

APRIL GENOCIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

IN RECOGNITION PALISADE PREP WILL BE ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES AND DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS. EVERY MORNING WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT A GLOBAL GENOCIDE. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US CAN PREVENT THESE ACTS OF ATROCITIES BY EMBRACING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND THROUGH RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WE CAN MAKE OUR WORLD A MORE PEACEFUL PLACE. WE ARE ENCOURAGING EACH AND EVERY STUDENT TO BE AN UPSTANDER.

An “**upstander**” is someone who recognizes when something is wrong and acts to make it right.

The UPstander Pledge

I am an UPstander.

I have the power to influence my peers.

I SAY something or DO something
when you need help.

I am there for you.

I will help you get the help you need.

You are not alone.

I have your back.



EACH WEEK WE WILL ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN A THEME...

Week of April 9th: Help someone this week: hold a door open, help pick up items someone may have accidentally dropped, help your teacher or fellow classmate, help our custodians by cleaning up after yourself or picking up litter around the halls or in the classroom...

Make someone smile..Say good morning, good afternoon, or just a simple hello with a smile to everyone you see, sit with someone new at lunch or in the classroom, write something kind on a post it and stick it on their locker or desk.

Week of April 16th: Say Thank You this week to anyone who may have helped you, thank your parents, thank your teachers, thank a custodian, thank any staff member who may have assisted you in solving a problem or situation, say thank you to a classmate who may have helped you with something, say thank you to a grandparent, aunt, uncle, say thank you to a police officer...

Week of April 23rd: Volunteer: give a little bit of your time this week by volunteering outside of school within the community ..soup kitchen, church, retirement home, tutoring, elementary school, or volunteer your time inside the building maybe you can help someone in the building during lunch or after school. Donating items to charity is also a great idea clothes, toys, books, food to the local food pantry

**Teachers are encouraged to drop names into a our recognition box of students performing acts of kindness using ticket **

Did you know:

The Armenian Genocide

Beginning in 1915, ethnic Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire were rounded up, deported and executed on orders of the government.

The combination of massacres, forced deportation marches and deaths due to disease in concentration camps is estimated to have killed more than 1 million ethnic Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks between 1915 and 1923.

The Greek Genocide

The *Greek Genocide* (or *Ottoman Greek Genocide*) refers to the systematic extermination of the native Greek subjects of the Ottoman Empire before, during and after World War I (1914-1923). It was instigated by two successive governments of the Ottoman Empire; the *Committee of Union and Progress Party (C.U.P)*, and the Turkish Nationalist Movement of *Mustafa Kemal Atatürk*. It included massacres, forced deportations and death marches, summary expulsions, boycotts, rape, forced conversion to Islam, conscription into labor battalions, arbitrary executions, and destruction of Christian Orthodox cultural, historical and religious monuments. According to various sources, approximately 1 million Ottoman Greeks perished during this period.

The Holocaust

After coming to power in 1933, Germany's Nazi Party implemented a highly organized strategy of persecution, murder and genocide aimed at ethnically "purifying" Germany, a plan Hitler called the "Final Solution".

Six million Jews and five million Slavs, Roma, disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and political and religious dissidents were killed during the Holocaust.

Cambodia Genocide

When the Khmer Rouge took control of the Cambodian government in 1975 they began a "re-education" campaign targeting political dissidents.

These citizens, including doctors, teachers and students suspected of receiving education were singled out for torture at the notorious Tuol Sleng prison.

In the four years after they took power, between 1.7 and 2 million Cambodians died in the Khmer Rouge's "Killing Fields."

Rwanda Genocide

Civil war broke out in Rwanda in 1990, exacerbating tensions between the Tutsi minority and Hutu majority.

In 1994, returning from a round of talks, Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed when his plane was shot down outside of the country's capital, Kigali. Habyarimana's death provided the spark for an organized campaign of violence against Tutsi and moderate Hutu civilians across the country.

Bosnian Genocide

Beginning in 1991, Yugoslavia began to break up along ethnic lines. When the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia) declared independence in 1992 the region quickly became the central theater of fighting. The Serbs targeted Bosniaks also known as Bosnian Muslims and Croatian civilians in areas under their control in a campaign of ethnic cleansing. The war in Bosnia claimed the lives of an estimated 100,000 people. It was the largest massacre in Europe since the Holocaust.

