



# 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing, & Multimedia Contest

**Margaret Wealer**  
**6th Grade Writing Winner**  
Dater Montessori, Cincinnati

Allison Wolff, Teacher  
Beth Schnell, Principal

I live in a very diverse neighborhood with people from all around the world. My next door neighbors are even Turkish and Vietnamese! My Turkish neighbor recently took his two year old daughter to Turkey and brought back a Turkish flag. It was bright red and it had a moon, a star, and a picture of a man on it, and he hung it on his front porch. Some of my neighbors decided to express their concern about the flag by posting a picture of their house on our local neighborhood website. The other neighbors responded instantly. They replied with things like, "We should be proud to live in a diverse neighborhood." Something that could have turned out negative turned out positive in the end. The comments were so uplifting that the person who posted the picture felt sorry.

After about a week, my neighbor found the post and explained to everyone what his flag meant. I learned that the man on the flag was named Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. He was the first president of Turkey and he transformed Turkey into a democratic nation. He even gave women civil rights. We also learned that his flag symbolized Turkey's Independence Day, which is in October. I learned that if you are concerned or curious about something that you don't understand, you should take the time to ask and learn about that topic.

In the future, I will personally ask my neighbor Kamil more about Turkey and his culture. My mother and I were thinking of having a party in the spring and let all of our neighbors get to know each other. I think that it's very important to accept people who are different into our community because you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. My neighbor was probably concerned because of all the scary things that are happening in our world, but she learned that Kamil's flag was representing a wonderful part of his nation. I am proud to live in a diverse community and am excited to learn more about other cultures.

## Beloved Community

