



## LGBTQ-Inclusive Lesson Planning Guide - June 2009

**TEACHERS ... June is International Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month.** As you are planning your lessons for June, you may find it helpful to integrate some of the following, to infuse **LGBTQ/2-spirit** \* cultural awareness into the every day life of your classroom. Especially those teaching history, civics, social studies, family and consumer sciences, or language arts. Item #4 will be useful in teaching writing and verbal communication skills.

- (1) **What's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer/Questioning (GLBTQQ) Pride Month Commemorating?**
- (2) **What happens at GLBT Pride Month Celebrations? And when are the parades?**
- (3) **Other Dates of Note in June (besides the Stonewall Rebellion) ... including LOVING DAY, FATHERS' DAY and JUNETEENTH**
- (4) **Quotes to inspire journaling and spoken word**
- (5) **"Stonewall Rebellion"**
- (6) **Pride Symbols - What do they mean?**
- (7) **"Homo Nest Raided, Queen Bees Are Stinging Mad"**
- (8) **The story of Sylvia Rivera**
- (9) **"A Cop in the Stonewall Inn"**
- (10) **A Hundred and Three LGBTIQ Heroes and Role Models**
- (11) **LEARN YOUR HISTORY!! Before Stonewall, After Stonewall, & Out of the Past [great videos for classes & GSAs]**
- (12) **Teaching Pride, Dispelling Shame: Why should "pride" be a part of every school's curriculum?**

\* **LGBTQ** = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Queer. **Two-spirit** = a term of honor to describe a Native American or other Indigenous LGBTQ person, implying their special role as a spiritual bridge among genders.

\*\* **NOTE:** *If someone forwarded this to you, and you don't have access to the other parts, you will find it archived on the Safe Schools Coalition web site after about May 25, 2009. Go to: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/blackboard-history.html>*

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### (1) **What's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer/Questioning (GLBTQQ) Pride Month Commemorating?**

This international celebration marks the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion on the last Sunday in June.

In the 1940's, 50's and 60's, police had extorted money from the owners of nightclubs that served gay, lesbian, bi and trans folks. They could do this because, in many places, it was illegal to dance with someone of your own gender or to wear any clothing "of the other sex" and it was illegal for a club to serve an LGBT clientele. They often raided the clubs to demonstrate their muscle, arresting the patrons, publishing their names (which meant you could lose your career, your children, your home), and sometimes beating or raping them in custody.

This police brutality was finally met with angry opposition one night in June of 1969, when the police raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York. For the first time ever, instead of passively accepting the police brutality, the patrons, many of whom were young Puerto Rican and Black drag queens, fought back. They barricaded the doors and set off several days of rioting by their supporters and friends. Today, the holiday is celebrated as the anniversary of the modern movement for the human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.



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**(2) What happens at GLBT Pride Month Celebrations? And when are the parades?**

Many cities and towns all over the world have parades or marches. Some Pride celebrations are more political and focus on human rights abuses, discrimination and the fight for justice and equality. Some are more playful, more like a Mardi Gras, a celebration of freedoms won so far. Some celebrations include huge picnics in a park with hundreds or thousands of families who have gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender family members ... or who simply care about other families' rights. Some have children's areas with art tents, swimming areas and cotton candy. Folks listen to singers, dancers and speeches; we relax and enjoy the incredibly diverse sea of humanity, where people of every race and generation come together.

Read your class a child's perspective in the book (K-3) *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride* by Leslea Newman. ISBN: 1555831850.

Some LGBT Pride events serve specific ethnic communities. Read about **Black Pride Celebrations**: <http://gaylife.about.com/od/gaypride/a/blackgaypridedates.htm>  
**Generic (not ethnic specific) LGBTQ Pride Parades around the globe** this year will be happening throughout June and in other months, as well:  
<http://gaylife.about.com/od/gaypride/a/gaypridedates.htm>

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**(3) Other Dates of Note in June (besides the Stonewall Rebellion) ... including LOVING DAY, FATHERS' DAY and JUNETEENTH**

**June 4, 1975 - Angelina Jolie Voight** is born in Los Angeles. Dropping her last name, Jolie would grow up to become a huge Hollywood star and an openly bisexual role model. She had a relationship with model/actress Jenny Shimizu in 1996, before her marriage to Billy Bob Thornton and she told Barbara Walters, in a 20/20 interview in 2002, *"I consider myself a very sexual person who loves who she loves, whatever sex they may be."*

**June 6, 1954 - Harvey Fierstein** is born in Brooklyn, NY. Author of *The Sissy Duckling*, playwright, and beloved Emmy- and Tony-award winning actor, Fierstein is also a fiercely gay social activist. More:  
[http://www.brooklyneagle.com/categories/category.php?category\\_id=23&id=13274](http://www.brooklyneagle.com/categories/category.php?category_id=23&id=13274),  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey\\_Fierstein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Fierstein), and  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/13/opinion/13fierstein.html>

