

**Peace Pole Ceremony - “May Peace Prevail on Earth”**

**Welcome MC**

We are gathering today to reaffirm our commitment to Peace locally and globally and especially in our relationship with each other and in our community. We appreciate this opportunity to meet given COVID-19 and the restrictions that the virus has been placed on us all in recent times

**Acknowledgement of Country by student**

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have walked this land, on their own country as custodians to their earth mother.

Their unbroken relationship with the land and sea was and remains to be at the center of their lives.

We acknowledge the -------- people, those of the past, the present and the future, and, with gratitude and respect, we recognize their continued relationship, custodianship and their bond of this land and sea throughout the ages.

**Opening comments or if suitable a prayer by Principal or School Leader**

**Peace Pole Info/ History MC**

We will share some Peace Pole information and history.

 To mark the Centenary of Rotary in Australia, the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin, ACT, set a goal to see 100 Peace Poles donated to 100 Schools to recognize 100 years of Rotary service in Australia in 2021. This goal has been achieved through collaboration with schools, organizations and Rotary clubs around Australia and today there are over 250 Rotary Peace Poles in every state and territory.

**Student 1**

The Peace Pole program which had its beginnings after the Second World War in 1955, was developed by the World Peace Prayer Society Founder, Masahisa Goi. Now, more than 250,000 Peace Poles stand in approximately 200 countries around the globe, symbolizing the common wish for a world at peace.

**Student 2**

Peace Poles are marked with the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in at least four languages, standing in silent vigil for peace and acting as a reminder for all to think and act in the spirit of peace.

**Student 3 (Include only if school has visited the Canberra Rotary Peace Bell)**

During our school excursion to Canberra recently, we were fortunate to visit the Canberra Nara Peace Park and listen to stories about the park.

Each student was given the opportunity to ring the Canberra Rotary Peace Bell. It was a very moving experience and we reflected on what peace means for us and for our world.

**Student 4**

This Peace Pole stands as a constant reminder of the need for peace. Each year we hope that the school will continue to hold this annual ceremony at our Peace Pole. In doing so we join with the Canberra Rotary Peace Bell and the Cowra Australian World Peace Bell as messengers of Peace to all of Australia.

**Reflection**

**Student 5:**

**If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace between nations.**

# **Student 6:**

# **If there is to be peace between nations, there must be peace in the cities.**

# **Student 7:**

# **If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours.**

# **Student 8:**

# **If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home.**

# **Student 9:**

# **If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart**

**Student 10:**

These words were written by the Chinese philosopher Laozi over 2500 years ago. Laozi teaches that we should live a simple life that is filled with goodness and integrity. Even though he wrote this message thousands of years ago it is one that is very important and still valid for all of us today. These words were also used by the Rotary International President Herb Brown in 1995/1996 as part of his theme of Peace for his presidential year.

**Message for the International Day of Peace Ceremony from the Secretary General of the United Nations read by Rotarian?**

Rotarian from donating Rotary Club be invited to read the peace message

**The Peace Pole Message “May Peace Prevail on Earth”**

Four students each read one side of the Peace Pole, to be read in language as displayed on the Peace Pole

Student 11 Side One Language English

Student 12 Side Two Language 2

Student 13 Side Three Language 3

Student 14 Side Four Language 4

**National Anthem**

All sing the National Anthem to conclude the Peace Pole ceremony.

 **MC**

Thank you for participating in our ceremony today and a special thanks to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We are called to remember to always act from a place of Peace and Kindness.

May peace prevail on earth.