San Francisco Inclusive Schools Week is an annual, citywide, K-12 celebration focusing on our year-round efforts to promote and build inclusive, welcoming school communities that embrace and support people of all natural and diverse abilities, and sociological and cultural backgrounds.

San Francisco Inclusive Schools Week was made official by Mayoral Proclamation in 2010 and is celebrated the first full week of December annually, in keeping with National Inclusive Schools Week—celebrated by schools around the country since 2001.

2011 Inclusive Schools Week Date: December 5-9, 2011
2011 SFUSD Theme: “All Kids Can!”

Inclusive Schools Week Ideas & Suggestions

Following is a list of ideas for putting together a custom program that's right for your school community and school's awareness level. Think of this as a menu meant to inspire your own, unique celebration! There are many resources available on the internet to program a week rich in themed curriculum and activities, and to carry on throughout the year.

Work with your Principal and school leadership to create an ISW that will engage your whole community. People who may be able to help include your SpEd and Intervention staff, teachers, librarian, PTA and PPS-SF School Ambassador.

Site Considerations:
- For sites newer to inclusion, focus on broader community building topics such as diversity, empathy, acceptance, mutual respect.
- For sites more acclimated to inclusion, focus on disability awareness, visible/invisible differences and inclusion/exclusion, while enabling the whole school community to connect via bully-free and diversity components.

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<th>Morning Circle/Assembly</th>
<th>On the Monday of ISW, gather the school together and hear the Principal talk about the meaning of Inclusive Schools as a general, concept, acknowledge your school’s year-round efforts, and describe your school’s ISW program/celebration.</th>
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<td>• Address that visible and invisible differences are universal, across all places, cultures, socio-economic levels, etc.</td>
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Enhancements:
1. Choose something from the list below to feature after the Principal’s introduction.
2. Every day of the week feature a themed focus at morning circle, an assembly or via another communication channel. Some ideas:
   - The Golden Rule
   - The Platinum Rule
   - Bully-free Zone
   - TRIBES
   - Sing a themed, whole-school song
   - Student role plays about a related theme
   - Parent-led foreign language greetings to illustrate cultural diversity
   - Teacher and staff appreciation for year-round efforts
   - Special guests
| Library Resources and Readings | Designate a week of themed readings on empathy, disability awareness, diversity and other related topics in your library.  
  - Refer to the SFUSD ISW reading and resource list.  
  - Work with your librarian to choose grade level books. The library can acquire resources so your school has them year-round for classroom, library and social reference, or could borrow resources from the public library.  
    - Example: *Choose the book “Winter: The Dolphin That Could*, which is the true story on which the current feature film “Dolphin Tale” is based. Older grades may watch the documentary about Winter by the same name made by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. This provides the opportunity to discuss disability awareness and the power of a supportive environment in an approachable, non-human context. It also provides lesson opportunities for upper grades around the choices made in adapting a real story to a major motion picture. |
| Classroom Readings and Activities | Consider in-class readings, projects and lessons on related themes, for individual classrooms, by grade level, or as all-school activities.  
  - HS: Consider the Open Hand Initiative’s “Silver Scorpion Comic Book—the world’s first disabled, multi-cultural superhero, in stories that deal with topics such as bullying, death of a loved one, and other challenges of today’s world. |
| School-wide Project | Program a project that your whole school creates together, focusing on ideas that build on year-round social-emotional lessons about mutual respect, community, empathy, diversity, etc. – all critical to an inclusive community. Classes create pieces that are displayed collectively in an installation.  
  - Themed project examples, where students write and draw on shaped pieces of paper (hand, heart, puzzle piece, leaf, etc.):  
    - “Put-Ups” – Classes discuss inclusive aspects that contribute to a strong community. Students are asked to write about a good deed they witnessed at school, about support they or a friend received at school, or a general appreciation of the school.  
    - “I am unique because…” – Classes discuss things that make people unique, focusing on personal strengths, skills and feelings. Students are asked to complete the sentence.  
    - “When I’m included I feel…” – Classes discuss feelings around being included and excluded, and visible/invisible reasons. Students are asked to complete the sentence.  
  - Installation ideas:  
    - a ‘tree’ of messages  
    - a wall of messages  
    - multi-sensory construct |
| Ability Awareness Activities / PE | Fun, specialized activities and modified games to promote empathy, awareness and inclusive community.  
  1. Ability Awareness Day  
    - Dyslexia Station  
    - Fine Motor Impairment Station  
    - Gross Motor Impairment Station  
    - Vision Impairment Station  
    - Audial Sensory Station  
  2. Field Day – Track and field games modified to replicate gross motor challenges. |
| Families | If your school has implemented the Families program, you can use this opportunity to do a themed, focused activity and/or discussion in the small, teacher-led Families groups. |
(ISW Program Ideas & Suggestions continued)

| Special Assemblies, Performances, Guest Visits, etc. | Host assemblies and/or classroom visits by guests like *Axis Dance Company, Todd Parr* (It’s Okay to be Different), *Trooper Johnson*, etc. |
| Whole-School Potluck | Gather together to celebrate the diversity of your school community. Ideas:  
  - Focus on diversity with a potluck of foods from your school’s families’ cultural heritage.  
  - Focus on inclusion with a guest speaker, film screening or related program in conjunction with dinner. |
| Professional Development and Parent Education | Programs about inclusive schools and inclusion services are applicable to all school communities and the social emotional development of all students. Workshops, panels, film screenings with Q&A, guest speakers and adult readings and resources are all examples of ways to engage and provide engagement and educational opportunities.  
Complete the Inclusive Self-Study on the Inclusive Schools Network as a staff.  
Complete the Inventory from *Building Inclusive Schools Tools and Strategies for Success*, Appendix B  
As a staff, do a jigsaw of *Building Inclusive Schools Tools and Strategies for Success*, dividing staff into teams, one for each chapter. |
| Movie Night(s) | 1. ES audiences: screen and discuss films with a ‘soft’ reference to disability like “Finding Nemo”, “How to Train your Dragon”, “Shrek”, “The Princess and the Frog”, “Dolphin Tale”, etc.  
2. MS/HS audiences: screen and discuss documentary films like “Including Samuel”, “Darius Goes West”, “Winter the Dolphin that Could”, etc.  
| Promotion | Promote your celebration and communicate to your community starting in advance! Ideas:  
  - Come up with a brand and theme that fits your school  
  - Bulletin board  
  - Posters  
  - E-Newsletter and/or Special E-blast  
  - Wednesday Envelope  
  - School Website  
  - Neighborhood Paper  
  - Listservs  
  - Blogs  
  - Press and Media for special events |

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### 2011 SF Inclusive Schools Week Committee

**Co-Chairs:**  
Regina Piper — SFUSD Special Ed Elementary Supervisor  
Catherine Dauer — SFUSD Parent

**Members:**  
Rachel Norton — SFUSD Board of Education member, Audrey Vernick — SFUSD Parent, Joe Goyos — Support for Families of Children with Disabilities