



School District No. 23 Central Okanagan celebrates Harmony Day in February each year. Harmony Day is an opportunity to recognize and encourage respect for all the members of our community. We hope to foster an environment in which people of different cultures, ages, ethnicities, and interests can be in harmony. In such an environment, our students can feel safe and inspired to reach their potential academically and personally.

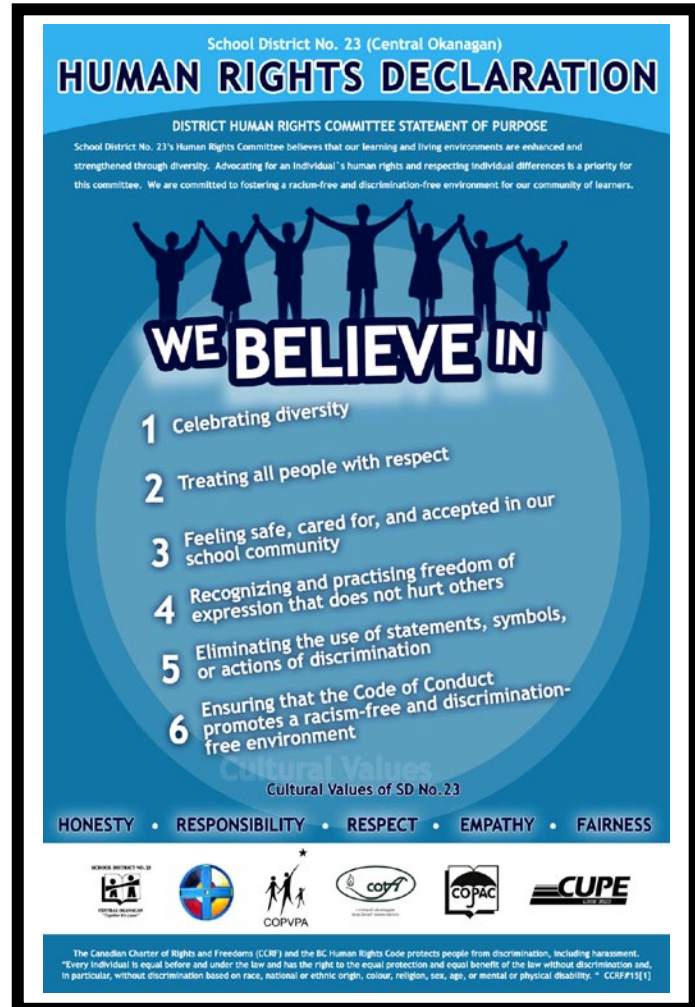


The idea for SD23 was sparked when a colleague decided to take her children to visit an Australian school during a family trip. It just so happened to be Harmony Day on this visit and what she and her children witnessed serves as our inspiration today! Harmony Day in Australia is celebrated nationally on the 21st of March each year and is about bringing people together to promote Australian values and to celebrate community participation.

***"It is a day to understand and commit to the benefits of living in a country that embraces common values of respect, fairness, participation, acceptance and a fair go for all."***

**Our Harmony Day committee promotes activities catered to all age levels in our school district.**

- Video contests where students create short videos highlighting the goals of Harmony Day. These videos are shown during assemblies around the district on Harmony Day.
- The creation of a district wide Harmony Day website, hosted on an internal email system. This site outlines classroom activities and resources to be used by students and staff. Our goal for Harmony Day 2012 is to create a website for the general public to access Harmony Day information.
- Blank bookmarks are available to schools for students to creatively express their thoughts on Harmony Day.
- Students created posters to be used for awareness and advertising for future years.
- Resources are sent to each school as a Harmony Day kit. Each year the resources change to reflect the yearly theme. Resources include: books, posters, CDs, DVDs, and teacher reference guides based around social justice issues.
- In collaboration with our Districts Human Rights Committee, an updated Human Rights declaration was created. This poster was framed and presented to each school on Harmony Day.



The Harmony Day committee works in conjunction with community organizations such as Kelowna Community Resources and Global Citizen Kelowna. We are fortunate to have this support to create awareness of our initiatives in the community.

**Using a combination of resources that are provided to the schools and information from the Harmony Day website, teachers from each school create a special day for their students. Examples of these activities are:**

- The Board of Education for SD No.23 formally declares Harmony Day as an official day in our school district.
- An international tea highlighting a variety of teas and ethnic clothing worn by students, staff, and parents.
- Various presenters such as Michel Chikwanine from Me to We, presented to middle and high school levels.
- A bookmark contest with winning students, as selected by their peers, receiving a social justice themed novel.
- Grade 12 Holocaust students created harmony pyramids displaying the Nazi escalation of hate from 1933 to 1945.
- Numerous assemblies highlighting school choirs and classroom presentations where municipal, provincial and federal government delegates attended.
- Each year the mayor of Kelowna declares Harmony Day as an official City of Kelowna day of celebration.



### **AT THE END OF THE DAY, HARMONY DAY SHOULD:**

- Impact the individual, the classroom, your whole school and your community
- Meet the needs of your particular community
- Include a review /critique of our District Human Rights Declaration
- Involve students in leadership opportunities



***"How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don't know each other."***

***~ Lester B. Pearson***