



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

October 2009

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the October 2009 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 to fostering respectful and affirming school communities. As always, feel free to contact our office by phone at (804)515-7950 or by emailing Ali Thompson, Director of Education & Training at athompson@inclusiveva.org or David LeFebvre, Program & Event Coordinator, at dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org if we can provide more direct support of your work.

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--- RESOURCES LIST ---

This month's Resources List focuses on sexual orientation. Check out page 3 for information on “ready-made” diversity programs for schools, potential funding sources, curriculum ideas, and more. Please pass along resources you know for future emails!

--- 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 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.

--- “CAN DO” – CONNECTIONS ALUMNI NETWORK FOR DIVERSITY OUTREACH ---

In an effort to stay in touch with Connections Institute student graduates, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is this year piloting “CAN DO,” the Connections Alumni Network for Diversity Outreach. Starting with Richmond-area schools in this kick-off year, the program will provide resources for students to implement their action plans, to reunite with other Connections participants, and to plan a “Diversity Week” program at their schools in the spring. At CAN DO meetings, students will have the chance to share ideas, develop skills in planning an event, and further enhance their awareness on all issues of diversity. Inclusive Communities is working to secure funding for this year-round follow up program and will be evaluating its pilot year for replication across the state both with our summer Connections Institute and school year Project Inclusion programs. For more information, contact Program & Event Coordinator David LeFebvre at dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org.



--- TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT A “DIVERSITY WEEK” ---

In order to make safer schools for all, weeklong events have been created to provide activities that raise awareness surrounding issues of diversity. Creating a weeklong event can be challenging when thinking about advertising, developing curriculum, and getting students and faculty excited about the week. Organizations like GLSEN have already developed everything for you. On October 19-23, *Ally Week* will be celebrated to encourage students to be allies against anti-LGBT language. You can refer to their website for ideas at www.glsen.org/educator. More weeklong events like *Ally Week* are mentioned on the School Resources List.

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

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (<http://www.inclusiveva.org>) conducts programs that promote understanding and respect on ALL issues of diversity, for ALL age groups, ALL across Virginia. Each year, Inclusive Communities leads educational programs, conferences, retreats, and workshops for thousands of youth, educators, community members, non-profit organizations, and corporate and business leaders.

SCHOOL RESOURCES LIST

Focus: Sexual Orientation • October 2009

CURRICULUM (*Ways to integrate human relations issues into education*)

Building a Bully-Free Building

http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/binary-data/NoNameCalling_ATTACHMENTS/file/90-1.pdf?state=&type=antibullying

Oliver Button Is a Sissy by Tomie dePaola (*Ways to incorporate this into the classroom can be found under media resources*)

<http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/picturebooks/fr/oliver.htm>

MEDIA RESOURCES (*Resources for professional development*)

Groundspark, Igniting Change Through Film

http://groundspark.org/store/institutional_users

(Specifically look for *It's Elementary – Talking About Gay Issues in School* and *That's a Family! – A Film for Kids about Family Diversity*)

Oliver Button Is a Star

<http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/booklink/record/1559.html>

PROGRAMS (*Initiatives and observances to advance character education*)

Ally Week – October 19-23, 2009

<http://www.allyweek.org>

Mix It Up Day – November 10, 2009

<http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up>

Inclusive Schools Week – December 7-11, 2009

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org>

No Name Calling Week – January 25-29, 2010

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Day of Silence – April 16, 2010

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

ARTICLES & RESEARCH (*News for sharing colleagues or as classroom discussion topics*)

When Words Can Kill: 'That's So Gay'

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MindMoodNews/story?id=7328091&page=1>

Lessons on Homosexuality Move into the Classroom

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/15/education/15education.html?_r=1

Coming Out in Middle School

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/27/magazine/27out-t.html?emc=eta1>



FUNDING *(Grant opportunities to recognize individual leadership or support class projects and clubs)*

Young Leaders for Literacy Grant - Youth Service America is partnering with the National Education Association to once again offer Youth Leaders for Literacy grants to children and youth, ages 5-25, who offer innovative ways to increase literacy skills and appreciation for reading among their peers.

Deadline: October 30, 2009

http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/ao_login.login?x_gm_id=3187&x_proposal_type_id=16674

2009-2010 Target Field Trip Grants Program – no-strings-attached funds to cover field trip-related expenses, such as transportation, ticket fees, resource materials and supplies.

Deadline: November 3, 2009

Target.com/fieldtrips