



Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide

Inclusive Schools Network News

November 2008

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Inclusive Schools Network

"Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide"

The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) is a web-based resource for families, schools, and communities interested in the topic of inclusive education. This network has grown out of Inclusive Schools Week™, an internationally-recognized, annual event sponsored by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC). During the 2008-2009 school year, ISN will be expanding in capacity to offer new products, conferences, online events, and social networking opportunities.



Inclusive Schools Network News is your source for updates and information about the Inclusive Schools Network, Inclusive Schools Week, and other resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities. Click below to subscribe:

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

ISN Events:

Inclusive Schools Week: December 1-5, 2008**Share your Celebration Plans with ISN!**

The Inclusive Schools Network is hosting the 8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week this December 1-5, celebrating the theme, "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children". Each year, Inclusive Schools Weeks participants from all over flood the ISN email box with details about their exciting Celebration Plans for the Week. Once again we invite you to **share your Celebration Plans** with us and with other educators, families and communities around the world.

To share your Celebration Plans, please submit a short description of activities and events you have planned for this year's Inclusive Schools Week by email: inclusiveschools@edc.org. Celebration Plans from selected schools, districts and communities are posted at: http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Celebration_Plans.

Also, look for the opportunity to begin sharing your Celebration Plans with others online in the ISN Discussion Forum later this month!

Webinar: December 3, 2008, 3:00-4:30 pm EST**"Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points and
the Role of the Special Educator in Today's Mathematics Classroom"**

As part of Inclusive Schools Week, please join Drs. Hank Kepner and Lisa Dieker in reflecting on the role of special education and general education in providing all students with access to the standards in K-12 mathematics. Dr. Hank Kepner, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), will provide a discussion of the NCTM standards and focal points. Dr. Lisa Dieker, known for her work related to co-teaching and inclusive practices, will reflect on the role of the special educator in implementing these standards and focal points in mathematics in inclusive settings. Drs. Kepner and Dieker have worked together at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in preparing secondary special educators, mathematics teachers and science teachers. In this webinar, they will use their collaborative understanding of the unique needs of both fields to provide perspective on Dr. Kepner's platform as President of NCTM: "Equity: All Means ALL". Participants will have the opportunity to contribute questions and comments as part of this discussion.

For more information, and to **register online** for this event, go to:

http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Events_Registration

Including Samuel Screening and Discussion

December 1, 2008

For Inclusive Schools Week, ISN is hosting filmmaker Dan Habib at EDC to show and discuss his award-winning documentary *Including Samuel*. Shot and produced over four years, the film follows Habib's son who has cerebral palsy and the family's efforts to include him in all facets of their lives. The film honestly portrays his family's hopes and struggles, and those of four other individuals with disabilities and their families. The discussion will be video-recorded and available online after the event on the Inclusive Schools Network website. To view a short clip of the film, go to: <http://www.includingsamuel.com/media/>.

To read more about this event, and to order a DVD of *Including Samuel*, go to:

http://inclusiveschools.org/Including_Samuel

Other Events:

AFT Contest: "Best Ideas for Inclusive Schools"

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is hosting a contest in celebration of Inclusive Schools Week to highlight effective inclusion models in elementary, middle and high schools around the United States. To participate in this contest, "[Best Ideas for Inclusive Schools](#)", please go to the AFT website and download an application from: <http://www.aft.org/tools4teachers/contest.htm>.

A winning team will be selected from each level (elementary, middle and high school) to be featured in AFT publications, on the AFT website, and on the ISN website. The grand-prize winning team (or up to four team members) will be invited to present their strategies and lessons learned at the AFT's QuEST 2009 professional development conference in Washington, D.C., July 12-15. Team members will receive airfare and hotel accommodations to attend the conference.

Applications are available now and **must be postmarked or faxed by Nov. 26, 2008**. [Visit the AFT website for more information](#).

VSA arts Writing Project and Art Contest

VSA arts is sponsoring two events to promote the inclusion of students with disabilities in the arts: a writing project and an art contest.

The **Call for Writing**, on the theme "At Second Glance", is open to students with disabilities and students who have connections to people with disabilities. **The deadline for submissions is November 21, 2008**. Additional information and

submission guidelines are available at: <http://www.vsarts.org/x889.xml>.

The **Call for Art**, on the theme "Celebrating Who I Am", is open to all students across the United States. One piece of artwork from each state will be selected for display in Washington, D.C. **The deadline for submissions is March 6, 2009**, and additional information is available at: www.vsarts.org/allkidscancreate.

Resources:

The Access Center: "Improving Outcomes for All Students K-8"

The Access Center's mission is "to provide technical assistance that strengthens State and local capacity to help students with disabilities effectively learn in the general education curriculum." This project, funded by the United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), supports the professional development of educators and administrators with resources and educational modules on a number of topics, such as Co-Teaching, Differentiated Instruction, and Technology.

Visit the Access Center's website at: <http://www.k8accesscenter.org>.

