



## BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

*December 2009*

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the December 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](mailto:athompson@inclusiveva.org) or David LeFebvre, Program & Event Coordinator, at [dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org](mailto: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 race and ethnicity. 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: 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 Ali at [athompson@inclusiveva.org](mailto:athompson@inclusiveva.org).

### **--- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY ---**

On January 18, 2010, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be observed. Many people consider this day to be one of our nation's largest days of community service. The national movement coordinates service efforts at <http://www.mlkday.gov>. HandsOn Greater Richmond is coordinating local efforts at <http://www.handsongr.org/AboutUs/index.php/mlk10.html>. Additionally, to incorporate activities into your classroom about the legacy of MLK Jr. before and after January 18, Teacher Vision has some great resources you can use: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/martin-luther-king-jr/teacher-resources/6643.html?detoured=1>



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

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

**(1) Teachers Against Prejudice Essay and Media Contest (Deadline: December 15, 2009)**

<http://www.teachersagainstprejudice.org/contests.html>

**(2) No Name Calling Week Creative Expression Contest (Deadline: February 26, 2010)**

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/57.html>

**--- INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES HAS INCREASED ONLINE PRESENCE ---**

In the past few months, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has increased its presence on the web! You can now become our fan on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/inclusiveva>), follow us on Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/inclusiveva>), watch our videos on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/inclusiveva>) and learn more about us on Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia\\_Center\\_for\\_Inclusive\\_Communities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Center_for_Inclusive_Communities)). Please spread the word!

**--- 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: Race and Ethnicity • December 2009*

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

**Race Relations Seeking Harmony**

<http://www.racebridgesforschools.com/lessons.html>

**The Color of Water**

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/reading-instruction/printable/32799.html?detoured=1>

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

**Inclusive Schools Week** – December 7-11, 2009

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org>

**No Name Calling Week** – January 25-29, 2010

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

**Random Acts of Kindness Week** – February 15-21, 2010

<http://www.actsofkindness.org>

**Day of Silence** – April 16, 2010

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

**Mixed Race America: Teaching not Preaching**

<http://mixedraceamerica.blogspot.com/2009/08/teaching-not-preaching.html>

**All About Hair**

<http://www.tolerance.org/blog/all-about-hair?ttnewsletter=ttnewsgen-102009>

**From Footnote to Fame in Civil Rights History**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/26/books/26colvin.html?\\_r=2&emc=eta1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/26/books/26colvin.html?_r=2&emc=eta1)

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

**Building Healthy Communities Grant Program** – Home Depot is offering grants that are available to registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, public schools or tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. who are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community.

*Up to \$2,500 grants*

Deadline: December 15, 2010

<http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal/Grants>

**Get Ur Good On Grants** – funding to support to support projects addressing critical community needs such as poverty, education, and environmental sustainability.

*\$500 grants*

Deadline: February 22, 2010

[www.YSA.org/grants](http://www.YSA.org/grants)