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March 20, 2014

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Dear Friends of the International Day of Peace,

The United Nations International Day of Peace (Peace Day) serves as an excellent starting point toward introducing peacebuilding skills, activities and curriculum to students of all ages as the school year gets underway.

Since 2008 the Chicago Build the Peace Committee has organized an annual, citywide Peace Day project with Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Our Committee provides a package of peacebuilding materials to every school in the CPS system (currently 681 schools) with information about Peace Day and suggested activities in which they can participate. Students across the city sign the Build the Peace Pledge, watch and discuss peace-related films, try Peace Breathing, discuss quotes from peacemakers, meet in Peace Circles, compose peace-themed poetry and more. Many schools come up with their own creative ways to participate in Peace Day as a step toward building a culture of peace in their schools and communities. Visit www.buildthepeace.org to learn more about our work in Chicago, and www.percforpeace.org for the Peace Education Resource Center, a special project of the Culture of Peace Initiative.

Chicago Public Schools' Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Byrd Bennett, was a featured speaker at Chicago's 2013 Peace Day Celebration. She commended our work with CPS by saying, "Thank you for all that you have done. Your leadership has elevated the discussion of peace education and spurred action to create cultures of peace across Chicago and within our schools."

The United Nations will hold its annual student observance of Peace Day at its New York headquarters on Sept. 19, 2014 under the thought-provoking theme, *Right of the Peoples to Peace*. Chicago students will engage in peacebuilding activities on the same day. We encourage students across the country and around the world to join us on or about September 19th to commemorate Peace Day and discuss, paint, write, sing, read, plant and otherwise explore peace in its many forms, with a special focus on the Right to Peace. Together, students can learn to make peace a priority on Peace Day and every day until a culture of peace becomes the norm.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kim
Committee Chair

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