Tip of the Month:

Inclusive Schools Week: An Opportunity to Celebrate and Educate!

Inclusive Schools Week is an opportunity for schools, communities and families around the world to celebrate their progress in promoting quality education for all children while also educating those around them about inclusive education. By celebrating the Week, you and your organization not only help to raise awareness about the benefits of inclusive educational practices; you also help to sustain the Inclusive Schools Network in its mission of "Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide". Your participation is integral to the success of Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) and the Week because revenue from ISN products and events directly supports this important initiative, and because ISN collects and uses participation data (e.g., webinar registrations, website hits, downloads, and purchases of products) as the basis for approaching foundations, corporations, and philanthropies for their support. We really could use your help in building those numbers!!!

Here are some suggestions for how you can help to make this year's Week a great success:

- **Share your Celebration Plans for Inclusive Schools Week!** Each year, Inclusive Schools Week participants from all over flood the ISN email box with details about their exciting Celebration Plans, and once again you are invited to submit a short description of the events and activities you have planned for the Week to: inclusiveschools@edc.org. We are now posting Celebration Plans from selected schools and organizations on the website at: http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Celebration_Plans
- **Participate in Inclusive Schools Weeks Events!** ISN is hosting a webinar on December 3rd from 3:00 to 4:30 pm EST on the topic "Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points and the Role of the Special Educator in Today's Mathematics Classroom" with Dr. Hank Kepner, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and Dr. Lisa Dieker, Professor of Exceptional Education at the University of Central Florida. For more information, and to register for this event, go to: http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Events_Registration
- **Spread the word about Inclusive Schools by purchasing ISN products for your organization** from: <http://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>. Items such as pencils, pens, bookmarks, posters and stickers are a great way to let educators and families know about Inclusive Schools Week while helping to support the Week and ISN. Place your orders now while there's still plenty of time to plan your 2008 Inclusive Schools Week celebration!
- **Share and discuss the documentary Including Samuel with your school and community!** This award-winning film is an excellent resource for schools to use in professional development and in fostering community-wide discussions about the benefits and challenges of inclusive educational practices. (View a short clip of the film at: <http://www.includingsamuel.com/media/>) *Including Samuel* DVDs are now available for sale through ISN at: http://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/including_samuel_orderform.html and include a 24-page Viewers Guide with dozens of excellent discussion questions. **From now through November 25th, order by credit card and you will receive free shipping!**

Thanks very much for your past and current support of this important initiative. If you have any questions or suggestions about Inclusive Schools Network, the Week, or ISN products, please contact ISN by email at inclusiveschools@edc.org.

Visit the Tip of the Month section of the Inclusive Schools website to view past Tips, including additional Tips for the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week, at:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/tips>

Inclusive Practices Around the World:

UNESCO Conference on Inclusive Education

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will host the 48th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE) this year on the topic: "Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future". This conference, organized by UNESCO's International Bureau of Education (IBE), is described as "a major international forum for education policy dialogue among Ministers of Education and other stakeholders (researchers, practitioners, representatives of intergovernmental organizations and civil society)." It will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, November 25-28, 2008.

This year's conference will provide opportunities for discussion about governments' role in promoting inclusive educational policies and practices. There will also be a strong focus on education systems that create opportunities for lifelong learning and successful transitions. For more information, please visit the ICE website: <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/ice/48th-session-2008.html>.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: December 3, 2008

"Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Dignity and justice for all of us"

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The United Nations (UN) is observing this milestone with the theme for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities: "Dignity and justice for all of us". Article 25 of the UDHR provides that each person has "the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control", and the implementation of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities this past May reinforces these important principles. Please join the Inclusive Schools Network and the world community in observing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities this December 3rd as part of your school or community's Inclusive Schools Week celebration.

More information on this event is available at the UN Enable website: <http://un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=109>.

China Makes Significant Progress in the Enrollment of Students with Disabilities

The China Disabled Persons' Federation reported on November 9 that the number of students with disabilities enrolled in schools has increased almost ten-fold in the

past twenty years. In 1986, only 47,200 students with disabilities were enrolled in school. As of 2007, there were 413,000 students with disabilities in Chinese schools. The percentage enrollment in school for children who are blind, deaf or mentally impaired is now 80.7%.

View the full article in English in the People's Daily Online at:
<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/6530791.html>

Support Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week!

Here's how YOU can make a difference:

Your purchase of products or tax-deductible contribution supports the work we are doing to support families, schools, and communities around the world to create awareness, build knowledge, and encourage systems change toward more inclusive educational opportunities for all children. We are a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization, and we are extremely grateful for your support!

2008 ISN products are now available for purchase! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2008 Inclusive Schools Week celebration and to raise awareness about inclusive educational practices throughout the year. This year, ISN is delighted to be collaborating with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, who will host the official online store for ISN products. To view the 2008 products, order online, or download a PDF order form, please visit our new **[Products Page and Secure Online Order Form](#)**:

<https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

Click here to **[download a contribution form](#)** and make a donation today:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/files/Contribution%20Form.pdf>

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