



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

June 2008

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the June 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 jjzur@inclusiveva.org if we can provide more direct support of your work. You may also visit us online at <http://www.inclusiveva.org>. ***NOTE: THIS WILL BE THE LAST EMAIL OF THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR. MONTHLY UPDATES WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER 2008. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!***

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--- RESOURCES LIST: CLASS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS ---

This month's Resources List focuses on class/socio-economic status. 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: WOODSIDE 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 Woodside High School in the Newport News Public Schools. After participating in Project Inclusion this year, the students and educators from Woodside planned three initiatives aimed at fostering a more respectful and inclusive school environment around issues of race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. The first component of the plan focuses on having the high school students visit area middle schools to deliver presentations aimed at raising awareness of diverse groups and reducing misunderstanding. Second, a bulletin board will be created in the high school that focuses on educating peers about the negative effects of prejudice, most dramatically through communicating facts and stories about hate acts and crimes. Finally, a "Cultural Awareness Day" will be planned to celebrate the diversity at Woodside High School. All of these projects are supported by the McKinley Price Action Grant program thanks to funding from the Riverside Health System Foundation. Inclusive Communities congratulates the Project Inclusion students and educators from Woodside 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 Break the Cycle: Be the Change, Connections, Project Inclusion, and the Prejudice Awareness Summit, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities staff 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 at (804) 515-7950 today!



--- 2008-2009 CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS ---

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to share the Calendar of Holidays and Festivals for the 2008-2009 school year at <http://www.inclusiveva.org/documents/2008-2009InterfaithCalendar.pdf>. This calendar is intended to increase our sensitivity to diverse cultures and traditions and includes observances from select religious, ethnic, and public communities. Since the calendar is not exhaustive, those using this resource at school may wish to add holidays or observances that are observed by students in your classrooms or community that are not included in this listing. Additionally, while we have done our best to verify all dates, it is always advisable to consult with local religious authorities.

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

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities 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: Class/Socio-Economic Status • June 2008

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

Addressing Poverty: The Drive

<http://www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit318/lesson1.html>

Holiday Charity: A Math Activity About Poverty

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?cid=759>

Prison Town, USA: Economic Decision Making

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/prisontown/for.html>

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

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/>

No Name-Calling Week – January 26-30, 2009

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Day of Silence – April 17, 2009

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

BOOKS & FILMS *[Creative ways to share human relations messages with students]*

Class Action: Resources for Children

http://www.classism.org/resources_children.html

Films on Class, Wealth, Power, and Social Justice

http://www.classism.org/pdf/resources_film.pdf

People Like Us Bibliography

<http://www.pbs.org/peoplelikeus/resources/bibliography.html>

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.

Up to \$500 Grants

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

Plum Youth Grants – provides funds for recently created community action projects, programs, or organizations in the hopes that the grant will help the program grow and succeed for a longer period of time
\$500 Grants

http://www.dosomething.org/plum_youth_grant_application

Richard Riley Award – provides recognition to a school that is a center of community and demonstrates innovative design ideas while promoting student achievement

\$10,000 Prize

Deadline: July 25, 2008

<http://www.richardrileyaward.org/en/Index.asp>