

January 9–15, 2005

GREEN/GETTY IMAGES



Students pass through a metal detector as they enter school. Have such security measures led to a drop in violence at schools across the country?

► This Week's Focus:

Is Your School Safer?

In this week's guide, we focus on the decline in school violence. Are schools really getting safer? And what can students do to ensure this trend continues? Elsewhere in the guide, we celebrate Martin Luther King Day (January 17). How are your students honoring his legacy? In addition to a lesson plan, we offer a timeline of Dr. King's life. Finally, we turn to bird feeding and offer tips on how students can bring a bit of nature into their own backyards.

Everyday Newspaper Activity

Activity #19: National and local news: Ask a group of students to write down the national headlines for several days while other students record the local ones. Are the two related? Are some local trends going national? Is national news influencing your area? How do the decisions of Congress and the President affect your city?

Coming Up Next Week

- The Inauguration
- Girls on Boys' Teams
- Saving the Sequoias

► **In the News:**
Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.; Are Schools Safer? p.2

► **In PARADE: Bringing Birds to the Window p.3**

► **Skills Sheets: Stopping School Violence p.4; Martin Luther King Jr. Timeline p.5**

Martin Luther King Day

Curriculum links: Social studies, African-American history, critical thinking

Briefing: The nation celebrates Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 17 this year. (His actual birthday is Jan. 15.) King was the foremost civil rights leader in U.S. history. He started the Southern Christian Leadership conference, adapted Gandhi's passive resistance techniques to the civil rights movement, led protests, inspired millions with his speeches and went to jail for his beliefs. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and was assassinated in 1968 (see p. 5).

Newspaper activity: Does the newspaper have any special articles in honor of Martin Luther King Day? If you were the editor, how would you commemorate this day?

Resources: Books: James Haskins' *I Have a Dream* (Millbrook, 1992), *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.* (Warner, 1998), *I Have a Dream: Writing and Speeches That Changed the World* (Harper, 1992) and Demi's *Gandhi* (Margaret McElderry, 2001). Web sites: Visit the King Center. Learn more from Information Please and Fact Monster. Download a free book on continuing Dr. King's legacy.*

Classroom Debates

- **King said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."** Through what service activity can you celebrate his birthday?
- **King advocated passive resistance and non-violence.** Was this method effective? What were the pros and cons? Is violence ever the right solution? If King were alive today, what would he think about race relations in the U.S.? In your town? In your school? Are leaders today carrying on King's legacy?
- **King is the only American besides George Washington to have a national holiday for his birthday.** Why was this holiday created? Was it a good idea? What other Americans would you honor this way?

Are Schools Safer?

Curriculum links: School safety, current events, health, personal development, social studies

Briefing: Is school getting safer? A recent survey from the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics says it is. The report covers the period from 1992 to 2002. It shows that there were 24 crimes of robbery, assault and sexual assault for every 1000 students in that decade. That may not sound so great until you realize that things were twice that bad (48 per 1000) 10 years before. But wait! Doesn't the report include the 1999 Columbine massacre? Actually, it does. And many experts say that school responses to that tragedy have helped to bring down the crime rate further. Schools have hired security guards and installed metal detectors. And perhaps more successfully, experts say, they have started "soft" violence-prevention measures. These include anti-bullying programs and counseling. Other experts complain that the study data is already outdated and under-reports violence by relying on self-reporting. Regardless, despite a declining crime rate in the country in general, you're safer in school than outside of it. In 2002, the report found, there were 659,000 violent crimes involving students at school. There were 720,000 off school property.

Media activity: Ask students to keep a log of the violence they see in news stories, on television, and in the movies (include music videos, song lyrics and advertisements). Do they think that viewing violence incites it? Why or why not? What could the media do to discourage violence?

Resources: Books: Bryan Grapes's *School Violence* (Greenhaven, 2000) and Sheila Klee's *Working Together Against School Violence* (Rosen, 1996). Web sites: Read a summary of the Justice Dept. report and a related CDC report. Or read analysis of current trends from the Christian Science Monitor, CNN and others.*

Classroom Debates

- **Is your school safe?** Why or why not? What has your school done to make things safer? What can you do, either individually or as part of a group? Would you sign a pledge against violence (www.pledge.org) or join an anti-school-violence group (www.nationalsave.org)? Why or why not? Some school violence is a result of students striking back after being tormented or bullied. What is the social atmosphere at your school? How can it be improved? If you were told of potential violence, would you tell a responsible adult? Why or why not?

*Visit www.paradeclassroom.com/links for links to all mentioned Web sites.

Birds at the Window

Curriculum links: Science and nature, biology, environmental studies, family and consumer science

Briefing: Would you like to attract birds to your yard or watch them as they lunch at a feeder? You're not alone. More than 52 million Americans share this interest, say animal experts Sarah Wilson and Brian Kilcommons, who give tips on bird feeding in this week's PARADE. The first step is to choose a good spot for your feeder. A sunny spot is best out of the prevailing winds and near a thicket of shrubbery or small trees with a good view from the house. And no cats outdoors! If you want to attract a wide variety of birds, use different levels of feeders spaced out around the yard. What should you serve? Most birds like small, black oil-type sunflower seeds. Hulled sunflower seeds are more expensive but create less mess. To find out what particular species like to eat, contact your state's Audubon center or chapter. Also, keep the area clean. Soak feeders in a bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water) every month or so. Unfortunately, other animals, from squirrels to bears, are attracted to bird feeders. If bears are in your area, take feeders down from March to November. You can try thwarting squirrels with "squirrel-proof" feeders, or put your feeder on a pole at least 10-12 feet from any tree. Then add a metal baffle below the feeder.

