



2013 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ART, WRITING, & MULTIMEDIA CONTEST

ANIRUDH VIJAYSHANKAR (8TH GRADE)

SOLON MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL – EUGENIA GREEN

TEACHER – SUSAN BERKLEY

“Love All, Serve All” is the saying of my beloved teacher Sri Sathya Sai Baba. That is what I endeavor to follow in each and every step of my life and it makes it that much easier to be a Drum Major for Peace, Justice and Righteousness in my school and community.

Peace – I try to see myself in everyone and treat them as I would expect to be treated. I would be patient and strive to be the very personification of such virtues, so that my conduct would speak more than my words. At school, I would form a committee to stop drugs, bullying and other forms of violence. As a leader of that committee, I would make posters with my teammates and raise awareness through public speeches and PowerPoint presentations of the ill effects of bullying and drugs. Even if I get discouraged, I will relentlessly work toward achieving my goal, as I strongly believe that love and the spirit of service are infectious. In my community, I would promote peace by putting on small plays to show the value of being united as a family. I feel that kids get into bullying and other forms of violence mainly due to lack of family support. I would continue to volunteer at the local church, home for the aged and the Cleveland Food Bank.

Justice – At school, I would make sure that my classmates are treated fairly and in turn, treat me fairly. If I see someone treated unfairly, I would help in finding the cause and involve my teachers in getting the issue resolved. Even if a person threatens me or call me a “tattletale”, I would continue undeterred based on my conviction that what I am doing is right. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”. As part of the global community, I consider the whole world as my family, see the oneness in all and treat everyone fairly and justly without any difference whatsoever.

Righteousness – I will follow my leaders, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. All of them exemplified unity in thought, word and deed, lived a morally upright life and practiced honesty, service and love for others. I practice honesty in whatever I do, even if the conditions require me to do otherwise. I will continue to help friends and work towards helping humanity at large, so that the world can become a much better place.

In the present times, peace, non-violence and selfless service are in short supply! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values-that our reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control.” I would emphasize and reiterate these values right from the family, to the school, community, state, nation and the world.

Drum Major Instinct

