

## KIDS-4-PEACE

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Director of Special Programs

The Kids4Peace programs at St. George's College Jerusalem have engaged children of three faiths in meaningful encounters since 2002. In the midst of the conflict in Israel and Palestine, the courageous Israeli and Palestinian families who join these programs are models of peacemaking and wisdom. They entrust themselves and their children to a dialogue process to bridge the chasms of fear and suspicion that divide the peoples of the Holy Land today.



Each year, Kids4Peace brings together one or more groups of Jewish, Christian and Muslim children between the ages of 10 and 12. Meeting each other for the first time, the children are guided by professional advisors and facilitators of the three faiths. Israeli and Palestinian staff work faithfully with kids from both sides of the conflict. Bonds of sustainable friendship are quickly formed.

In addition to a year-long dialogue process, the kids from Jerusalem and Galilee are treated to an adventure. In July and August, they travel to a summer camp in the USA or Canada, and there they are hosted by "Peace Pals" -- American and Canadian kids of three faiths who are eager to receive their new friends and learn about life as Jewish, Christian and Muslim kids in the Middle East.

This year, Kids4Peace enters its fifth year of intensive interfaith education. Two groups are forming, one in Jerusalem at St. George's College, under my direction, and with a marvelous team of interfaith advisors and kids. Another group is forming in Galilee, under

the direction of the Rev. Samuel Barhoum, who is responsible for Youth Ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. In both places, the kids and parents will learn about each other, what they share as Children of Abraham, and about the differences that make their faith traditions a unique part of their identity. Always, Kids4Peace staff guide the kids in respectful and healthy dialogue techniques.

We are immensely grateful to the generous hosting communities in the Kids4Peace Atlanta Chapter and the Kids4Peace Toronto Chapter, where so many kind donors have made these valuable encounter programs possible. We look forward to accompanying these kids as they learn from each other, and as they grow to become the leaders of tomorrow. Of course, our prayer and hope is that they will have the inter-cultural and inter-religious tools necessary to transcend the present conflict and create new realities of peace.

Check us out at Kids4Peace on the St. George's College website ([www.sgcjerusalem.org](http://www.sgcjerusalem.org)). If you are inspired to support our work, I invite you to contact me at [carse@stgeorges.org.il](mailto:carse@stgeorges.org.il).

SHALOM! SALAMAT! PEACE!