Classroom Debates

- **What birds can be found in your area?** Have you ever had a bird feeder? If so, what types of birds did you attract? How do the feeders help the birds? What do they offer humans? What problems can bird feeders cause? How can you solve them? Why is it important to keep cats indoors if you have a feeder? Would you consider joining Cornell's Project FeederWatch and reporting what you see at your feeder? What else can you do to bring nature into your backyard?

Newspaper activity: Imagine that you are a newspaper editor who wants to include an article about birds in your paper. What would you print? What would the piece be about? What form would it take? Would it be a one-time article or a series? For example, you could publish a chart on bird migration patterns in your area, a weekly column on different types of local birds, an interview with a bird-watcher, etc. Scan the paper for a week. What news events might affect birds (i.e. an oil spill, pesticide sprayings, etc.).

Resources: Books: Erica Dunn's *Birds at Your Feeder* (Norton, 2001), Margaret Barker's *The FeederWatcher's Guide to Bird Feeding* (HarperResource, 2000) and Sally Roth's *The Backyard Bird Feeder's Bible* (Rodale, 2000). Web sites: Join Cornell's Project FeederWatch and send your bird feeder data to scientists. Get feeder advice from the Audubon Society or the Baltimore Bird Club.*

ASK MARILYN

Logic Teaser

Question: For a final exam, the teacher gives out a list of 19 items to study. He will pick 8 for the actual exam. You will have to answer 5 of the 8 questions. How many items do you need to study to be certain to know at least 5 out of the 8 questions?

Answer: You'll need to study at least 16 items. That way, even if your teacher chooses all 3 of the items you have not studied, you'll still know 5 of the 8 items on the test.

Interact: Do students have questions or comments for Marilyn? Send them to Ask Marilyn, 711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, or e-mail marilyn@parade.com.

FRESH VOICES

Moving

For class discussion or writing assignment: Lindsay, 14, has already lived in five different states. It hurts her to leave people behind. But she can't imagine her life without having met all the different people in all these places. Have you moved? What was it like? How did you feel about it? Are you happy or unhappy that you did it?

Interact: Ask students, "What's the hardest decision you've had to make? Why?" Send students' comments to Fresh Voices, Box 5103, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-5103. Or send e-mail to freshvoices@parade.com. Students whose letters are published in PARADE will receive Fresh Voices T-shirts.

Answer Key:

Stopping School

Violence p. 4:

Answers will vary.

Martin Luther King

Timeline p. 5:

1. 1/15/29;
2. Montgomery, Ala.;
3. 1948; 4. 15 years;
5. 1963; 6. 1963, 1965;
7. 1963 in Birmingham;
8. He was jailed in Selma, Ala.;
9. He founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;
10. 2 years;
11. 1955;
12. 18 years.

Stopping School Violence

School violence may be declining, but sometimes it still breaks out. What can you do to reduce school violence further and make school safer? As an individual? As part of a group? What can your school do? What can the state or federal government do? Take time to brainstorm. Then discuss the answers in class.

1. What can you do as an individual to help prevent school violence? Come up with at least three ideas.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. What could you do to help stop school violence as part of a group (i.e. create an organization such as Students Against Violence Everywhere)? Write down three ideas below.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3. If you were a teacher, what would you do to help prevent school violence?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

4. If you were the principal, what three policies would you implement right now to reduce the potential of violence?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

5. What else could your school do?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

6. If you were the parent of a teenager, what could you do?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

7. If you were a member of the media, what steps would you take to prevent school violence?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

8. What laws should Congress pass to help prevent school violence?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

9. What should the President do to help stop school violence?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

10. Who else should be involved in an anti-school-violence campaign? What steps could they take?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

The Life of Martin Luther King Jr.

This timeline shows some important events in Martin Luther King's life. Study it carefully. Then see if you can answer the questions below.

- 1929 Born Jan. 15 in Atlanta, Ga.**
- 1948 Graduates from Morehouse College**
- 1953 Marries Coretta Scott**
- 1954 Begins preaching in Montgomery, Ala.**
- 1955 Finishes his Ph.D. in theology**
- 1956 House is bombed**
- 1957 Helps to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference**
- 1958 Publishes first book**
- 1959 Visits India**
- 1960 Becomes pastor in Atlanta, Ga.**
- 1962 Urges President Kennedy to support civil rights**
- 1963 Is arrested for civil rights protests in Birmingham, Ala.; writes influential "Letter from Birmingham Jail"; leads March on Washington**
- 1964 Wins Nobel Peace Prize**
- 1965 Is jailed in Selma, Ala., for voter registration protests**
- 1968 Is assassinated by James Earl Ray**
- 1986 Nation first celebrates Martin Luther King Day**

1. On what day was Martin Luther King Jr. born?

2. Where did he preach in 1954?

3. In what year did he graduate from college?

4. King was still married to Coretta Scott King when he died. How long were they married?

5. King delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech during the March on Washington. In what year was this?

6. The timeline mentions two occasions on which King served jail time. When were they?

7. On which of these occasions did King write an influential letter?

8. What happened the year after King won the Nobel Peace Prize?

9. What important event happened in 1957?

10. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 addressed much of the discrimination that Blacks faced in voting, particularly in the South. How long after the March on Washington was it passed?

11. King was called "Dr." because of his Ph.D. When did he finish it?

12. How long after King's death was a holiday created to remember him?
