

A Special Thank You to All the Students Who Participated in our "I Have a Dream Essay Contest"

Following are the Winning Entries:

Student Name: Anna Greene
School: St Frances Cabrini School
Grade: 1st
City: San Jose

Martin Luther King Jr. - "I have a dream"
I have a dream that boys and girls can play together. I can make that happen by playing with them. I have a dream that people will stop littering. I have a dream that people will know about God. I can make that happen by telling them. I have a dream that there will be no more wars. I can make that happen by being everyone's friend. I have a dream that everyone will share. I can make that happen by myself.

Student Name: Edwin Parathara
School: St. John the Baptist Catholic School
Grade: 2nd
City: Milpitas

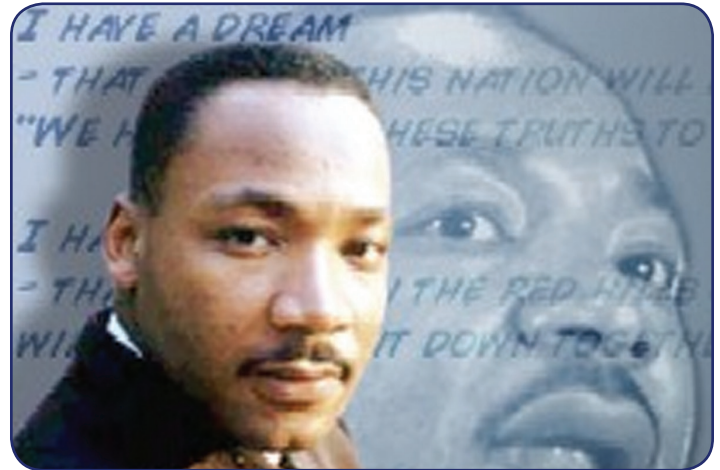
I can make the world better by thinking with my heart, not with my hands. I have dreams that I use my heart to think. I will not fight. I will try to make the Earth better. I wish all the countries could have peace on Earth, and unite as one world. I dream for a peaceful world. I hope everybody will be friends.

Student Name: Brenna McKinley
School: Holy Family School
Grade: 3rd
City: San Jose

I Have a Dream
I have a dream to make the earth a better place. I want to be a librarian in the future. I will help people learn to read. It is important to learn to read because there may be important things in the news. Maybe you had to learn about a subject in school. You would need to read information about that subject. Your brain does not just know the answer. You have to read about it to understand it sometimes. Reading is very important because of these reasons. You can get your imagination from reading. Imagination is important. Imagination is your dream.

Student Name: Alyssa Castro
School: St Mary School
Grade: 4th
City: Gilroy

I had a dream that everybody was treated equal and no one was judged by the color of his or her skin. I wish everybody could have freedom of religion, so they could either be Muslim, Buddhist, or Christian, or whatever they want to believe. I had another dream, that if you vote you could vote for anybody you want to be your leader. Part of my dream was that everybody got clean water when they needed to get water. I wish everybody could get all of the food they need and vitamins they need. I wish anybody could say whatever they want as long as they don't hurt anyone's feelings. That was my dream.



*"Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.
And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.*

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

~ Excerpt from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream Speech"

Student Name: Dominic Filice
School: St. Timothy
Grade: 6th
City: San Mateo

Many people in the world today have physical disabilities that keep them from living a full, active, happy life. They are often excluded, made fun of, teased, bullied, or ignored. This happens every day, in every country, city, and school. This makes me very sad.

When I think about how people with physical disabilities are treated, I want to remind others how lucky they are that they don't have a problem like a cleft palate or a missing limb. It is so easy to take your body and health for granted, and not realize what it might be like to walk in someone else's shoes who has a physical limitation.

I believe there are lots of things we can do to help this situation. One solution is to create clubs and organizations that bring people together, handicapped or not, based on a common interest. Some ideas would be a choir or a basketball team. This would help the people with physical disabilities feel included and accepted, and people without disabilities to realize how much like themselves handicapped people are. Another solution would be to create educational programs that would help share the challenges and accomplishments of the handicapped with those without disabilities. This would help others understand what it is like to be disabled. In conclusion, there is much we can do to build a bridge between people who are different from each other in terms of physical abilities. Everyone should be loved and respected for who they are.

