



Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide

Inclusive Schools Network News

April 2009

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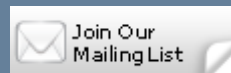
Inclusive Schools Network

"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). In 2009, ISN will be expanding its 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:



ISN Resources & Events:

ISN Webinar: Save the Date!**"Paraprofessional Supports in Inclusive Schools:
Research, Practices and Alternatives"**

With Michael Giangreco, Ph.D. of the University of Vermont
Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Michael Giangreco has over 30 years of experience in the field of special education as a teacher, administrator, teacher trainer, and researcher. His work focuses on various aspects of education for students with disabilities within general education classrooms, including issues related to the training, deployment, and efficacy of paraprofessionals. Dr. Giangreco is the author of numerous professional publications and has created over 300 cartoons depicting educational issues and research findings. More information about this event, including a link to online registration, will be available on the ISN website soon!

ISN Resources:

Help ISN identify websites and tools that
promote and support inclusive education!

The **Resources** section of the ISN website was recently updated, and is now organized by topic. Please share ISN Resources with your friends and colleagues, and if you have any suggestions for a topic or a particular resource you would like to see featured on the ISN website, email your suggestions to: inclusiveschools@edc.org. Visit the Resources section of the ISN website at:

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

Video-Cast: ISN Math Webinar

On December 3, 2008, the Inclusive Schools Network hosted its first webinar on the topic "**Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points and the Role of the Special Educator in Today's Mathematics Classroom**" with Drs. Hank Kepner and Lisa Dieker. This 90-minute online presentation and discussion was recorded, and a video-cast of the event can now be purchased for viewing through the ISN website. It is an excellent professional development resource for educators and organizations looking to improve practice and help students with disabilities in addressing math standards in inclusive settings. For more information, and to purchase the video-cast, go to:

http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Webinar_2008_December

The 9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week
December 7 - 11, 2009
Save the Dates!

Featured Events:

CITEd Webinar: New Media Tools
April 15 & 21, 2009

The Center for Implementing Technology in Education (CITEd) hosts a webinar series on Moving Forward with Technology. The next topic, **New Media Tools**, will focus on how new media technology can help support students with diverse learning needs. The webinar will run on April 15 at 2:30 pm CDT and on April 21 at 9:00 am CDT, and features two researchers from EDC, Inc: Karen Clay, Project Director, and Alise Brann, Research Associate (who contributed the Tip of the Month for this newsletter on "Web 2.0 and New Media Tools"). For more information about this webinar, go to: <http://www.cited.org/webinars.html>.

International Conference on Self-Determination
May 3-5, 2009

The Center for Self-Determination will hold the 2nd Annual International Conference on Self-Determination in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, May 3-5, 2009. For more information, and to register for this event, go to: <http://www.centerforself-determination.com>.

"Contours of Inclusion" Conference:
The Intersection between the Arts
and Universal Design for Learning
May 15, 2009

The Partnership for Arts-based Instruction and Inclusion is hosting a one-day conference to explore the intersection between arts-based instruction and the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to support learning across disciplines for all students. The Partnership is a collaboration between VSA arts of Massachusetts, Lesley University and the University of Massachusetts Graduate College of Education. Visit www.vsamass.org for more information and to register for this event, or download the event flyer at: [http://www.vsamass.org/Fliercontoursofinclusion%20\(3\)%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.vsamass.org/Fliercontoursofinclusion%20(3)%5B1%5D.pdf).

Toronto Summer Institute on Inclusion, Community and Diversity July 11-16, 2009

Early Bird registration is now taking place for the Toronto Summer Institute on Inclusion, Community and Diversity. The Institute will be held at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, during the week of July 11-16. Download the Institute pamphlet for more information about this event and early registration: <http://www.inclusion.com/2009torontopamphlet.pdf>.

Tip of the Month:

Web 2.0 and New Media Tools for Organization and Planning

Many students with learning disabilities have difficulty with executive function - organizing, planning, keeping track of time, remembering information and keeping track of multiple tasks can all present difficulties for these students. Typically, individuals who struggle with executive function use a variety of strategies to help with organization and planning; students may use agenda books and calendars, to-do lists, organizers or detailed checklists for tasks and assignments.

