

SOPE SUDS 2007

We are not simply building an organization. We are creating an electronic grassroots community of everyday people who together will have a great influence on children of all ages and on the health of this nation!



What are SOAP NUTS?

Some people wish that money grew on trees but did you know that laundry soap does? Why do we purchase and use harsh commercial chemicals for laundry thereby polluting our ground water when there is a natural and HARMLESS product available for washing our clothes? Is it possible that an entire species has been tricked into regularly purchasing an unnecessary and polluting product when there is a natural and skin safe solution to clean clothes already in existence? Gee....are we sleeping? Key search words: **soap nuts**

Schools Love SOPE!

Since The SOPE Project began in 2000, hand-washing posters have been placed in over 200,000 locations in all 50 states. Most gratifying are the school systems using SOPE posters to teach hand-washing, consideration for others, self-protection AND the Elizabethan English way to spell soap! (Surprise, our way of spelling the word "soap" isn't the only way!) Congratulations go to Flint County Michigan Schools, Mary White School in Grand Haven, Michigan, North Dakota State University, Bandera Texas Independent School District, Vineland, N. J. Board of Education and hundreds more who understand that teaching the washing of hands WITH SOAP saves lives!

DOT keeps the traveling public healthy!

Emily E. Arnold-Fernandez, Esq. Executive Director of Asylum Access was road tripping across the country with her husband Dave when they spotted SOPE in a Florida interstate rest room. She sent a text picture AFTER she washed her hands! Most recent DOT orders have come from the State of Wyoming DOT, Louisiana DOT and Hawaii where SOPE can be seen in all inter-island airport rest rooms. **Stuart Udell** of Long Island reports that seeing SOPE in Hawaii prompted him to wash twice!

17,700 Employees learn hand hygiene!

Wyndham Vacation Resort Properties recently emailed to request permission to include news about The SOPE Project in their corporate newsletter so that their employees would learn hand hygiene. Attention to hand washing reduces worker absenteeism and creates a climate of consideration for others. Taking the time to develop the regular habit of washing your hands also increases task completion as a skill thereby improving the office work ethic. SOPE respects and admires Joe Fabra of Wyndham Worldwide Corporation for taking this initiative.

Spreading the word instead of GERMS!

Every year The SOPE Project's sponsoring publisher donates copies of the bilingual title "Germs on their fingers!/iGérmanes en tus manos! to deserving non-profit organizations in order to spread the word about hand washing. This year gifted education teacher Amanda Hommel of the Charlotte, N. C. Horizon Program was able to surprise each of her students with a copy thereby teaching leadership development while addressing this vital health education message. Gaston Day School in Gastonia, N. C. received enough books to thrill the lower school Spanish teacher and a case of books was sent to Bald Head Island Conservancy for their annual fund-raising auction grab bags. Saving the world, one hand-wash at a time!

Letters keep coming!

We love hearing from our SOPE fans. The only way we know that our posters are doing good work is when someone takes the time to write. Here are two wonderful examples from children who must have thoughtful adults in their lives modeling how to say "Thanks":

Dear Mrs. Ferrin, I love SOPE. Thank you for coming to see us. I learned lots of things while you were here with us but if you weren't here I wouldn't have learned anything. So thank you. Love, Lauren; and from New Mexico, Dear SOPE, I love teaching my friends about germs and hand washing. I do a good job but your posters are better so thank-you. Sincerely, Aura

"Germs" Activity guide to be in catalog!

Watch for the activity guide to "Germs on their fingers!/iGérmanes en tus manos!" in this fall's School Nurse's Supply catalog. School nurse hand-washing fans will discover that the activity guide has something for every age. A take-home hand-washing chart for the refrigerator is a great way for kids to teach their parents WHEN to wash their hands! You can purchase your activity guide by visiting: <http://www.sope.net> or call (704) 825-5559

Development of the original activity guide was funded, in part, by the SDA in 2001.

Multilingual hand-washing activity:

What do the words SOPE/SAVON/SAPONE/JABÓN/SEIFE/ZEEP/SABÃO/비누/all have in common? They wash your hands best! Find which word comes from what language.

Why do we spell soap "SOPE?" Using SOPE as a multi-cultural awareness tool brings attention to the fact that our way of doing things (for example spelling the word soap or using anti-bacterial liquids) is neither the only way nor necessarily the best way. SOPE is the original Elizabethan English spelling for what we now spell "soap." Imagine that! Can you research when the original spelling disappeared from usage in this country? When did commercial soap products come into being?

SOPE SALUTES WILL TAFT!

This year The SOPE Project would like to salute Will Taft for keeping the good word about soap in the forefront of his earth friendly blog, which can be seen at the following link:

<http://willtaft.com/health/antibacterial-soap-danger-still-a-hot-topic/>

The SOPE Project was born in February of 2000 as a volunteer project by a gifted education specialist looking for a universal and non-controversial health education message through which to teach the basic skills of self-protection, task completion and consideration for others. Imagine her surprise upon learning that a concept as simple as washing with soap was actually in the midst of a huge power struggle orchestrated by an industry wanting to promote anti-bacterial liquids in our schools, day care centers, within the health industry and the general public? While officials at CDC told the founding director of The SOPE Project that SOPE educational materials were attractive, professional, comprehensive and "spot on the message," powerful constituents of the industry prevailed and a middle school campaign was designed to focus on hands not soap. But time-tested simple truths have a way of sustaining and we SALUTE WILL TAFT for keeping this issue front and center in the most contemporary Paul Revere way! Shall we talk about hospital acquired infection rates next?

Wendy Wakefield Ferrin 07/19/08

Are we bothering you? If you don't want to get this newsletter, please let us know. Please tell friends about The SOPE Project: <http://www.sope.net> and THANK YOU for reading this newsletter to the end! (704) 825-5559 voice (704) 825-5532 fax