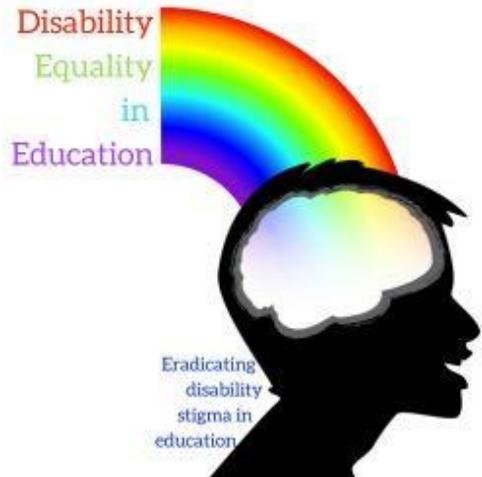


SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



[Image description: DEE logo a black head and white brain with rainbow emerging from the top and the words Disability Equality in Education to the left. Eradicating disability stigma in education written in blue.]

Welcome to the DEE Fall Newsletter. We hope you all returned safe and well to school either in person or virtual. We are still running on a virtual basis and making plans accordingly. This month we are outreaching to hundreds of educators in PA introducing them to our resources. We are also meeting up with the colleges to create a virtual fall calendar of events and group meetings. Most exciting is that October is to be proclaimed Disability Action Month and we have some great events planned for all ages. If you would like to get more involved please contact us at info@disabilityequalityeducation.org or visit our web site at: disabilityequalityeducation.org.

HOUSE BILL 2785

THE DISABILITY INCLUSIVENESS CURRICULUM ACT

One of most amazing victories so far has been the introduction into the PA House of Representatives of House Bill 2785. Basically, if passed it would mandate all K through 12 schools in Pennsylvania to include disability into the curriculum. This curriculum would be overseen by disabled people and their organizations to ensure fair and truthful representation. The Act in detail can be found here and we urge all our supporters in PA to draw their legislators attention to this bipartisan and exciting prospect. <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&body=H&type=B&bn=2785>

For those outside PA we feel that this bill provides a useful template for other states and even the nation to pass legislation that teaches children about our lives and contribution to society.

FALL PLANS

We have great plans for this semester which include a book reading for K to 5 by Jennifer Keelan author of *All the Way to the Top* followed by interaction with students. We now have video of several local people reading some of our children's books some which have our lesson plans attached. This is great for both classroom and virtual learning. We will be uploading these onto our website this month.

All our picture reading books will eventually be in a PDF format so children and teachers can use for educational purposes.

We are also offering musical performances by Disabled Musicians with a Q and A, a whole range of films with disability themes and talks with key figures in the Disability Movement. These are particularly aimed at high schools and colleges.

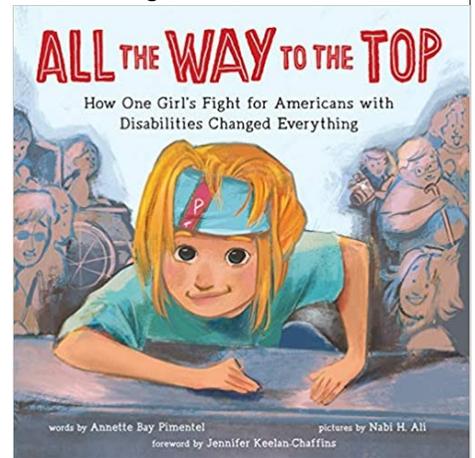
Finally, we are offering virtual workshops and webinars on inclusion from a disabled persons perspective and how to bring disability equality into your classroom. Further details of all this activity will appear on our website so check in often for the latest news.

Books in PDF format for virtual learning.

"With the new school year starting, it is a good time to think about what is in your library for your classroom. It is important to make sure classroom libraries represent all the diversity found in classrooms, including disabilities. We believe that having books that include the perspective of disability is an important way to reduce the stigma of disability because it helps to focus the discussion on disability and introduce students to different perspectives. Over the summer we have been digitizing our children's book collection so that teachers can include them in their virtual bookshelves this year. Each of our books is written from the perspective of somebody with a disability. These books are available only for and can be used only for educational purposes. To get the books, contact our education outreach specialist, Andrew Vuocolo, at AVuocolo.DEE@gmail.com."

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Picture of young disabled girl crawling up the capital steps. Title All the Way to the top. How one girls fight for Americans with disabilities changed everything.



This is the story of a little girl who just wanted to go, even when others tried to stop her.

Jennifer Keelan was determined to make a change—even if she was just a kid. She never thought her wheelchair could slow her down, but the way the world around her was built made it hard to do even simple things. Like going to school, or eating lunch in the cafeteria.

Jennifer knew that everyone deserves a voice! Then the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that would make public spaces much more accessible to people with disabilities, was proposed to Congress. And to make sure it passed, Jennifer went to the steps of the Capitol building in Washington DC to convince them.

And, without her wheelchair, she climbed.

LESSON PLAN OF THE MONTH

The right to be disabled

"This month's lesson of the month is a lesson that focuses on how the way we talk about disability can change the lives of people with disabilities and the lives of the people around them. This lesson plan centers around a powerful video made by Norman Kunc and Emma Van Der Klift, two well known disability rights advocates. In the video Norman tells the story of how he went from thinking his path in life was to cure and hide his cerebral palsy, to understanding that he and everyone else has the right to be disabled and should not feel compelled to try to hide their disabilities. Students will watch the video and complete a think, pair, share activity that will help them further explore the themes Norman discusses. This is a great lesson for not just students, but teachers as well, because Norman presents a perspective on disability that many people have not heard yet, but will no doubt agree with once they do."

<https://disabilityequalityeducation.org/2020/09/04/the-right-to-be-disabled/>

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We are Disability Equality in Education (DEE), supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. DEE began operations in July 2017. As a truly grassroots effort, all leadership of DEE are people with disabilities (both invisible and physical) and we rely on a network of volunteers who are people with disabilities and allies. DEE is affiliated with Disabled in Action (DIA). DIA is a civil rights organization committed to ending discrimination against people with disabilities. We embody the phrase “Nothing about us, without us” in the work we do with schools and colleges.

Our Work

Curriculum Development for K-12 to Reduce Disability Stigma in Schools:

We have created a [disability comprehensive curriculum lesson plan library](#). This is a resource for teachers to explore disability in multiple contexts (history, math, science and social studies) in the classroom. Our lessons and associated resources are informed by the [Social Model of Disability](#). Our focus with education is to normalize the idea of disability with all students. If you are interested in teaching our lessons, but need extra support, we are here for you! DEE can provide free training on teaching disability in the classroom just [contact us](#) to learn more.

[Disability Pride for Colleges:](#)

Disability Pride is the notion that disability is a fundamental intersectional identity and community. Disability Pride celebrations are experiences for people with disabilities to share their stories with fellow comrades and allies. These events enhance the student experience on campus by encouraging discussion and celebration of disabilities. DEE collaborates with colleges to help them build a good foundation to host Disability Pride events year after year. If you are interested in holding a Disability Pride event at your college or university, please [contact us](#).

This project, Stigma, is supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, through grant number 2001PASCDD-02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

HAVE A GREAT AND SAFE FALL