



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

March 2008

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the March 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 jzur@inclusiveva.org if we can provide more direct support of your work. You may also visit us online at <http://www.inclusiveva.org>.

IN THIS EMAIL:

- (1) Resources List: Gender
- (2) Action Plan Profile: New Bridge School
- (3) Program Spotlight: Educator Professional Development
- (4) Current Events: Lawrence King Murder

--- RESOURCES LIST: GENDER ---

This month's Resources List focuses on gender. 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: NEW BRIDGE 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 New Bridge School in Henrico County. Following their participation in the Prejudice Awareness Summit (PAS) program last October, the students and their advisor planned grade level presentations for their school focusing on acceptance and respect. Using the national Diversity Beans materials and curriculum, students will be given jelly beans that have different flavors than their colors would suggest. The message will be spread that "you can't judge a bean by its color." Thanks to the support of the Wachovia Foundation, Inclusive Communities is able to reward New Bridge School with a PAS mini-grant to support these efforts. Congratulations the PAS graduates at the New Bridge 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 politics 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, simply reply to this email.



--- CURRENT EVENTS: LAWRENCE KING MURDER ---

A 15-year-old gay California student recently died after a classmate allegedly shot him because of his sexual orientation and gender expression. Lawrence King, an eighth-grader at E.O. Green Junior High School, was shot on Tuesday, February 12 while in class. The 14-year-old attacker, among a group of students known to bully and harass King, has been charged with murder and a hate crime. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities will be joining with many other organizations in the Richmond area to hold a community vigil for Lawrence King on Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30pm. A key part of the ceremony will be a community resource fair with information on anti-bullying programs and organizations in Virginia. For more information, email jzur@inclusiveva.org. Additionally, GLSEN offers four steps schools can take to address anti-LGBT bullying and harassment at <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/2263.html>.

SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

Focus: Gender • March 2008

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

Girls Can Be Plumbers?

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=801>

Writing for Change: Creating Gender-Free Nouns

http://www.tolerance.org/teach/web/wfc/pdf/section_1/1_24_creating_nouns.pdf

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

International Women's Day – March 8, 2008

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com>

Day of Silence – April 25, 2008

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

Mix it Up Day – November 13, 2008

<http://www.tolerance.org/teens/index.jsp>

Inclusive Schools Week – December 1-5, 2008

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

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

'Good Morning Boys and Girls:' Simple Greetings Can Promote Discrimination in Young Children

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?p=0&is=37&ar=604>

Just Boys, Just Girls and Just Schooling: Curriculum, Behaviors (including Bullying) and Gender

<http://www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/ATT/%7BB116A2B7-F89E-4898-B172-7A10231963D7%7D/boysgirls.pdf>

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

Teaching Tolerance Grants - for programs that engage collaboration between educators, researchers, parents/guardians and student groups that aim to equalize students' experience in schools

Up to \$10,000 Grants

Deadline: May 15, 2008

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

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>

Making Every Voice Matter Video Contest – Awards films that show what you've done to create positive change in your community

\$1,000 Award

Deadline: March 26, 2008

<http://www.everyday-democracy.org/en/Page.VideoContest.aspx>