



The Dream Flag Project

*"Bring me all of your dreams, you dreamers."
—Langston Hughes*

About The Dream Flag Project 2009-10

Fast Facts

- Original student dream poems and art on fabric.
- More than 40,000 student participants to date.
- 2008-09: 90 schools; 11,311 students; 641 teachers.
- 2008-09: Costa Rica, Kenya, Rwanda, Nepal, South Africa, 23 states of USA.
- Public, parochial, and independent schools.
- Started as 6th grade English class project; Run by 6th grade English teachers.
- Annual project. Free. To join: www.dreamflags.org . Click Join.
- Hosted by The Agnes Irwin School near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

What is The Dream Flag Project?

Inspired by the poetry of Langston Hughes and the tradition of Nepalese prayer flags, The Dream Flag Project is an annual poetry, art, and community-connection project for students aged 3-20. To date, students in 182 schools or groups, located 32 states of the USA and in 10 other countries, have created more than 40,000 Dream Flags.

To participate in the project, teachers register on the web site, www.dreamflags.org. Participation is free. Students often read poetry of Langston Hughes, particularly his dream poems. Then they create their own dream poems and transfer them to pieces of 8 ½ by 11 in. cloth (22x28cm.). They decorate the cloth in all sorts of ways, and finally attach the Dream Flags to a line—just like the prayer flags. The project's web site provides a continuously updated resource for teaching ideas, methods, and uses of materials, along with hundreds of poems and flags created by participants.

The project culminates every year in April when students connect their Dream Flag Lines in schools, at regional events, and on the Dream Flag Project web site. At Dream Flag Project Celebrations, students and schools from across the country share their poems and connect thousands of Dream Flags. A major celebration is held in Philadelphia at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

After the Dream Flag Project Celebrations, Dream Flags are exhibited where they will spread their messages of hope. This has included area hospitals, libraries, and a baseball stadium.

How did The Dream Flag Project start?

In the spring of 2003, sixth grade English classes at The Agnes Irwin School, a K-12 school for girls in the Philadelphia region, studied the dream poetry of Langston Hughes and then wrote their own dream poems. Inspired by a school assembly about Sir Edmund Hillary and the Sherpa people of Nepal, featuring photographs of Nepalese prayer flags, students printed their dream poems on cloth, decorated them with art, and connected them all to clotheslines—Dream Flag Lines.

The following year, Agnes Irwin sixth grade teachers Jeff Harlan and Sandy Crow invited other schools to join in. Twenty-six schools said yes. Thousands of students created Dream Flags, the Kimmel Center opened its doors for the project, hundreds of teachers gave time and energy to help students create and connect the flags, and The Dream Flag Project was born. Since that time, it has reached from Alaska to Florida and from Rwanda to Nepal. Each school has made the project its own, and each year brings new ideas and a stronger sense of connection across the miles.

Who runs The Dream Flag Project?

The project is hosted by The Agnes Irwin School where teachers Jeff Harlan and Sandy Crow facilitate participant support, sharing of ideas, and the annual Dream Flag Celebration. Dozens of teachers, parents, and community members volunteer their time to support the project.

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