



## Inclusive Schools Network™

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Great things happen in inclusive schools™.

## Inclusive Schools Week News

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**Volume 4, No. 3, March 2008**

*Inclusive Schools Week™ highlights and celebrates the progress our schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to all students, particularly those who have disabilities and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children and youth. ISW News is your source for updates and information about the Week--and other resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities.*

"People are starting to understand that inclusion is not a "program". Inclusion is a philosophy...a way of doing business all of the time. "

**Participant, 2007 *Inclusive Schools Week***

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## **The Inclusive Schools Network: Connecting Families, Schools, and Communities throughout the World**

Inclusive Schools Week will expand its mission with the launch of the *Inclusive Schools Network (ISN)* in 2008. The *Inclusive Schools Network* will serve as a year round web-based resource for families, schools, and communities interested in the topic of inclusive education. While establishing an international network and resource center focusing on inclusive schooling around the world, *ISN* will offer new products, online events, and conferences. Look for upcoming news including information about membership opportunities for districts, schools, and individuals at [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org) or email Kristen Layton at [KLayton@edc.org](mailto:KLayton@edc.org).

### **New Resources**

**“Supporting Students to Reach High Standards”** – Coming Soon!

PSI, the Project for School Innovation, is getting ready to release their newest guide on effective practices in inclusive education *Supporting Students to Reach High Standards*. This teacher-authored text is based on effective practices at the Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School, where Eastern values such as *gambatte* (persistence) and *kaizen* (continual improvement of the community) blend with Western practices to build a "culture of achievement" that emphasizes hard work and respect. The book explores specific practices and systems that give each student the support he or she needs to strive for and reach rigorous academic goals. Books will be available soon at: [http://psinnovation.org/what\\_we\\_do/dissemination/book](http://psinnovation.org/what_we_do/dissemination/book)

**“The Exceptional Child: Inclusion in Early Childhood Education”** – Newly released!

*The Exceptional Child: Inclusion in Early Childhood Education* by Eileen K. Allen and Glynnis Edwards Cowdery is a brand new book published by Delmar Learning. This new publication addresses the approach and tools needed to provide an optimal setting for young children and their families. Many checklists and forms are included for use within the classroom to aid educators in developing a developmentally appropriate environment. The easy to use format is useful to educators and parents/caregivers alike. You can find this new resource at [www.delmarlearning.org](http://www.delmarlearning.org)

### **Events**

**Inclusive Middle and High Schools: Save the Date!!**

**High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools: A Leadership Institute**

Sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network and the University of Central Florida

Two-day Summer Institute: July 21-22 or July 24-25

Follow-up Fall Seminar: TBD

Location: University of Central Florida, Orlando

Whether you are well on the road to building a more inclusive environment at the secondary level or you are just embarking on the journey—this institute will provide the ideas, strategies, and tools you will need to increase successful outcomes for all students. The Institute is specifically designed for teams of general and special educators involved with inclusive education in grades 6-12. The four-day program commences with a two-day summer institute and concludes with a two-day follow-up seminar in the fall. Brochures will be available soon! If you would like a brochure emailed to you, please contact Mai Chen at [mchen@edc.org](mailto:mchen@edc.org) or call 617-618-2189 for more information.

**Save the Date:**  
**December 1-5, 2008 is the**  
***8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week!***

**Tip of the Month**

*Khooneh takouni*, which translates to “shaking the house”, is a Persian ritual of spring cleaning that precedes the Persian New Year each spring.

The ritual of spring cleaning, in many cultures, provides a fresh start as we enter the season of new beginnings. As trees bloom and flowers blossom many people enjoy a renewed sense of empowerment and life.

Unfortunately, many of our students see the spring only as the beginning of the end of the year and the last hurdle before summer vacation. Students who have not experienced academic or social success during the early part of the school year will often “cash out” in the spring while they await the reprieve of the summer months.

With the same enthusiasm evoked by spring cleaning and renewal, teachers can motivate students to consider this season a time of new beginnings. For ideas for renewing your students’ sense of interest, enthusiasm and eagerness to succeed go to [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org)

**Inclusive Practices around the World**

**Inclusive Education Week Fun in Canada**

Canadian educators, families, and communities celebrated Inclusive Education Week during the week of February 18. As part of the country’s celebration, Community Living Toronto organized games of *Spinclusion* to be played in over 30 classrooms throughout Toronto. Spinclusion is an interactive board game that promotes inclusive principles such as acceptance and respect for people with different needs and abilities. It can be played by children of all ages. For more information about Canada’s celebration and to find out more about Spinclusion go to: [www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca)

**Support the 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 would be extremely grateful for your support! Celebration Kits, posters, pencils, and much more are available for purchase—and are useable any time of year. Order now to distribute these materials at your upcoming workshops and professional meetings: <https://www.inclusiveschools.org/order.cfm>. Download and return your contribution form today: <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/support.cfm>

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*Inclusive Schools Week*™ is an initiative of Education Development Center, Inc. and is celebrated annually the first week in December by schools, professional organizations, and cultural associations across the country and abroad.

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