



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 social studies 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: DIVERSITY DIALOGUE DAY ---

Inclusive Communities is launching a new program this fall in its Richmond and Peninsula chapters. The 1st annual "Diversity Dialogue Day" will take place on November 18 at the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls for the Richmond area high schools and on December 6 at Hampton University for Peninsula area high schools. The 2010 theme is "Stopping Stereotypes in Schools." Diversity Dialogue Day will take the students through an experience of awareness to action, specifically focusing on how stereotypes affect their school environments. Each high school is invited to bring 10 students and 1-2 educators at no cost. If you are a high school educator in either the Richmond or Peninsula areas, please contact David LeFebvre at dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org for more information about Diversity Dialogue Day.

--- COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: THE CONCILIATION PROJECT ---

The Conciliation Project's (TCP) mission is to promote, through active and challenging dramatic work, open and honest dialogue about Racism in America in order to repair its damaging legacy. TCP is a creative social justice organization using theatrical techniques and the dramatic form as a catalyst to inform, inspire and include everyone in the dialogue on racism in America. VCIC and TVCP have partnered together to offer "*Pushed: explorations into bullying*," an engaging theatrical examination into the plagues of bullying, intimidation, and victimization. Through storytelling and drama, *Pushed* will examine the many effects that bullying can impose on an individual, an organization, school, club, and even society as a whole. *Pushed* asks "What is a Bully?", "Who does bullying affect?", and "How do you stop a Bully?" For more information about how to bring "Pushed" into your school please contact David LeFebvre, Program & Event Coordinator at the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, by phone at (804) 515-7950, ext. 24, or by email at dlefebvre@inclusiveva.org.



--- 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: Social Studies Resources • October 2010

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

Poverty and Natural Disasters: Exploring the Connections

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/poverty-and-natural-disasters-exploring-connections>

Social Boundaries Activity: Map It Out

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/social-boundaries-activity-map-it-out>

Understanding Social Systems Through the Olympic Bid

<http://www.teachersforjustice.org/2009/01/curriculum-understanding-social-systems.html>

WEBSITES (*Website for professional development and curriculum ideas*)

Teaching a People's History – Zinn Education Project

<http://www.zinnedproject.org>

Facing History and Ourselves

www.facinghistory.org

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*)

Infusing Tolerance, Diversity, and Social Personal Curriculum into Inclusive Social Studies Classes Using Family Portraits and Contextual Teaching and Learning

<http://escholarship.bc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1077&context=education/tecplus>



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

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

Amway Positivity Project Prizes - The Amway Positivity Project is about advancing the power of positive in the world. In highlighting everyday stories of how positivity has made a difference in people's lives, the Amway Positivity Project is designed to inspire and motivate others to make positivity part of their lives.

\$10,000 grand Positivity Prize or nine \$2,500 Positivity Prizes

Deadline: October 17

www.yourpositivityproject.com/contest/

Very Best in Youth - Nestlé helps young people, who want to make a difference, realize their dreams. Nestlé awards the winner a trip for them and a parent or guardian to Los Angeles, California for the Nestlé Very Best In Youth awards ceremony.

\$1,000 in the name of each winner to the charity of his/her choice

Deadline: November 1, 2010

<http://verybestinyouth.nestleusa.com/About/Default.aspx>