**June 9, 1922 - Cole Porter** is born in Peru, Indiana. A witty, smart composer and lyricist, Porter wrote songs that are widely loved to this day... *"Birds do it. Bees do it. Even educated fleas do it. Let's do it, let's fall in love."* GayToday says, *"Cole Porter (1891-1964) belonged to a generation that did not openly discuss sexual variance. "Gentlemen" were allowed their flings -- and Porter's were notorious -- but they were supposed to be discreet about them."* More:  
<http://gaytoday.badpuppy.com/garchive/reviews/020199re.htm>

**June 10, 2003 - The Ontario Court of Appeal** finds in favor of marriage equality ... confirming a lower court's ruling that denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples violates Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, part of the Canadian Constitution. This makes Ontario the first place in North America to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Two other Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Quebec, will follow suit in July, 2003 and March, 2004. Similarly, Massachusetts will become the first U.S. State to marry lesbian and gay couples, when its Supreme Judicial Court rules on November 18, 2003 that, beginning May 17, 2004 Massachusetts must begin treating them equally.



**June 12, 2009 – Loving Day** marks the anniversary of the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in the case of *Loving v. Virginia* ... the successful case brought by a young interracial couple denied by the state of Virginia the right to marry one another or even to live as a married couple if they married elsewhere. More: <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/frtrial/conlaw/loving.html> and <http://www.lovingday.org/> and see a lovely 3.5 minute YouTube video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhV000HBELA>

**June 14, 427 BC** - Philosopher **Plato** is born in Athens. 365Gay.com says, "*Platonic love today means love without sex. For Plato it meant sex with young men.*"

**June 15, 1973** – Neil Patrick **Harris** is born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. He will grow up to be an openly gay, Golden Globe- and Emmy-nominated actor, starring in, among other shows, *Doogie Howser, M.D.* and *How I Met Your Mother*. He talked about his sexual orientation in *People* magazine in 2006: <http://www.people.com/people/article/0,26334,1554852,00.html>

**June 16, 2006** - The state of Hawaii agrees to pay **\$625,000 to three LGBT youth who'd been incarcerated in juvenile jails** to settle a **federal civil rights lawsuit**. "The ACLU won a ruling against the state in February, when a judge agreed that the facility was 'in a state of chaos' characterized by dangerous and pervasive harassment against LGBT youth. The judge found 'a relentless campaign of harassment ... that included threats of violence, physical and sexual assault, imposed social isolation, and near-constant use of homophobic slurs.'"

**June 19, 2009 – Juneteenth** is an international holiday (official in 29 U.S. states) that commemorates the day in 1865 when the last U.S. slaves were notified of their independence. Wikipedia explains it this way, "*Though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had minimal immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves.*"

**June 20, 2009 – World Refugee Day.** "*World Refugee Day ... will go unnoticed by the majority of the world ... Many are running for their lives on this day or dying on this day. But whether it is noticed or not today stands as one of the most important days of the year. It is a day of respect and remembrance for the most vulnerable people in the world.*" - **Angelina Jolie**, Goodwill Ambassador, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the U.N. refugee agency) More info here: <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/events?id=3e7f46e04>

**June 21, 2009 - Fathers' Day** in the U.S., U.K. and Canada. Make sure that, if your students make cards or gifts in observance of Fathers' Day that they not only have your explicit permission to honor all the men in their lives (dads, stepdads, grandpas, uncles, their kindergarten teacher, their neighbor and other men they love) but that they also hear that you realize that some kids have two dads ... and that there is room for them in your art and writing projects, as well. **More about families with gay, bisexual and transgender dads and transgender moms here:** <http://www.transparentcy.org/>, and <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbcc/publications/lgpstspec.html>, and <http://www.colage.org/>

**June 23, 1912 - Alan Turing** is born. Turing would grow up to become a World War II hero, a world renowned mathematician, the founder of computer science, and an unapologetic gay man. In 1952, Turing was convicted for having a consenting sexual relationship with another man. He was sentenced to one year of forced injections with estrogen. Two years later, on June 7, 1954 at the age of 41, Alan Turing took his own life. <http://www.turing.org.uk/>

**June 27, 2008 - National HIV Testing Day.** More info (National Association of People with AIDS): <http://www.napwa.org/>

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#### (4) Quotes to inspire journaling and spoken word

*"It is undeniable that the experience of African Americans differs in many important ways from that of gay men and lesbians; among other things, the legacy of slavery and segregation is profound. But differences in historical experiences should not preclude the application of constitutional provisions to gay men and lesbians who are denied the fight to marry the person of their choice."*

-- **NAACP** Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., in commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Loving v. Virginia in the June 12, 1967 historic Supreme Court decision that advanced racial and marriage equality in the U.S.