A key factor in the success of any of these strategies is ensuring that students use them regularly and create positive habits. One way to encourage students to utilize organizational and planning strategies is to link them to technologies they use in their daily lives to socialize, play, and learn, such as Instant Messaging (IM), text messaging, email, social networking, and digital cameras. Web 2.0 applications for task management, organization and bookmarking make use of these tools to allow users to tailor their reminders and information in a way that makes sense to them. While these applications may not be effective for every student who struggles with executive function, they are useful to have in your toolkit:

Online To-Do lists/Task Management Tools: There are a number of free online to-do list and task management applications available, most with similar features.

Some popular features include:

- Using Twitter, Google Calendar, email, text message, or a BlackBerry to add a task to your to-do list
- Receive task reminders via IM, text message, or email
- Locate tasks on a map and get directions
- Organize tasks in list form or visually (as a tag cloud)
- Share lists with friends and collaborate on projects
- Other Task Management Tools include [Remember the Milk](#) and [Ta-da Lists](#)

Online Calendars: Students (and teachers) can opt to use the calendar application built into their computer's operating system, or utilize a free online calendar. Here are two examples of online calendars and how they can be used:

- [Google Calendar](#): This online calendar can be shared with friends and

family and is a good way for parents to keep track of assignments and projects and monitor their child's progress. Entries can be color-coded and this calendar can be synced with mobile devices (BlackBerry, iPhone, Windows Mobile) so students receive email or text message reminders as dates approach.

- **Assign-a-Day**: This is a free online, teacher-managed calendar that can be used to create a calendar for multiple classes, and to post assignments for students to view.

Productivity and Notetaking Tools: Students who struggle with executive functioning may have a hard time approaching longer-term projects, research papers, or other in-depth assignments. Or they may have difficulty keeping track of numerous pieces of information. In these instances, notetaking or productivity applications such as these may be helpful:

- **Diigo**: One of a variety of social bookmarking and tagging websites. In addition to bookmarking websites and resources of interest, users can highlight website text, add sticky notes to websites, and access these annotations from any computer when they log in to their Diigo account.
- **EverNote**: This application combines traditional notetaking, to-do lists, and task management with virtual sticky notes, photos, audio recordings and mobile applications to allow users to remember and record important information and access it anytime.

Click here to read more about these Web 2.0 and Media Tools, and to view additional ISN **Resources** and **Tips** related to Technology in Schools, please visit: http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Technology_Resources.

This month's Tip was researched, compiled and written by Alise Brann, Research Associate at EDC, Inc. Alise works for the [National Center for Supported e-Text](#) and the [Center for Implementing Technology in Education \(CITeD\)](#), which is hosting a webinar on New Media Tools on April 15 & 21, 2009. See the preceding Featured Events section of this newsletter for additional information about the webinar.

Featured Resource:

ThinkCollege.Net A Project of the Consortium for Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The Consortium for Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities is a federally-funded consortium of universities that is responsible for conducting research, providing training and technical assistance, and disseminating information on promising practices related to postsecondary education for persons with developmental disabilities. Check out their most recent newsletter for information about the Consortium and the Think College project which seeks to identify colleges and school systems that have programs to support postsecondary students with developmental disabilities, at: http://thinkcollege.net/newsletter/TC_march2009.pdf.

In addition, if you know about a college or school system that hosts such a

program, you can help the Consortium by submitting information directly to the Think College survey website at: <http://www.thinkcollege.net/identifyprograms>.

Inclusive Practices Around the World:

Information Management and Curriculum Development Initiatives Support Inclusive Education in Namibia

In January of 2009, the Namibian Ministry of Education implemented a number of initiatives to support inclusive education for students with disabilities. According to Deputy Minister Dr. Becky Ndjozo-Ojo, these initiatives, which include an information management system called Edulink and significant changes in curriculum development, are aligned with the UNESCO Education For All project. To read more about inclusive education in Namibia, check out the following article: <http://www.newera.com.na/article.php?articleid=2014>.

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!

ISN products are available for purchase online! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2009 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 these 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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