



## BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

February 2008

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the February 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](mailto: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: BULLYING ---**

This month's Resources List focuses on bullying. 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: ALBERT H. HILL MIDDLE 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 Albert H. Hill Middle School in Richmond. Following their participation in the Prejudice Awareness Summit (PAS) program last October, the students and their advisor planned a "No Name-Calling Month" for their entire school. Activities will include a no name-calling commercial on schoolwide broadcast, a no name-calling poster contest (with a pizza party for grade level winners), an after school viewing of a no name-calling movie for all grades, and a bullying/name calling survey. Thanks to the support of the Wachovia Foundation, Inclusive Communities is able to reward Albert H. Hill Middle School with a PAS mini-grant to support these efforts. Congratulations the PAS graduates at Albert H. Hill Middle School for their great work!

### **--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: CONNECTIONS INSTITUTE ---**

The Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute (formerly Metrotown) is the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' signature Emerging Leaders Institute program. Since 1993, this peer leadership experience has prepared high school student delegates to make decisions based on an appreciation of the vast diversity within Virginia. Connections is a yearlong process of challenge, growth, and impact for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The experience begins with a residential program during the summer that allows student delegates to break barriers, deal with biased behavior, and develop an action plan to reduce prejudice in their schools. Thanks to the support of the R.E.B. Foundation, we are thrilled to be able to add a fifth day to Connections this year! The program will take place from August 3-7, 2008 at Camp Bethel, and the cost for a team of up to five students is \$1,750. Registration information will be mailed to high school principals by the end of February. For more information about registering your school, volunteering to serve on the Connections staff, or sponsoring a team of students to attend the program, simply reply to this email.



**--- PEACE ESSAY CONTEST ---**

The Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) is again sponsoring a Peace Essay Contest for students throughout Virginia, from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This year's contest asks students to consider a quotation from Moshe Dayan, "If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies." Students will discuss what that quotation means to them, and how it might apply to their personal lives, to their community, and to the world. The deadline for entering the contest is April 12, 2008. Prizes ranging from \$20 - \$100 are available for winning essays in several age categories. For more information and to obtain an entry form, please visit <http://www.rpec.org>.

## **SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST**

*Focus: Bullying • February 2008*

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

#### **A Bullying Survey/A Bullying Quiz**

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=638#2>

#### **A Primer on Peer Mediation**

<http://www.pbs.org/inthemix/educators/lessons/schoolviol1/index.html>

#### **Dealing with the Social Pressures that Promote Online Cruelty**

[http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum\\_connections/cyberbullying/cyberbullying\\_lesson\\_2.asp?cc\\_section=lesson\\_2](http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/cyberbullying/cyberbullying_lesson_2.asp?cc_section=lesson_2)

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

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

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

#### **International Women’s Day** – March 8, 2008

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com>

#### **Day of Silence** – April 25, 2008

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

#### **From Teasing to Torment: A Report on School Climate in Virginia**

[http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN\\_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/000/681-1.pdf](http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/000/681-1.pdf)

#### **Stop Bullying: Guidelines for Schools**

<http://www.nobully.org.nz/guidelines.htm>

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

#### **Do Something GameStop Grants** – honors young people weekly who develop new initiatives in their communities

*\$500 Prize*

[http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop\\_grants](http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop_grants)

#### **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>