Darfur Genocide

Over a decade ago the Government of Sudan carried out genocide against Darfuri civilians, murdering 300,000 & displacing over 2 million people. In addition to the ongoing crisis in Darfur, forces under the command of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir have carried out attacks against civilians in the disputed Abyei territory, and the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Atrocities Against Native Americans

For hundreds of years a mixture of colonial conflict, disease, specific atrocities and policies of discrimination has devastated the Native American population. In the course of this time, it is estimated that over nine million Natives died from violent conflict or disease. For too long this history has been under-recognized and too little discussed.

Today there are over 500 Native American tribes in the United States, each with a distinct culture, way of life and history. Even today, Native Americans face large challenges to cope with the disadvantages history has left them and ongoing cases of discrimination.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh emerged as a secular democracy in 1971 after a bloody independence war from Pakistan that was marked by mass killings by the Pakistani army and its collaborators. This history of mass killings continue to influence political dynamics today, which are becoming increasingly polarized between the two main political parties: the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Myanmar (Burma)

Burma's Muslim Rohingya minority has faced severe discrimination and persecution, escalating violence, forced statelessness, and myriad restrictions at the hands of the Myanmar Buddhist Majority state or government. A state sponsored ethnic cleansing has displaced 620,000 Rohingya.

Central African Republic

What began in 2013 as political violence initiated by rebel groups opposing the government of the Central African Republic has taken on a religious dimension, and groups and individuals are now being targeted because of their Christian or Muslim identity. The violence began when a predominantly Muslim coalition of rebels called the Seleka swept to power in 2013 after killing and burning their way through this majority Christian country. Mostly Christian groups known as the anti-balaka formed to fight back. Many of the armed groups subsequently splintered. The Seleka rulers were eventually replaced by an interim government, and a former prime minister, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, became president last year in what many saw as a sign of progress.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Over the last two decades, more than five million civilians have died in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a succession of complex wars and conflicts. Most have died from preventable diseases as a result of the collapse of infrastructure, lack of food and health care, and displacement.

Iraq

In the summer of 2014, the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) conducted a violent campaign against civilians in northern Iraq, targeting in particular ethnic and religious minorities. The violence forcibly displaced more than 800,000 people and resulted in the deaths of hundreds, if not thousands, of civilians. The Museum's findings also indicate IS has been and is perpetrating genocide against the Yezidi people.

Rwanda

In just 100 days, from April to July 1994, between 500,000 and one million Rwandans, predominantly Tutsis, were massacred when a Hutu extremist-led government launched a plan to wipe out the country's entire Tutsi minority and any others who opposed their policies.

South Sudan

In July 2011, South Sudan became the world's newest country after its citizens voted for independence from Sudan. The country faces great challenges as it seeks to build its democratic institutions, overcome a history of internal conflict based on ethnicity, and resolve ongoing tensions with Sudan over the region's oil resources

Sudan

Since the 1950s, the Arab-dominated government of Sudan has tried to impose its control on African minorities on the country's periphery. More than 2.5 million civilians have been killed in a succession of brutal conflicts—between north and south, in Darfur in the west, and in other regions.

Syria

The Syrian crisis began in early 2011 when Syrian President Bashar al-Assad began a brutal crackdown on growing peaceful protests throughout the country. With the use of tanks, attack helicopters, and artillery against protesters and the torture and execution of children, protests spread and opposition groups took up arms. The attacks and counter-attacks escalated into a full-fledged civil war between the Assad regime with allied militias and an array of opposition groups. Since its outbreak, the conflict in Syria has cost the lives of nearly 500,000 people, displaced millions more, and involved numerous atrocities and crimes against humanity. On March 15, the Syrian civil war entered its eighth year. Meanwhile, more than 465,000 Syrians have been killed in the fighting, over a million injured, and over 12 million - half the country's prewar population - have been displaced from their homes.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's ruling party has used mass atrocities against civilians to repress political opponents and consolidate power since the country gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1980. Robert Mugabe, the country's ex-president is responsible for the mass killings of tens of thousands of people who were thought to be against his 37 year rule.

