



# talking piece

April 2015

## Hello Spring

### PiRI Vision

We envision a community in which restorative principles and values are known, respected and utilized to build relationships, repair harm, and strengthen communities.

### PiRI Mission

Partners in Restorative Initiatives works to implement restorative practices in schools, communities and the justice system through advocacy, education, training and facilitation.

Well Spring break for schools has past and that should mean that spring is on its way even if it is difficult to tell in upstate NY. I know time is moving forward because I feel the days passing as I go through the college selection process for the first time with my oldest child; visitations, searching for scholarships and deadlines looming, Oh My.

At Partners in Restorative Practices (PiRI) spring is a time of planning and scheduling trainings for the schools we are collaborating with. It looks like we will be very busy over the summer months. It is encouraging to have surrounding school districts looking into restorative practices.

Other areas where PiRI is working to include restorative practices in our community continues with the Rochester Restorative Youth Diversion committee. Organizations that meet together for this committee include RPD-FACIT, The Children's Agenda, Probation and PiRI. Additionally, Ed Minardo, PiRI Board Vice President, Gary Horton, NYS Public Defender's Association and Sara Reckess, Center for Court Innovations are continuing their efforts to create a restorative circle program for veterans coming into conflict with the law.

Making lasting positive changes to any organization's climate requires consistent hard work. Let's share what we know and our experiences with others to build support for these programs.

Michelle Woodworth, Office Manager

## Using Academic Peace Circles in the Classroom

Avon Central School District High School teacher Cordula Kennell has been using modified Peace Circles in her classroom for several years. She has presented during summer professional development days at Avon as well as at Partners in Restorative Initiatives and at schools in the surrounding area. Her focus on Academic Peace Circles allows her to benefit from Restorative Practices without sacrificing time spent on curriculum. She has used circles to discuss literature, create texts, diagnose prior knowledge, review for assessments, and teach new material. In her Creative Writing class the students sometimes write a story in "circle" as pictured here. Each student receives a paper with the first line of a famous novel. Their task is to add on the sentence for 2 minutes. When the buzzer goes off, students hand the story to their right, read the next story and add on to that for 2 minutes. By the end of class they will have written 15 collaborative narratives. As with any Academic Peace Circle, all students are a part of the discussion and get a chance to share their perspective.



By Cordula Kennell

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# Now is the time to be trained in Restorative Practices

*Unless otherwise stated, all trainings are located at the Rochester Mennonite Fellowship church, 111 Hillside Ave Rochester NY 14610. The fee, is \$100/day and includes a light breakfast, lunch, snacks and all materials.*

## April 27

### *1 Day Peace Circle Training*

Introduction to Peace Circles which provides the basic information needed to begin facilitating and implementing the Peace Circle process.

8:30-4:30 pm.

## May 18

### *1 Day Restorative Practices Overview*

Part of the training will include the fundamentals of the circle process and the experience of actually being in a circle, and then a discussion of the principals of restorative practices with an explanation of the justice portion as it pertains to serious offenses, as well as practical applications for the school setting,

8:30-4:30 pm

## June 8 & 15

### *2 Day Restorative Transition Circle Training*

Training in a process to reintegrate people back into a community after having been absent for a period of time. Transition circles are designed to bring together those in transition from incarceration, addiction treatment or school suspension with their loved ones, supporters and other stakeholders. The focus of the circle is to repair relationships and develop a transition/re-entry plan. These circles can be modified for any circumstance where there is a need to reenter a community.

8:30-4:30 pm.

## July 9 & 10

### *Restorative Discipline Training*

**Day 1 will be our Introduction to Peace Circle Training.** The peacemaking circle brings people together for conflict resolution, healing, support, celebration, decision making or other activities in which honest communications, relationship development and community building are core desired outcomes.

**Day 2 will be training in Restorative Discipline\*.** Participants will learn how to use the circle process to facilitate conflict circles, how to use a brief restorative conversation to address an issue quickly and using the fishbowl process for solving problems. We will also role play a community conference and take some time to see what is happening around the country in other schools.

8:30-4:30 pm each day

\*Attendance in a 1-Day Peace Circle Training is a prerequisite for the Restorative Discipline Training. If you have already taken our 1-day peace circle training you have the option of registering for just the restorative discipline training day.

## What We Value

### HONESTY

Each person in a circle is given the opportunity to speak honestly while staying true to his or her own self and others

*More Dates on Next Page*

## July 14 & 16

### 3 Day Peace Circle Training

Involves learning how to facilitate Peace Circles through extensive experiential learning. Participants gain in-depth knowledge of the elements (history and structure) of the circle process and the variety of purposes for which circles can be used. Participants will practice what they have learned by planning and facilitating a circle. 8:30-4:30 pm.

## July 29

### 1 Day Peace Circle Training

Introduction to Peace Circles which provides the basic information needed to begin facilitating and implementing the Peace Circle process.  
8:30-4:30 pm.

