Nicolas Murray Butler

1931

When they need it, people have courage

Nicolas Butler was born in New Jersey. He was a teacher at Columbia University for 60 years.

Butler made a class for teachers at Columbia University to help them become teachers. He made a magazine with ideas to help teachers in their classes.

Butler was president of Columbia for 60 years. In this time the school grew larger. Many new classes were added for students.

Butler was a friend with other Nobel Peace Prize winners and Presidents. He knew Elihu Root, and President Teddy Roosevelt.

Butler wanted to be President of the United States. He ran for President two times and lost.

Butler wanted to help the world have peace. He said that teachers and Presidents should get together to do this. He and his friends worked for peace for 35 years.

One of his friends was Andrew Carnegie. Butler asked Carnegie to give 10 million dollars to help with his peace plans.

In 1931 Butler won the Nobel Peace Prize. He shared this prize with Jane Addams. He got the prize for his ideas to bring peace to the world.
Butler was almost blind in 1945. He wrote a book about his life and died in 1947.

Butler was a friend to teachers, Presidents, and leaders of countries. He had many awards. He wrote books and wanted peace to be everywhere in the world.
Activities
Nicolas Murray Butler

Questions

1. What did Butler do to help teachers?
2. What other Nobel Peace Prizewinners did Butler know?
3. What did Andrew Carnegie do for his friend Nicolas Butler?
4. Why did Nicolas Butler win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Vocabulary

1. Andrew Carnegie

Activity:

Nicolas Murray Butler worked to help teachers. This activity shows what schools looked like then and compares them to what we have now.

Go to the History of Education Site

Scroll down to the Then and Now box at the bottom. Look at all these items. Click on each and see how they looked in schools long ago and how they look now. Print out copies and make a poster or a power point presentation showing how schools looked a long time ago and how they look now. What do you have today that schools did not have before?

- Bells
- Blackboards
- Books
- Discipline
- Flags
- Furniture
- Heating

- Homework
- Lighting
- Pens, Ink, and Paper
- School Lunch
- Slate and Slate Pencils
- Technology
- Testing
Read together

Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World: By Jane Breskin Zalben

Selected Bibliography

http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/nfhtml/nfgal1.html Portraits of Butler and contemporary men

http://experts.about.com/e/n/ni/Nicholas_M._Butler.htm Biographical information on Butler.

http://www.nobel.no/ Nobel Peace Prize official site