



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

January 2008

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the January 2008 edition of the Building Inclusive Schools Monthly Email Update! The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to provide this service to educators across the Commonwealth to support your efforts at fostering respectful and affirming school communities. As always, feel free to contact our office by phone at (804) 515-7950 or by emailing Jonathan Zur, Vice President for Program Operations, at jjur@inclusiveva.org if we can provide more direct support of your work. You may also visit us online at <http://www.inclusiveva.org>.

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--- RESOURCES LIST: RACE/ETHNICITY ---

This month's Resources List focuses on race and ethnicity. Check out page 3 for information on "ready-made" diversity programs for schools, potential funding sources, curriculum ideas, reports, and more. Please also pass along resources you know for use in future emails!

--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE: MENCHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ---

Each month, we seek to profile activities taking place in Virginia schools that promote inclusion, challenge assumptions, and advance understanding. As you hold programs in your school, please share information about them to be included in future monthly email updates! This month, we profile Menchville High School in Newport News. Following their participation in the Project Inclusion program sponsored by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, students and educators developed a series of initiatives focused on reducing the use of the "N-word." This month, colorful and laminated posters will be displayed throughout the school with messages including "No N-word" and "Stop Using the N-word." In February, students will share information about the history of the word during morning announcements, and will offer education cards and pins supporting the message. Additionally, "Abolish the N-word" contracts will be available to sign during lunch. Planners are hoping that at least 50% of the school community (students and educators) will sign the pledge. Inclusive Communities congratulates the Project Inclusion graduates at Menchville High School for their great work!

--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: CUSTOMIZED WORKSHOPS ---

In addition to our well-respected collection of established statewide and local human relations programs including Connections, Project Inclusion, and the Prejudice Awareness Summit, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities can work with you to design and customize programs to meet your school's specific needs. Sessions can be designed to address a particular issue (gender, race, sexual orientation, etc.), develop a particular skill (communication, conflict resolution, leadership, teambuilding, etc.), or can broadly address a range of human relations topics. Programs can be designed for a few hours or a few days and can be geared toward age groups ranging from middle school to adults. All customized workshops are developed after the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' experienced human relations professionals meet and plan with key stakeholders from the sponsoring institution. For more information, please contact the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.



--- FREE NO NAME-CALLING WEEK RESOURCES AVAILABLE ---

GLSEN Richmond is pleased to offer 10 free No Name-Calling Week Resource Kits to Virginia schools! The Resource Kit, with a normal price of \$129.95, includes a 27-minute VHS educational video entitled “No Name-Calling: Creating Safe Environments;” a resource guide with program information, lesson plans, resource lists, and other curricular material; a copy of “The Misfits,” a novel by James Howe; two No Name-Calling Week posters; and two packs of No Name-Calling Week stickers (60 total). Kits will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. While priority will be given to middle schools in the Richmond area, both middle schools and high schools from other areas in Virginia will be included in the program. Participating schools must agree to hold a No Name-Calling Week program and provide a report to GLSEN Richmond after the event. Contact GLSEN Richmond directly at glsenrichmond@yahoo.com to request a No Name-Calling Week Resource Kit for your school.

SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

Focus: Race & Ethnicity • January 2008

CURRICULUM *[Ways to integrate human relations issues into education]*

A Time for Sight: The Debate over Color Blindness and Race-Consciousness in School Integration

http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/little_rock

Home Away From Home: Investigating Your City's Immigration History

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/19991227monday_print.html

Juliette Hampton Morgan: A White Woman Who Understood

http://www.tolerance.org/images/teach/activities/JH_morganweb.pdf

PROGRAMS *[Initiatives and observances to advance character education]*

No Name-Calling Week – January 21-25, 2008

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Random Acts of Kindness Week – February 11-17, 2008

<http://www.actsofkindness.org/>

Day of Silence – April 25, 2008

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

ARTICLES & RESEARCH *[News for sharing with colleagues or as classroom discussion topics]*

Diverse Student Body Doesn't Guarantee Integrated Friendships

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/current/event.jsp?p=0&ar=377&pa=2>

How Stereotypes Undermine Test Scores

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=811>

FUNDING *[Grant opportunities to recognize individual leadership or support class projects and clubs]*

Pay It Forward Mini-Grants – fund one-time-only service-oriented projects to benefit a school or community. Projects must contain a “pay it forward” focus, based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially

Up to \$500 Grants

<http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/grant.html>

Teaching Tolerance Grant Program – offers grants to K-12 classroom teachers for implementing tolerance and youth activism projects in their schools and communities

Up to \$2,500 Grants

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/grants/guide.jsp>

Youth Service America Disney Minnie Grants – Grants for young people ages 5-14 or the teachers, schools, and organizations that engage them to implement service projects on National and Global Youth Service Day, April 25-27, 2008

Deadline: January 21, 2008

Up to \$500 Grants

<http://servenet.org/Toolkit/ContentManagement/ServiceWireNews/tabid/122/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/463/Disney-Minnie-Grant-GYSD-2008.aspx>