

Diversity News



Raymore-Peculiar School District

Fall 2009

Diversity training for school district staff

Last spring, all employees (more than 800 staff) of our school district participated in our Diversity Professional Development Day. Best-selling author, national speaker, and long time educator Stephen Peters was the guest speaker at the event. Peters advocated a three-step process to “capture, inspire, and teach.” He shared that building relationships is the key to reaching and teaching all students.

Break-out sessions were another feature of the diversity day. Staff members viewed a video of State Representative Emmanuel Cleaver and local paraprofessional Valencia Webster. Additionally, the staff viewed the “Brown Eye, Blue Eye Experiment” and answered questions about discrimination.

Positive feedback was shared about the event by many staff members. One staff member commented, “GREAT DIVERSITY DAY!!!! Kudos to you and your diversity team! It was a wonderful day filled with reflection and new thinking.” Another comment was, “Yesterday’s diversity training was amazing. I always cringe just a little when these meetings come along, but yesterday was a delightful exception.”

Diversity training took place at the beginning of this school year for many teachers at the secondary level. Our goal is to continue training our staff to ensure a positive learning environment for all our students.



Michelle Jackson, teacher at Peculiar Elementary School, is pictured with guest speaker Stephen Peters during the Diversity Professional Development Day in spring 2009.

Would you like to participate in the school district's Community Diversity Advisory Committee?

You are invited to attend the next committee meeting, scheduled from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in the board of education room at the Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd. For more information, contact Dr. Terri Jamison, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, at tjamison@raypec.k12.mo.us.

In the News

Visit us at the Raymore-Peculiar School District's Diversity Website. Go to www.raypec.k12.mo.us. Click on Diversity on the left side of the page.

Suggestion Box

Make suggestions about diversity planning, ideas and concerns on our website or email to: rfreers@raypec.k12.mo.us

Raymore-Peculiar Diversity Vision

Raymore-Peculiar School District will build upon dignity and respect in an atmosphere that embraces and values diversity. We will provide opportunities where individual strengths are fostered in a safe and supportive learning environment.

Peculiar Elementary School's third grade class learns about different cultures



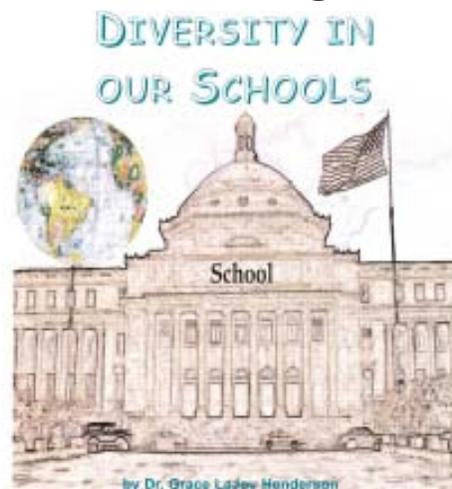
During a recent guidance lesson, Alice Redding's third grade class learned about different cultures. After reading and discussing the books, The Colors of Us and All the Colors of the Earth, her class compared and contrasted their own skin tones.

2009-10 District Diversity Committee

- Jamie Bogner, HS/SG
- James Brown, RP Academy
- Joanne Carmichael, BR
- Dona Cundiff, TC
- Leanne Dial, ASC
- JoLynne Flanagan, SG
- Renee Freers, ASC
- Lisa Hatfield, EG
- Andrew James, FC
- Terri Jamison, ASC
- Colleen Johnston, ASC
- Rebecca Justesen, HS
- Jamie Mackender, BR
- Kristi Mellon, TC
- Pat Odneal, BR/EG
- Melinda Riker, RE
- Elaine Riley, SH
- Nancy Schultz, CM
- Michelle Schulze, ELL
- Linda Sharp, EG
- Mayda Skinner, HS
- Al Voelker, MS
- Cindy Wade, RE
- Charlene White, MS
- ClaraYoungblood, PE

Diversity in our Schools shared with fourth graders

As part of our commitment to diversity, all fourth graders received Diversity in our Schools, a booklet by local author Dr. Grace LaJoy Henderson. The booklet's foreword is a message written by our superintendent, Dr. Jeff Kyle. He shares the districts commitment to prepare students for a future in multicultural society and global economy. The district welcomes opportunities to teach students about the value of recognizing and respecting all people.



**Monthly Celebration Ideas
2009-2010**

- Celebrating the culture of our continents:
- September North American Culture
- October Asian Culture
- November Australian Culture
- December Celebrations of one of the continents
- January European Culture
- February African Culture
- March South American Culture
- April International Space Station
(Choose one of the countries that is a member of the Space Station)
- May United Nations
(Choose one of the countries that is a member of The United Nations)



Non-discrimination notice

The Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Terri Jamison, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078. 816-892-1300.

Diversity Newsletter

Raymore-Peculiar Diversity News will be published once a semester and posted on the school district website.