

Lil' MDGs holds workshops for NH students

Lil' MDGs, a nonprofit group from Derry, N.H., held an event, "Make Talk Work," at The World Schools in Nashua, N.H. The event featured two workshops for students that focused on conflict resolution in a fun manner. Photo courtesy of Lil' MDGs



Lil' MDGs, a youth-led, nonprofit, based in Derry, N.H. held a kick-off event for "Make Talk Work" at The World Schools in Nashua on February 25 with two workshops for schoolchildren. Make Talk Work is a dispute resolution program designed to provide students with an understanding of the conceptual issues involving conflict and conflict management, the skills required to act effectively as a dispute resolver, and opportunities for the application of knowledge and skills.

Kids learned about conflict resolution in a fun manner. Dylan Mahalingam, founder of Lil' MDGs, was the guest speaker at both workshop events.

"Dylan showed us photos and it was awesome," said 6-year-old Agastya Mahalingam. "There was one thing that I really liked — there were two donkeys and two piles of food. They were fighting to eat alone. But when they could not reach the food they fixed the problem by eating together from the same food pile."

Over 100 children from grades one to seven attended the workshops. The workshops were interactive and participants learned about and discussed conflict resolution through real-life stories and example. All students received a bookmark from the Make Talk Work series. Each bookmark had a message about how to resolve conflicts. The students were also provided with a free copy of a Juno Baby DVD and fridge magnets to take home.

The workshop at The World Schools is one of several workshops being held around the country through Lil' MDGs.

Founded in 2004, Lil' MDGs has a mission to leverage the power of the Internet, digital, and social media to educate, engage, inspire, and empower youth in all corners of the world to work together to meet the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. Lil' MDGs is now an initiative of Jayme's Fund for Social Justice.

Mahalingam is a youth speaker for the United Nations and is currently a sophomore at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. He has traveled extensively to speak before world leaders on his mission to help others, including the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Desmond Tutu. ABC National News will be featuring his volunteerism will be featured in an upcoming documentary tribute to Nelson Mandela.