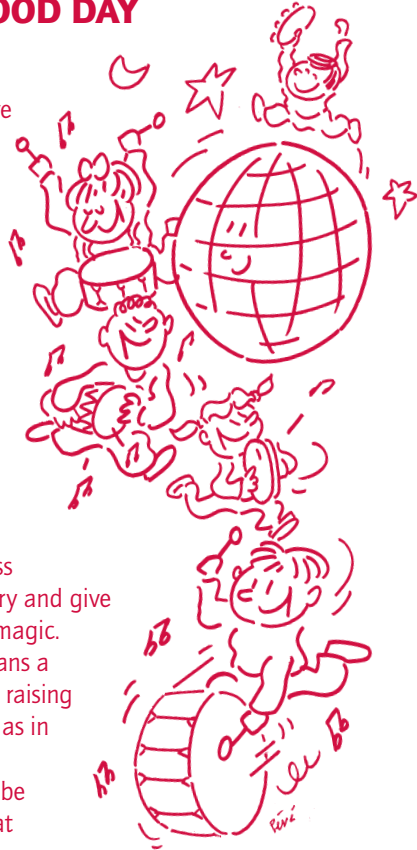




THE WORLD POETRY-CHILDHOOD DAY

This initiative based on active poetry gathers every year on the 21st of March thousands of children under 13 years and invites them to create poems on a theme which awakens them to their future role as citizens. The World Poetry-Childhood Day is supported by the UNESCO and UNICEF.



OBJECTIVES

- 1- Enable children to express themselves through Poetry and give them "Words" and their magic.
- 2- Create by very simple means a huge action of awareness raising to Poetry, in cities as well as in the most remote villages.
- 3- Ensure that children will be the genuine actors of that initiative.
- 4- Awake children to the "Other" and to human solidarity beyond borders.

THE DRUMS FOR PEACE

The United Nations proclaimed the years 2001-2010 "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World".
(UN General Assembly Resolution 53/25)

It is in the framework of this Resolution that we wish to draw children's attention to the phenomenon of violence in the world. Since 2001, World Children's Poetry Day has launched the theme: "DRUMS FOR PEACE".

This action takes place in many countries of the world.

CALL TO CHILDREN

For 20 years
The Convention on the Rights of the Child has been in existence.
The purpose of this text is to guarantee, for children all over the world, the right to express themselves.

To celebrate this anniversary,
Write a poem for us.
Your poem should be a cry
in which you dare to say

what makes you happy,
what makes you afraid,
what makes you laugh,
what makes you cry,
what makes you dream,
what you would like to change around you,
what you would like to say to grown-ups...

And so that your cry joins up with those of tens of thousands of children all over the world, at the same time, in the public spaces in your village or town, with your teachers, parents and friends,

**ON 20 MARCH 2009,
FROM 11.30 A.M. TO 12 P.M.
GO AND BEAT
DRUMS FOR PEACE!**



CALL TO TEACHERS

DESIGN a teaching plan and
take part in the
INTERNATIONAL TEACHER'S PRIZE

To recognise the efforts of teachers and educators who get their pupils involved in our action, we have set up the "International Teacher's Prize". This competition, open to all countries, will give a prize to the candidate who sends in the best dossier presenting the events he or she ran as part of World Children's Poetry Day.

The Prize: The prizewinner will be invited to spend three days in Belgium meeting our team and representatives of the public authorities or of any other non-governmental organisation likely to assist its action. Travel and accommodation costs will be paid by the World Children's Poetry Day organisation. A single winner will be selected each year.

Competition rules:

see our website
www.drumsforpeace.org



World Poetry-Childhood Day,

a section of the International House of Poetry - Arthur Haulot,
non-profit-making association.

- **Chairwoman** : Moussia Haulot
- **General secretariat** : Anne Henry
- **International relations** : Gregory Kévers
- **Contacts for Belgium** : Francisco Galvez

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www.drumsforpeace.org

BRUSSELS, CAPITAL OF EUROPE, CALLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY

STEP I

THE THEME: LET CHILDREN SPEAK

20 years ago, some men got together to announce the **International Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

The purpose of the text is to guarantee for all the world's children:

The right to health,
The right to be different,
The right to respect,
The right to be protected from
all forms of ill-treatment,
The right to go to school,
The right to access arts such as
poetry, dance, music, etc.
The right to express themselves freely !

As part of the anniversary of this Convention, we have chosen to ask children about *the right to express themselves freely*.

TEACHING PLAN:

- 1- Read "The Call to Children".
- 2- Raise awareness among the children to their rights and responsibilities
- 3- Awaken them to the fact that words are a gift that enables them to express the nuances of their feelings
- 4- Help them to understand that you need to use words to say what is on your mind and by not doing so you encourage non-communication, which is a source of conflict and violence.

TEACHING RESOURCES

Teaching resources to enable you to find out more about the principles enshrined in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child are available on our website:
www.drumsforpeace.org

STEP II

TO WRITE A POEM

Why poetry ?

Because offering children words means allowing them to express their problems, fears, desires, questions and pleasures. It means helping them speak more easily so they can dare to say what they want.

Poetry is a means of accessing dialogue, a way of avoiding conflict and rejecting violence, and a genuine weapon of peace.

THE COMPETITION

We are inviting you, like Belgium, to organise a poetry competition locally (in your school, town or village, or county) or nationally. So that information about your initiative can be passed on to UNICEF, UNESCO, the United Nations and the International Coordination for the Decade, please send us the details of your competition by 15 March 2009.



POETRY KIT

A collection of hints and tips for exploring rhyme and versification, word play, rhythm and sound is available on our website:
www.drumsforpeace.org

STEP III

GATHERINGS TO MAKE OURSELVES HEARD

The right to expression would not be complete without the chance to make yourself heard!

That is why we are asking all children to **BEAT DRUMS** and shout their message loud and clear in the public spaces in their towns and villages on

KEEP US INFORMED... TELL US...

If you organize a GATHERING, please inform the Secretariat of the World Poetry-Childhood Day. This is very important if we want to inform the media, UNESCO, UNICEF, the United Nations and the International Coordination for the Decade. Your information will also enable us to establish a link between your action and other GATHERINGS worldwide. In addition, your initiatives will appear on our Internet site. **KINDLY RETURN THE ATTACHED FORM** and send us the result of all your accomplishments so that the other participants may benefit as well. School bulletins, Internet sites as well as any other initiative by the children may attract new actors in that effort in favour of Peace. Therefore, do not be modest and share your work !

Friday 20
March 2009
from 11.30 a.m.
to 12 p.m.

A GUIDANCE KIT...

...for the organization of the WPCD is available on our website.
www.drumsforpeace.org
f.galvez@maison-internationale-poesie.be