## August 4

### 1 Day Peace Circle Training

Introduction to Peace Circles which provides the basic information needed to begin facilitating and implementing the Peace Circle process.  
8:30-4:30 pm.

## August 10–12

### 3 Day Peace Circle Training

Involves learning how to facilitate Peace Circles through extensive experiential learning. Participants gain in-depth knowledge of the elements (history and structure) of the circle process and the variety of purposes for which circles can be used. Participants will practice what they have learned by planning and facilitating a circle.  
8:30-4:30 pm.

## August 19

### Restorative Discipline Training

Participants will learn how to use the circle process to facilitate conflict circles, how to use a brief restorative conversation to address an issue quickly and using the fishbowl process for solving problems. We will also role play a community conference and take some time to see what is happening around the country in other schools.  
8:30-4:30 pm.

\* 1-Day Peace Circle Training is a prerequisite for the restorative discipline training.

To register for any of our trainings please log on [www.pirirochester.org](http://www.pirirochester.org) and select the training you are interested in under the Events tab.

### Take Action

You can support Partners in Restorative Initiatives in working toward a restorative community with your donation. Please see our website to donate via Pay Pal, or send directly to our address, or contribute through United Way.



**LIVE UNITED** 

PiRI Designation Number  
2486

# Francis Parker School No. 23

By Jeanne Carlivati



Several weeks ago, Barb Dunn, the Assistant Principal for Francis Parker School No. 23, voiced a concern that two of the 5th grade classes in her building were experiencing some issues with bullying and the general sense that some of the students were being mean to each other. Jeanne Carlivati agreed to go in and run a circle in each class. In each circle were all the students from the class, the Assistant Principal, the classroom teacher and the school social worker. After the use of the talking piece was discussed, each circle member was asked to think of several qualities that they already possess when they are practicing being their best selves. Words like respectful, patient, kind, caring, helpful and trustworthy were stated. Everyone agreed that during the next hour that we were spending together, all of us would work hard to be our best.

The first round asked everyone to introduce them-self and share something that they liked to do in their free time. The 2nd round asked everyone to talk about what their family looked like in terms of who they lived with and how they liked their spot in the family. They also were asked to choose a member of their family that they admired and why. Participants talked about parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, ministers and friends of the family. They were able to make connections with each other because of things that were shared.

The next round was to talk about what the class looks like when everything is going well. Again comments included things like "everyone gets along, students are quiet and doing their work, people are helping each other, we are having fun and the teacher is calm". The next round asked about the challenges which included all the opposites of the previous round, along with students are lying and taking things that don't belong to them. To close the circle, each person stated one thing that they agree to do to make the class better. All of the suggestions were captured in written form and shared with the class. It has only been a short time since the circles but both circles seem to be making a difference.

## What We Value

### LISTENING

We encourage people to listen well and make a genuine effort to hear each persons story

### CONFIDENTIALITY

We demonstrate mutual trust in a circle by keeping what is shared confidential and by not sharing information learned in the circle

### April Quote

Wherever a story comes from, whether it is a familiar myth or a private memory, the retelling exemplifies the making of a connection from one pattern to another.

- Mary Catherine Bateson



Partners in Restorative Initiatives  
2014 Annual Report is now available  
At our website  
[Www.pirochester.org](http://Www.pirochester.org)

## Our Calendar

### Looking forward...

- April 14 Peace Circle Training for Northwest Frederick Douglass Campus 9th grade students
- April 16 Staff Circle at Churchville Chili School
- April 17 One day Restorative Practices Workshop at Monroe 2—Orleans BOCES
- April 27 One Day Peace Circle Training at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- April 30 Restorative Practices Training for Enrico Fermi School No 17
- May 1 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- May 18 Restorative Practices Overview at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm – open for registration
- June 8 & 15 Two day Restorative Transition Circle Training at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm each day – open for registration
- June 29 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- June 30 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- July 1 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- July 14–16 Three Day Peace Circle Training at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm each day – open for registration
- July 9-10 Two Day Restorative Discipline Training at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm each day – open for registration
- July 21-23 Three Day Peace Circle Training for Francis Parker School No 23 at PiRI
- July 29 One Day Peace Circle Training at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm – open for registration
- August 4 One Day Peace Circle Training at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm – open for registration
- August 6 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- August 7 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- August 10–12 Three Day Peace Circle Training for East High at PiRI – open for **limited** registration
- August 14 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- August 17 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- August 18 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School
- August 19 One Day Restorative Discipline Training at PiRI, 8:30 am-4:30 pm – open for registration
- August 19 Restorative Practices Training for East High at The Warner School

***talking piece*** is the monthly newsletter of Partners in Restorative Initiatives. A talking piece is used in Peace Circles to create a space for each person to talk and for others to listen.

Send mailing updates, corrections and submissions to:  
PiRI, 111 Hillside Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610  
or email: [office@pirochester.org](mailto:office@pirochester.org)

Archives at [www.pirochester.org](http://www.pirochester.org)

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## talking piece

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email [office@pirochester.org](mailto:office@pirochester.org)  
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