



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS MONTHLY EMAIL UPDATE

September 2010

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the September 2010 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 in 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 how to incorporate diversity issues into math curriculum. Check out pages 3 and 4 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: PREJUDICE AWARENESS SUMMIT ---

The Prejudice Awareness Summit (PAS) is a one day forum for middle school students, currently held in the Richmond area. Last year, nearly 25 middle schools sent teams of 8 students and 1-2 advisors to spend the day exploring prejudice, identifying useful conflict resolution strategies, and developing action plans to take the PAS message back to their sending schools. Community volunteers and high school students facilitated group sessions throughout the day.

The 2010 PAS will take place on Thursday, October 21 at VCU's Harris Hall from 8:30-2:00pm. Coalition partners for the 2010 PAS are Communities in Schools of Richmond, Hope in the Cities, the Junior League of Richmond, Partnership for the Future, and Richmond Peace Education Center. For more information about this program please contact David LeFebvre at dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org.

--- COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: VIRGINIA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM ---

Tolerance Through Education, the mission statement of the Virginia Holocaust Museum, is exemplified through the educational opportunities offered by the museum's education department. On initiative that the museum is hosting this fall is a "Bullies are Bad, They Make Us Sad" Poster Contest for K-5. Submissions for the poster contest will be accepted from October 15 – November 15. Another competition is the "Tolerance and Visual Arts Competition." Topics of the visual arts competition are *Righteousness, Righteousness, Shalt Thou Pursue: The Courage to Act Justly*. Guidelines for the competition will be posted on the Virginia Holocaust Museum website at www.va-holocaust.com. You can also contact Rena Berlin, Director of Education at rberlin@va-holocaust.com.



--- 2010-2011 CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS ---

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to share the Calendar of Holidays and Festivals for the 2010-2011 school year at <http://inclusiveva.org/documents/2010-2011InterfaithCalendar.pdf>. This resource 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 ---

In 1935, a team of Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant religious leaders known as the "Tolerance Trio" were invited to bring their message of interfaith understanding to Virginia. Their presentation at Lynchburg College attracted nearly 1,000 people from all over the Commonwealth. Those in attendance were so moved by the program's message that they went back to their local communities and started chapters of what was then known as the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Today, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (www.inclusiveva.org) continues the vital work of the former NCCJ Virginia Region. And, using the Christian and Jewish principles that inspired its founding, the organization promotes 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: Math Resources • September 2010

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

Making Cents of Privilege

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/making-cents-privilege>

Building a Community Garden and a Math Community

www.radicalmath.org/docs/GardeningActivity.doc

Holiday Charity: A Math Activity About Poverty

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/holiday-charity-math-activity-about-pove>

Driving While Black/Driving While Brown: A Mathematics Project About Racial Profiling

<http://www.teachersforjustice.org/search/label/math>

BOOKS *(Books for professional development and curriculum ideas)*

Rethinking Mathematics – Teaching Social Justice By the Numbers

<http://www.rethinkingschools.org/ProdDetails.asp?ID=0942961544>

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

Ally Week – October 18-22, 2010

<http://www.allyweek.org>

National Learn & Serve Challenge – October 18 – 24, 2010

<http://www.learnandservechallenge.org>

Mix-It-Up Day – November 9, 2010

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

Inclusive Schools Week – December 6-10, 2010

www.inclusiveschools.org

No Name Calling Week – January 24-28, 2011

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Random Acts of Kindness Week – February 14-20, 2011

<http://www.actsofkindness.org/kindness-days>

Day of Silence – April 15, 2011

<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

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

Social Justice Math

<http://www.radicalmath.org/main.php?id=SocialJusticeMath>

You're Asian, How Could You Fail Math?

http://www.rethinkingschools.org/restrict.asp?path=archive/22_02/math222.shtml



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

Kids In Need Teacher Grants - provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for their students.

\$100 - \$500 grants

Deadline: September 30, 2010

<http://www.kinf.org/grants/>

Target Field Trip Grants - provides funds for K-12 field trips in order to give students throughout the country the opportunity to explore more of the world outside the classroom.

Up to \$700 grants

Deadline: September 30, 2010

http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031880&ref=sr_shorturl_fieldtrips

Red Robin Foundation U-ACT Program - is a character-building initiative specifically for middle and junior high schools with grades 6-8, which aims to inspire and energize students about the value of being kind to others. Throughout the school year, participating schools are asked to share Red Robin's "Unbridled" culture with their students by participating in a program that promotes kindness.

Grants between \$1,200 and \$15,000

Deadline: October 1, 2010

www.redrobin.com/rrfoundation/uactprogram.aspx

State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants - State Farm is proud to team up with Youth Service America to offer grants of for youth-led service-learning initiatives Eligible programs will engage youth in service-learning, an effective teaching and learning strategy that promotes student learning, academic achievement, workplace readiness, and healthy communities.

Up to \$1,000 grants

Deadline: October 15, 2010

www.YSA.org/goodneighbor