



## BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

February 2009

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the February 2009 edition of the Building Inclusive Schools Monthly Email Update! The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to provide this service to educators to support your efforts at fostering respectful and affirming school communities. Archives of the email updates from previous months are available at <http://www.inclusiveva.org/resources.php>. As always, feel free to contact our office by phone at (804) 515-7950 or by emailing Jonathan Zur, Chief Operating Officer, at [izur@inclusiveva.org](mailto:izur@inclusiveva.org) if we can provide more direct support of your work.

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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, and more. Please also pass along resources you know for use in future emails!

### **--- ACTION PLAN PROFILE: ROBIOUS MIDDLE SCHOOL ---**

Each month, we seek to profile activities taking place in Virginia high schools that promote inclusion, challenge assumptions, and advance understanding. As you hold programs in your school throughout the year, please share information about them to be included in future monthly email updates! This month, we profile the Robious Middle School "Community Problem Solvers." After attending the Prejudice Awareness Summit in October, students have been busy planning a program called Project T.A.D., which stands for "Teaching About Diversity." On February 11, they will host a day of diversity that will include speakers, games, stories, and other fun activities to educate about diversity and many cultures that are present in the community. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities congratulates the PAS graduates from Robious Middle School for their great work!

### **--- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ---**

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to work with schools to offer professional development programs for educators. Aimed at increasing individuals' sensitivity to and awareness of diversity issues, we provide skills and resources for educators to create classrooms and schools free from the distractions created by prejudice, stereotypes, and bigotry. Focus can be placed on a particular area of diversity (race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) or professional development sessions can broadly consider such areas as the roots and nature of prejudice, bullying and harassment, how to analyze lesson plans, curricula, and school policies to ensure that they are culturally responsive, or identifying strategies to respond to incidents of intolerance and bigotry in schools. For more information on how the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities can work with your school, contact Jonathan at [izur@inclusiveva.org](mailto:izur@inclusiveva.org).



### --- STUDENT ESSAY, MEDIA, AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION CONTESTS ---

Several local and national contests have been announced that relate to building inclusive schools! Please consider including your students in the following opportunities:

- (1) No Name Calling Week Creative Expression Contest (Deadline: February 13, 2009)  
<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/57.html>
- (2) What Will Barack Obama's Presidency Mean for My Education? (Deadline: February 20, 2009)  
<http://hepg.org/file/61/submissionforms-02.pdf>
- (3) Holocaust Writing Competition for Students (Deadline: February 27, 2009)  
[http://www.ujcvp.org/documents/MX-6200N\\_20081106\\_140212.pdf](http://www.ujcvp.org/documents/MX-6200N_20081106_140212.pdf)
- (4) Doors to Diplomacy Collaborative Web Project Challenge (Deadline: February 28, 2009)  
<http://globalschoolnet.org/gsndoors/aglance.cfm>
- (5) Richmond Peace Education Center Peace Essay Contest (Deadline: April 20, 2009)  
<http://www.rpec.org/Essay%20Contest%202009.pdf>

### --- ABOUT THE VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES ---

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (<http://www.inclusiveva.org>) is a human relations organization that promotes inclusion, challenges assumptions, and advances understanding through dialogue, experiential learning, and education. Each year, Inclusive Communities conducts educational programs, conferences, retreats, and workshops for thousands of youth, educators, community members, non-profit organizations, and corporate and business leaders. These events and experiences teach participants not simply to notice differences, but also to respect variety in race, religion, and culture. We deliver our message in schools, houses of worship, the community, and in the workplace. Originally founded as the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has concluded our association with NCCJ and has joined with many of our fellow offices across the country to form the National Federation for Just Communities (<http://www.federationforjustcommunities.org>), a new movement fighting prejudice in all its forms.



## SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

*Focus: Bullying • February 2009*

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

**A Bad Case of Bullying: Using Literature Response Groups with Students**

[http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson\\_view.asp?id=377](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=377)

**Cruel Schools**

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/cruelschools/>

**Do Something About... School Violence Unit**

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SSODoSomethingAboutSchoolViolenceUnitDay1Bullying912.htm>

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

**Random Acts of Kindness Week** – February 9-15, 2009

<http://www.actsofkindness.org>

**Women's History Month** – March 2009

<http://www.nwhp.org>

**Day of Silence** – April 17, 2009

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

**Beyond the Bully Victim Dyad: The Role of Peers in Bullying Relationships**

[http://www.kzoo.edu/psych/stop\\_bullying/topics\\_of\\_interest/bully\\_victim\\_dyad.pdf](http://www.kzoo.edu/psych/stop_bullying/topics_of_interest/bully_victim_dyad.pdf)

**Bullying: Guidelines for Teachers**

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=768>

**Maine's Best Practices in Bullying and Harassment Prevention: A Guide for Schools and Communities**

<http://www.njbullying.org/documents/bullyingguideMaine2006.pdf>

**Stop Cyberbullying Before it Starts**

<http://www.ncpc.org/topics/by-audience/parents/bullying/cyberbullying/cyberbullying.pdf>

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

**Do Something Awards** – “honors teenagers that do something exceptional to help solve a problem in their community”

*\$10,000 Grants (Deadline: March 1, 2009)*

<http://www.dosomething.org/awards>

**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/mini-grant.html>