*"I want American history taught. Unless I'm in that book, you're not in it either. History is not a procession of illustrious people. It's about what happens to a people. Millions of anonymous people is what history is about."*

-- **James Baldwin**

*It is not who you attend school with, but who controls the school you attend.*

-- **Nikki Giovanni**

*"Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye."*

-- **Helen Keller**

*"To discriminate against our sisters and brothers who are lesbian or gay on grounds of their sexual orientation for me is as totally unacceptable and unjust as Apartheid ever was."*

-- **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

*"Gays and lesbians stood up for civil rights in Montgomery, Selma, in Albany, Ga. and St. Augustine, Fla., and many other campaigns of the Civil Rights Movement. Many of these courageous men and women were fighting for my freedom at a time when they could find few voices for their own, and I salute their contributions."*

-- human rights advocate, **Dr. Coretta Scott King** (April 27, 1927 - Jan. 30, 2006)

*"I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people."*

-- human rights advocate, **Dr. Coretta Scott King** (April 27, 1927 - Jan. 30, 2006)

*"We don't believe they have the right to marry. In fact, we don't think they have the right to exist."*

-- **Douglas Sadler**, member of the Ku Klux Klan, in protesting attempts to legalize same-sex marriage in Iowa

*"The most successful marriages, gay or straight, even if they begin in romantic love, often become friendships. It's the ones that become the friendships that last."*

-- **Andrew Sullivan**

*"When an individual is protesting society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him."*

-- openly gay, Quaker, African-American civil rights leader, **Bayard Rustin**

*"What have you done today to make yourself Proud?"*

-- Proud by **Heather Small**



*"Resisting being called 'defective' and 'broken' is not intolerant; it is standing up for one's rights as a citizen and one's value as a human being. Asking to not be hit is not intolerant; asking not to be called 'fag' is not intolerant, asking for the same rights that hetero folks enjoy is not intolerant. I will never accept that being 'tolerant' means allowing myself to be regarded as inferior. I don't care if bigots get hurt feelings because I fend off the hand that hits me."*

-- **"gobear,"** posted on the Internet

*"Never do anything you are ashamed of. If you're ashamed that means somewhere inside you think it's wrong; and if you think it's wrong, you shouldn't be doing it."*

-- **Harvey Fierstein**

*"I burned out on AIDS and did no AIDS work for a couple of years. I was so angry that people were still getting this disease that nobody can give you - you have to go out and get it!"*

-- **Harvey Fierstein**

*"I pay your taxes. I take care of your loved ones when they are sick. I am the best I can be. I am tired of being debated."*

-- **Kevin Hook**, a registered nurse in Indianapolis, responding to a recent City Council vote that killed a bill that would have extended equal rights to gay people

*"Freedom means freedom for everyone. ... People ought to be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to."*

-- **Dick Cheney**

*"First, they ignore you. Then they laugh at you. Then they fight you. Then you win."*

-- **Mahatma Gandhi**

*"Standing up for yourself can have consequences, but not standing up for yourself can, too."*

-- **Chris Crain**, executive editor of the Washington Blade, in a blog entry about being attacked recently in Amsterdam

*"There comes a time when you have to stand up and shout: This is me damn it! I look the way I look, think the way I think, feel the way I feel, love the way I love! I am a whole complex package. Take me... or leave me. Accept me - or walk away! Do not try to make me feel like less of a person, just because I don't fit your idea of who I should be and don't try to change me to fit your mold. If I need to change, I alone will make that decision. When you are strong enough to love yourself 100%, good and bad - you will be amazed at the opportunities that life presents you."*

-- Copyright © 2000 **Stacey Charter**

*"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours."*

-- **Cesar Chavez**

*"Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves; vanity, to what we would have others think of us."*

-- **Jane Austen**

*"Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself."*

Football Coach, **Paul Bryant**

*"You can't give people pride, but you can provide the kind of understanding that makes people look to their inner strengths and find their own sense of pride."*

-- American Nun, **Charleszetta Waddles**



*"It shouldn't be a big deal to anybody. I know I've played with gay players and against gay players and it just shouldn't surprise anybody or be any issue."*

-- **Charles Barkley**, retired NBA player, on ex-player John Amaechi's coming out, as quoted in the Washington Post

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### (5) "Stonewall Rebellion"

Excerpted from <http://www.knittingcircle.org.uk/stonewall.html> May 2007:

The Stonewall Inn, (named after the Confederate General 'Stonewall' Jackson), was a gay bar (said to be sleazy and Mafia-run) at 51-53 Christopher Street just east of Sheridan Square in New York's Greenwich Village. (A black and white photograph of the inn is reproduced in Weinberg and Williams, (1974), photograph 5.) On the night of 27/28th. June, 1969, a police inspector and seven other officers from the Public Morals Section of the First Division of the New York City Police Department arrived shortly after midnight, served a warrant charging that alcohol was being sold without a license, and announced that employees would be arrested.