Student Name: Julia Heil
School: St. John Vianney
Grade: 6th
City: San Jose
Whimsical Fantasies turned Powerful Realities

I had a dream;
When I was younger, I dreamt about
World peace. No wars. Simple things like that.
But then again, I wanted world peace as much as I wanted a pony.
In the world today, my vivid imagination about the
possibilities of peace
is crushed under the heavy weight of
discrimination, war, and violence.
It just takes one heart to change the minds of millions.
Though I may not know millions, or even hundreds of people,
one good deed can light up the world.
Children learn by example, so their role models must be
the teachers, the parents, and the good doers of the world.
An education to a child is like the air we breathe:
essential in every way.
Scary words like "global warming" and "pollution" are grave threats
to us.
Recycle, conserve energy, preserve fossil fuels.
These seem like giant leaps now, but our future generations will be
grateful later.
Keeping strong faith in our communities
Will help society stay strong through any curveballs life may throw at
us.
The world may not be perfect, but it will seem
brighter if we all can learn to respect and love one another.
Families can grow in love and tenderness,
always cherishing every God given moment
as though it were their last.
I wanted world peace. I wanted no wars.
I wanted a pony.
I wanted things that everyone wanted.
Things that were almost unrealistic.
My life has changed, and my wants have changed as well.
Now I want other things.
I want everyone in the world to love one another,
As though they are sister and brother.
I want respect to grow and hatred to end,
I want all the lonely people to find a friend.
I do want wars to stop, believe me that's the case,
But what I really want is for them to never start in the first place.
I want change.
I want change for the better.
I have a dream.
And its now, or never.

Student Name: Nicholas Loo
School: St. John Vianney
Grade: 8th
City: San Jose

Over time, stereotypes between religions have been made, and many people have discriminated and hurt others. It has been promoted by television, radio, Internet, newspaper, and by voice of word. People are being made fun of, and it isn't fair. Just because they believe in a certain God or in particular rituals, doesn't mean they are any different than us. We are all equal, and should be treated like we are all alike.

I have a dream that people of all religions can join together in peace, without conflicts about differences. I believe that our religion doesn't matter, but the faith we have in ourselves. Just because there are supposedly different gods we obey and follow for each religion, in the end we are all praising in the same faith. Even though each religion follows different rituals and laws, they are all derived from one. Religions may have their differences, but we shouldn't be made fun of because of what we believe in. Some rituals that people follow may be food rituals, and people taunt them for that. Some may be of going to certain places to pray and worship their God, and people ridicule them. This is very unfair and mean and I think something should happen to stop this.

I can help this problem by demoting discrimination of religion, and help out the troubled that feel down and sad because of this conflict. I can stop someone who is bullying a person of different religion, and try to create peace between all people. I can also promote religious peace between different groups of people and help them work out their problems. This is how I can help religious discrimination stop. Even though we believe in different things, we are still all equal, and that is my dream.

Student Name: Clare Smith
School: St. Lucy School
Grade: 8th
City: Campbell

I Have a Dream
Children are our future. If our future is damaged, what will become of our world? Just as African American people were being mistreated during the lifetime of Martin Luther King Jr., so are children of today. My dream is that children will be kept safe. I dream that children will not be abused verbally, physically or sexually.

Abused children may be changed for life. When verbally abused, their self-esteem is lowered. They will not believe in themselves or think that they are worth anything. This is also the same with physically and sexually abused children. They might also become violent or scared, as they grow older. Traits like these are harmful and need to be stopped.

There are many problems in the world such as this, but no problem can be fixed without a reason or a solution. So, a reason to fix this is that children are the future of our world. Also, they are vulnerable and cannot stop grown-ups from hurting them. This means that the rest of the community must help to protect them. There are many ways to do this. Teachers can pay special attention to young students, and we can make more foster homes for children to stay in.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once had a dream, I have one to eliminate child abuse of any kind from any place. I have a vision that families could live in healthier communities and raise their kids in a better way

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