

Values for living, not just for learning



Cooperation, Freedom, Happiness, Honesty, Humility, Love, Peace, Respect, Responsibility, Simplicity, Tolerance, and Unity:

How aware are we of these 12 values? And more importantly, what can we do to make them a significant part of our classrooms?

Living Values in Education (LVE) is a group whose aim is to help educators from all fields become more aware of these values within themselves and society as a whole in order to promote them in the classroom. According to its mission statement, LVE provides guiding principles and tools for the development of the whole person, recognizing that the individual is comprised of physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual dimensions. This applies to the teachers as well as their students.

LVE grew out of a project started in 1995 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and focused on 12 universal values related to human rights. LVE is now in use in 74

By Theresa Portell

countries at over 7000 sites. Modules are available not only for parents/caretakers and educators, but also for those working with refugees, children affected by war or natural disaster and homeless children. Feedback from schools around the world has been very positive with teachers reporting a decrease in aggression as well as an increase in motivation and more positive interpersonal skills leading to better problem solving and cooperation among students.

LVE activities and workshops have been conducted in Greece by Sue Emery dating back to 1998. The legal Greek association with full articles of incorporation ("Somateio Aksies Zois tin Ekpaidevsi") was established in 2006. Initial educator training was held in March 2007 in Pireaus. This was followed by a workshop on June 2, 2007, again conducted by Sue Emery,

the topic of which was "Self Respect and the Educator". The first issue of the LVE newsletter was also distributed.

Monthly meetings were subsequently held from October through December 2007 at Compendium Bookstore in Athens on the following topics: Freedom, Cooperation and Respect. These sessions were led by members of the Athens group. These workshops are held in a warm, supportive atmosphere that encourages the participation of all who attend. Participants work together in pairs or small groups using discussion, word association, guided visualization, song and movement, even drawing to bring their personal insight and feelings to the group as a whole. Many of these activities apply easily in the classroom setting, no matter the age range of the group. Those who attend leave with a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration to carry not only into the classroom, but also into their personal lives and relation-

ships. As of Jan 2008 LVE in Athens will have a new "home" at The Window of Child Education bookshop. Workshops are currently planned through May 2008 on topics ranging from **Love & Responsibility to Happiness & Unity**.

Meetings have also been held regularly in Crete led by Maria Deligianni and Yiannis Remediakis, as well as in Thessaloniki led by Ioanna Vougiouka.

There are materials for ages ranging from 3-7, 8-14 and young adults, as well as guides for educator trainers and parent group facilitators. These are currently available in English with translation into Greek a goal for the near future. Introductory materials are also available in PDF format for downloading, as well as a detailed history of LVE both in Greece and abroad. A complete schedule of dates, times and the location for upcoming sessions can also be found. Visit the website at www.livingvalues.net. We hope to see many new people at this year's meetings.