

Dr. Melinda Bossenmeyer, Ed.D
President and Founder



“As a long-time teacher and principal, I can tell you first hand the number of injuries, violent outbursts and problem behavior that occur on a weekly basis in schoolyards. I’ve also seen how the lack of physical activity programs can contribute to childhood obesity. That is what led me to develop Peaceful Playgrounds.

In 1995, as Principal at E. Hale Curran Elementary School in Murrieta, California I put my first Peaceful Playgrounds program into practice. Teachers and monitors immediately saw the tenor of the playground change. Student involvement was overwhelming and the atmosphere changed from one of chaotic energy to calm focused cooperation. We saw a dramatic reduction in playground injuries and as activities spread out, with students making use of a larger play area, stress and conflict due to what was perceived as overcrowding declined.

By 1999, our school was honored with the State of California’s Golden Bell Award in the school-safety category. I was now committed to exposing more schools, teachers and children to the benefits of Peaceful Playgrounds.

I am proud to have written and published six books on playgrounds; numerous articles on recess, playgrounds and interactive play; as well as presenting over 100 educational conference sessions. I currently publish PLAY NICE, a newsletter for 10,000 administrators and teachers across the nation and co-author the Recess blog. Recently, I served as a writer on the California Physical Education Framework for the Department of Education.

I am Nationally Certified as a Playground Inspector. I have served as a board member on the National Program for Playground Safety, been chair for the Council on Play for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and a member of State Superintendent of Schools Jack O’Connell’s California Task Force on Childhood Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease.

Today, Peaceful Playgrounds can be found in over 8000 schools with more than 4 million children exposed to the benefits of our program and games.

I had a simple goal that was to get more children involved in physical activity rather than waiting in line for their turn or just standing around talking. A child who burns off energy, not only reduced their risk for obesity, but they increase their focus on education when returning to class.”

Professional Experience

- 1998-present President and Founder
Peaceful Playgrounds, Inc.
- 2004-05 Education Administrator
California State University, San Marcos
- 2004-06 Adjunct Professor
California State University, San Marcos (College of Education)
- 1996-04 Director Professional Development
San Diego County Office Education
- 1993-96 Elementary School Principal
Murrieta Unified School District
- 1991-93 Year Round School Coordinator
Alvord Unified School District
- 1988-93 Special Assignment Teacher
Alvord Unified School District
- 1986-90 Physical Education Mentor Teacher
Alvord Unified School District
- 1981-89 Physical Education Teacher
Alvord Unified School District
- 1977-81 Physical Education Teacher
Santa Ana Unified School District
- 1972-77 Physical Education Teacher
Sts. Simon & Jude Huntington Beach, CA

Education

- 1998 Ed.D., Educational Leadership
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- 1990-91 Administrative Credential
Azusa Pacific University
- 1980-83 Master of Science – Physical Education
Redlands University
- 1908 Adapted Physical Education Credential
California State University, Fullerton
- 1976-77 California Life Teaching Credential K-12
(Ryan)
- 1972-76 Bachelor of Science – Physical Education/Health K-12
California State University, Fullerton

Selected Leadership and Professional Positions

- 2004-07 Expert Witness
Legal Cases involving playground injuries
- 2004-present Certified Playground Safety Inspector
2007 Committee Member/Writer
California Physical Education Framework
- 2004 Board Member
National Program for Playground Safety
CA Dept. of Education Task Force
(Superintendent Jack O'Connell Task Force Childhood Obesity)
- 2000 California Representative
National Recess Network
- 2004-07 Chairperson
**American Association Leisure & Recreation "Council on Play"
(AAHPERD)**
- 1994-1998 Advisory Board Member
California Department of Education Distinguished Schools
- 1994 Policy Board Member
Health and Physical Education Subject Matter Project
- 1992 & 95 Chairperson
Early Childhood and Elementary Division of CAHPERD
- 1993 Reader
Educational Testing Service (ETS) for National Teacher's Exam
- 1993-98 Member
**It's Elementary Alliance Publications and Monographs Committee
(CDE)**
- 1993-present Member
Educational Affairs Committee (CAHPERD)
- 1989 Advisory Committee Member
Superintendent's Advisory Committee Alvord School District
- 2000 Trainer
California State Board Education Certified Reading AB (1086)
- 2001 Trainer
California State Board Education Certified Mathematics AB (1331)
- 2000 Trainer
**California State Board Education Certified Administrator & Board
Members Reading AB (3482)**
- 1999 Panel Member
**Instructional Materials Advisory Reviewed Language Arts Materials
State CA**
- 2000 Trainer
CSUSM International Math Conference (Beijing, China)

Awards and Honors

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| 2007 | CAHPERD Past President's Award |
| 1995 | California Distinguished School Recipient |
| 1995 | ASCA-SWAA Administrators' Hero Award |
| 1987 | Teacher Representative, City of Riverside/Sendai, Japan Sister City Exchange Program |
| 1985 | Alvord Unified School District Outstanding Teacher |
| 1978 | Founders' Day PTA Award |

Selected Community Activities

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| 1990-93 | Board Member St. Matthew Youth Ministry |
| 1995 | Coach Corona Parks and Recreation |
| 1987 | Coach Coronita Elementary School Site Council |
| 1986 | President Coronita Elementary School PTA |
| 1981-85 | School Board Member St. Edwards |

Notables

Kinder Kids Mobile Gym Owner- 1600 students from 70 preschools in Orange and Riverside Counties participated in this motor skills program.

Publications

Peaceful Playgrounds Recess Blog – *Daily with circulation of 10,000 readers*

“Play Nice” Peaceful Playgrounds Newsletter – *circulation 10,000 monthly readers*

California Physical Education Framework – *Writing Committee*

Elementary School Recess – *Author of Chapter on School Play*

Fundamental Movement Program – *Children's Motor Skill Development Author*

We Count Wellness Program – *Author Peaceful Playgrounds, Inc.*

Exemplars for Elementary Physical Education – *writing team member BTSA Statewide publication*

Physical Education and Well Being – Co-Authored Training Module for District Level Administrators for Teaching Quality Physical Education. California School Leadership Academy

Arts in Education – Co-Authored Article (Goldberg & Bossenmeyer) for *Principal Magazine*

Peaceful Playgrounds – *Front Row Experience, Byron, CA*

Perceptual Motor Development Guide for Preschool- Grade 2 Teachers – *Front Row Experience, Byron, CA*

Peaceful Playgrounds, Inc. – Creator and CEO. *Physical Activity and Conflict Resolution Program for elementary schools.*

Public Speaking and Presentations

Lectures and presentations on Assessment, Developmentally Appropriate Instruction, Program Evaluation, Portfolios, Physical Education Standards, Physical Education Framework, Health, Playgrounds, Pedometers, Motor Learning, and Early Literacy throughout the nation including:

- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- Association of Staff and Curriculum Development
- Beyond School Hours
- California Middle Schools Conference
- American Alliance for Health
- Physical Education Recreation and Dance
- California School Leadership Academy
- California State PTA Conference
- California Association for the Education of Young Children
- Florida, New York, Illinois, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Utah State Physical Education Conferences
- Christian Schools of Orange County Annual Conference
- California State Kindergarten Conference
- Riverside County Office of Education
- Los Angeles County Office of Education
- Cal Poly State P.E. Workshop
- Various other national, state, district, and site level workshops
- International presentation in Heidelberg, Germany for the European Alliance Department of Defense Schools.