

# 4 WRITING PEACE

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This year Saint Michael Catholic High School in Niagara Falls revolutionized the literary scene by hosting its very own online magazine. Writers4Peace at [www.writers4peace.com](http://www.writers4peace.com) is an online literary journal devoted to publishing creative writing, music, essays, visual art and photography addressing social justice issues that are relevant to the sustenance of human rights. Writers4Peace is a group of creative thinkers, poets, writers, teachers, students, editors, lyricists, photographers, artists and social activists from Saint Michael Catholic H.S. and beyond. We are intent on offering visual voices to those drowned out by the mainstream media or those often ignored by political agendas. Our goal is simple; to reach hearts, souls and minds with the human touch of language.

*The beauty of this project is that it is at once relevant in its motive, but also aesthetic in its approach. Seeing world issues and social justice issues through the kaleidoscope of creative writing offers a new, humanistic angle to the issues. More importantly, [writers4peace.com](http://writers4peace.com) will offer students, writers, artists and musicians the appropriate outlet to voice their concerns in a creative forum.*

The site, in its test form, was unveiled before Christmas 2008, while the official launch of the first issue took place on May 28, 2009 during Arts Week, in conjunction with the school's Art Showcase and Film Festival. Since its initial promotion, submissions have been flooding in, inspiring Writers4Peace to grow in its infrastructure. The team now includes specific section editors, promotion managers and of course, its valued contributors; the majority of which are students.

Dean Serravalle sees even greater opportunities ahead for [writers4peace.com](http://writers4peace.com).

*I would like to see the site eventually sponsor events that draw attention to these global issues. In addition, we would like to stage future writing contests that will be directed towards charity initiatives. What makes this project so unique is the innovation of the site combined with the traditional artistic approach. The site includes the conveniences of the internet and technology, with the feel of an old scrapbook or leather bound anthology book. It has room to grow and become a new global phenomenon that reaches other people in a fresh, educational format.*

When asked if we could look forward to anything written by him on Writers4Peace, Mr. Serravalle replied,

*I have already published a number of stories with social justice issues in mind. I have an affinity for this style of writing/music/photography and it is open for students and the public. However, if someone pinched me enough I might - maybe in special issues.*

With that said, [writers4peace.com](http://writers4peace.com) sees a bright future ahead that will launch the careers of many writers but at the same time educate the reading public of issues that are otherwise relegated to a singular, often negative, point of view. In addition, in the ever-competitive world of university programs and entrance scholarships, [writers4peace.com](http://writers4peace.com) will provide students with the opportunity to gain publication credits alongside credibility in the literary world. Most of all, [writers4peace.com](http://writers4peace.com) will provide a megaphone for student voices who are bursting with opinion and the noise of good intentions. With social justice issues in our minds and language in our pockets, the time has come for us to write for peace.



The journal itself is produced by students and teachers. We will publish work written by students alongside prestigious writers with the goal of promoting social justice issues in need of fresh new perspectives. Submissions are also open to the public with the condition that the work reflects the importance of finding justice in an issue challenging human rights. The site [www.writers4peace.com](http://www.writers4peace.com) has already published poems and stories directed to this social purpose. In one such poem, a student writes about her pacifist brother who feels the need to serve his country in the military. In another poem, a student writes of the perils of waste management and its effects on the environment, while another essay details the abuse of oil sands and mining.

Dean Serravalle, an English teacher at Saint Michael Catholic High School and a published writer himself, was excited to introduce the idea to his students. Having produced four editions of a full-length print magazine at his former school, he is hoping this unique project will reach global parameters.