

Inclusive Schools Network News

December 2009

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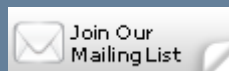
Inclusive Schools Network

"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:



Season's Greetings from ISN!

The Inclusive Schools Network wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season.

9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week:

Thank you so much for your support of the week!

This year, thousands of people from all around the world celebrated Inclusive Schools Week. Schools, organizations, and communities held their own events and activities to raise awareness about the benefits of inclusive educational practices, and to celebrate the theme "Inclusive Technologies"

Here are some of the ways that people celebrated Inclusive Schools Week 2009:

- Teaching teams at the Frazer Center created colorful displays that shared new and used inclusive practices.
- At Countryside Elementary School in Newton, MA, the art teacher organized a thumb print activity where students pressed their thumbs into an ink pad and made thumbprints. Students saw that the thumbprints were almost all alike, yet each thumbprint was also unique and special in its detail. Students then drew self portraits using their thumbprint.
- At the Jersey Public Schools, each class collaboratively wrote a school song that highlighted the inclusive nature of the school.
- School districts throughout Michigan celebrated the [Michigan Inclusive Schools Week](#). [Click here](#) for the adoption of resolution.

Visit the [Inclusive Schools Week 2009](#) page to read more about how different schools, organizations, and communities celebrated the week.

It is not too late to share your celebration plans! To share your celebration plans, send us an email at inclusiveschools@edc.org

Featured Events:

Synergy: Together We Act
26th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities
April 12-13, 2010
Hawai'i Convention Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i

The International Pacific Rim Conference (Pac Rim) on Disabilities has been widely recognized over the past 25 years as one of the most "diverse gatherings" in the world. The event encourages and respects voices from "diverse" perspectives across

numerous areas, including: voices from persons representing all disability areas; experiences of family members and supporters across all disability areas; responsiveness to diverse cultural and language differences; evidence of researchers and academics studying disability; stories of persons providing powerful lessons; examples of program providers, natural supports and allies of persons with disabilities and; action plans to meet human and social needs in a globalized world. Each year the conference hews to its traditional areas which have bred much of the interdisciplinary research and educational advances of the last three decades. But each year, new topics are introduced to foment discussion and change. The intent is to harness the tremendous synergy as generated by the intermingling of these diverse perspectives, thus, creating a powerful program which impacts each individual participant in his or her own unique way.

For more information, please visit: www.pacrim.hawaii.edu

Tip of the Month:

Visual Learning Methodologies

In the Celebration Ideas Kit developed for this year's Inclusive Schools Week, Dave Edyburn, Ph.D., Department of Exceptional Education, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, emphasized the importance of access, "When a student cannot access curriculum learning materials, it follows that s/he will not be able to engage in learning nor meet the intended learning outcomes". One form of access that Edyburn highlighted is cognitive access, which must be considered when working with young children, students with cognitive disabilities, individuals with language and/or communication impairments, and students whose first language is not English. In order to provide cognitive access in a diverse classroom, teachers must build a learning environment that supports cognitive processes. One particular online resource that supports cognitive access, and can also function to assess student learning, which Edyburn mentioned, is [Inspiration](#). Inspiration applies visual learning methodologies - using graphical ways of working with ideas presenting information - to engage students learning and understanding of the information. By using visual modes of expression to represent information and adding links to create relationships, students can organize knowledge and convey the skills they are learning. For instance, in Language Arts studies, inspiration helps students bridge the gap between visual and verbal modes of communication so that students are able to brainstorm, analyze, organize, draft, and revise essays. Also available on this site is [kidspiration](#), which was created for K-5 learners, that uses proven principals of visual learning to strengthen reading and writing skills, builds conceptual understanding in math, and develops thinking skills across the curriculum.

Resource:

Education in Emergencies: Including Everyone

Education in Emergencies - Including Everyone: INEE's (Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies) Pocket Guide to Inclusive Education is a reference guide to help practitioners make sure that education in emergencies is accessible and inclusive for everyone. The guide shares ideas and practical actions that stakeholders in education can use in an emergency in an effort to show that it is possible to make progress in ensuring education rights for those who are excluded.

Please [click here](#) to access the full pocket guide

Inclusive Practices Around the World:

Canada

The Canadian website, "[Inclusive Education Canada](#)" presents the work of educational leaders that support inclusion. The website features interviews with these leaders who share their ideas about how to make inclusion work. The latest interviewee, John Clendenning, Principal, Hartland Community School in Hartland, New Brunswick, shares his insights on the successes and challenges of having an inclusive school. Also on the website is a report entitled: "Better Education for All: When We're Included Too". This is a global report that is designed to tell the story of inclusive education from the perspective of both people living with an intellectual disability and their families. To access the full report, [click here](#)

Follow Us on Twitter!

To follow us on Twitter, click on the following link:

<http://twitter.com/ISchoolsNetwork>

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)**:

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

Click here to **[download a contribution form](http://www.inclusiveschools.org/files/Contribution%20Form.pdf)** and make a donation today:

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