

NATIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

Empowering Students Across the Country to End School Violence
/ October 19-25, 2008 /

ABOUT SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK



According to the Centers for Disease Control, over **1 million students across America take a weapon to school each month**, and over 1.3 million students are injured or threatened with a weapon at school each year.

Together we can combat this growth by initiating a dialogue with students about weapons and violence in schools, and by encouraging them to take a stand against violence.

NATIONWIDE CREATIVE EXPRESSION CONTEST!

ABOUT THE CONTEST

The national Creative Expression Contest is designed for middle and high school students to convey their thoughts about the issue of school violence in America, and to also offer solutions.

HOW TO ENTER

Students can respond to one or more of the questions below in the form of an essay, song, rap, poem, drawing, painting or a computer-based design. Submissions can be any length or size.

- *Are you worried about violence and weapons in our nation's schools? If so, express your concerns, or describe an incident that bothered you.*
- *What can you and other students do to help prevent violence in schools?*
- *What can leaders do to get rid of weapons and to stop violence in our country's schools?*

Note: You can make copies of the Contest Form to hand out to students. The form provides the questions and the instructions to enter.

Submissions should be sent to:

Creative Writing Contest
PAX / Real Solutions to Gun Violence
100 Wall Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10005

You or your students can also email submissions to speakup@paxusa.org

PRIZES

- All contestants will receive a prize for participating.
- The chosen contestants will receive an iPod touch. Their school will also receive a School Safety Package worth \$2,500.

DEADLINE

Mail or email submissions by **Monday, October 27**, and the top entries will be announced on Monday, November 3.

MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.safeschoolsweek.org for additional classroom activities that will engage students about the subject of school violence prevention. We also have information for students on Facebook and MySpace under the name "Speak Up."
- Feel free to contact us with any questions at 212.269.4228 or speakup@paxusa.org.

/ **NATIONWIDE CREATIVE EXPRESSION CONTEST!** /

In recognition of Safe Schools Week, we would like to know what you think about violence and weapons in our nation's schools.

Respond to one or more of the questions below in the form of an **essay, song, rap, poem, drawing, painting or computer-based design**. Your entry can be any length or size. All contestants will receive a prize, and the chosen contestants will receive a **new iPod touch**.

- *Are you worried about weapons in our nation's schools? If so, express your concerns, or write about an incident that bothered you.*
- *What can you and other students do to help prevent violence in schools?*
- *What can leaders do to get rid of weapons and to stop violence in our country's schools?*

/ **TO ENTER** /

- **Send in your entry by Monday, October 27.** The top entries will be announced on Monday, November 3.
- Mail entries to:
Creative Expression Contest
PAX / Real Solutions to Gun Violence
100 Wall Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10005
Or
Email entries to speakup@paxusa.org
- Please include your name, grade level, the name of your school or after-school program, and the name of your teacher.

/ **JOIN THE CAUSE ONLINE** /

Join students across America to help end school violence!

- Add us as a friend on MySpace: www.myspace.com/speakup_pax
- Join our Facebook group by searching for **1-866-SPEAK-UP**
- Watch video messages from NFL stars
- The first new 100 friends/members will receive a **free t-shirt!**