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Office of the Associate to the Superintendent

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Local Elementary School set to Host Peace Conference

Tucson, AZ -- Harelson Elementary School will be holding its 9th annual Peace Conference tomorrow, October 22nd and a Unity Rally Friday October 24th. In conjunction with the YWCA's Week Without Violence, twelve elementary schools from across the Amphi District as well as one from the Flowing Wells School District will participate in group collaboration and discussions about reducing violence and harassment. On Wednesday, the students will participate in small group discussions about rumor spreading, bullying, taunting, gossiping, doing the right thing, cyber bullying and the laws concerning such activities.

Wednesday's activities will culminate with a dove and balloon release, where a dove representing each school will be released into the air along with a balloon representing each participating student. The small group discussions will be facilitated by members of the CDO LINKS crew. The LIKS crew at CDO is a group of upper class (Juniors and Seniors) "mentors" who help to ease the transition from middle school to high school.

On Friday, several schools will return to Harelson Elementary School for the Unity Rally. At the Unity Rally the advanced Choir from Cross Middle School will entertain the students with songs about peace and the participants will hear from a student speaker as well as former Olympic Medalist, LaTanya Sheffield who will speak about teamwork. Upon the close of the assembly, the students will head outside to create a "secret" formation that will be photographed by a helicopter flying by overhead.

"These are events that our students, staff and I look forward to each year. They are days that bring students from all over Tucson together with one purpose – peace. The students always walk away from these days with a sense of accomplishment and a drive to make their schools and their lives more peaceful, understanding and accepting," says Andy Heinemann, Principal, Harelson Elementary School. "It is important to note that none of this could be accomplished without the community support that we receive each year. Our sponsors are what make this day possible and for that we thank them."

Harelson Elementary School is one of the 22 schools and programs in the Amphitheater School District which covers approximately 110 square miles and provides a high-quality education to over 16,000 students in Northwest Tucson and Oro Valley.

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