWA are recognized by the local and global community.



What is peace?

## CWA Conflict Managers

These students play an important role at CWA. Conflict is a part of everyday life that needs to be managed proactively. As part of CWA's curriculum for 10 years, Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution have been teaching all students how to handle conflict at the individual and group levels. In addition, Cycle 3 students at CWA receive more specific training in conflict management. The skills they learn and practice daily on the playground is a valuable asset contributing to a calm, safe and positive play environment.