The patrons were ejected from the bar by the police while others lingered outside to watch, and were joined by passers-by. The arrival of the paddy wagons changed the mood of the crowd from passivity to defiance. The first vehicle left without incident apart from catcalls from the crowd. The next individual to emerge from the bar was a woman in male costume who put up a struggle which galvanised the bystanders into action. The crowd erupted into throwing cobblestones and bottles. Some officers took refuge in the bar while others turned a firehose on the crowd. Police reinforcements were called and in time the streets were cleared. During the day the news spread, and the following two nights saw further violent confrontations between the police and gay people.

The event was important less for its intrinsic character than for the significance subsequently bestowed on it. The Stonewall Rebellion was a spontaneous act of resistance to the police harassment that had been inflicted on the homosexual community since the inception of the modern vice squad in metropolitan police forces. It sparked a new, highly visible, mass phase of political organisation for gay rights that far surpassed, semi-clandestine homophile movement of the 1950s and 1960s, exemplified by the Mattachine Society. The Mattachine Society newsletter described the rebellion as 'the hairpin drop heard round the world'. Gay movements expanded into the Gay Liberation Front (GLF), Gay Activists Alliance, and many other groups.

The event has been commemorated by a parade held each year in New York City on the last Sunday in June, following a tradition that began with the first march on 29th. June, 1970, and by parallel events throughout the United States.

In March 2000 the Stonewall Inn was declared a national historical landmark, and one of the three per cent of US landmarks deemed to be of national importance. Andrew Dolkart, historian at Columbia University, was quoted as saying 'It's a key site in 20th century history'.

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### (6) Pride Symbols - What do they mean?

Read about the rainbow flag, the pink triangle and more:

<http://www.msu.edu/~alliance/faq/faqsymbols.html>

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**(7) "Homo Nest Raided, Queen Bees Are Stinging Mad"**

Read a July 6, 1969 mainstream press article (NY Daily News) describing the Stonewall Rebellion of the previous weekend: <http://www.yak.net/ian/stonewall.html>

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**(8) The story of Sylvia Rivera**

Ms. Rivera was one of the courageous transgender teens who fought back against police at the Stonewall Inn. Read about her life on Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvia\\_Rivera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvia_Rivera) and at the GLBT History Month web site: <http://www.glbthistorymonth.com/glbthistorymonth/2006/video.cfm?LeaderID=4>

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**(9) "A Cop in the Stonewall Inn"**

Read an interview with an officer who was there that night: [http://www.nycop.com/Stories/Jul\\_99/A\\_Cop\\_in\\_the\\_Stonewall\\_Inn/body\\_a\\_cop\\_in\\_the\\_stonewall\\_inn.html](http://www.nycop.com/Stories/Jul_99/A_Cop_in_the_Stonewall_Inn/body_a_cop_in_the_stonewall_inn.html)

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**(10) A Hundred and Three LGBTIQ Heroes and Role Models**

The **Safe Schools Coalition** offers this listing of individuals your history text left out ... or "forgot" to identify as a sexual minority ... from Jane Addams to José Zuniga (PDF file). Go to: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/herorolemodelcards.pdf>

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**(11) LEARN YOUR HISTORY!! *Before Stonewall, After Stonewall, & Out of the Past* [great videos for classes & GSAs]**

***Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community***: 87 min. video. Emmy-award winning documentary of gay life in the U.S. before 1969 and ***After Stonewall: From the Riots to the Millennium***, the sequel to Before Stonewall: 88 min. video. Chronicles the gay and lesbian experience since the Stonewall riots. Both videos are available in many video stores, or call 1-800-229-8575 or go to <http://www.firstrunfeatures.com/> (type "Stonewall" in the search box)

Also, ***Out of the Past***. 60 min. video, 1998. The first documentary about lesbian and gay history ever produced for a high school audience. This film, winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, recovers facets of our history that have been left out of the textbooks and follows one young woman making history today. **Starting, used, at \$2.01!!!** from Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1578482003/gaylesbiandst-20/102-1519868-1278559>

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## **(12) (12) Teaching Pride, Dispelling Shame: Why should "pride" be a part of every school's curriculum?**

Print the PDF version of the essay here:

[http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/TeachingPride\\_DispellingShame.pdf](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/TeachingPride_DispellingShame.pdf)

by Beth Reis - Safe Schools Coalition

First published in the June 17, 2005 of the Seattle Gay News, revised, May, 2008

Why should "pride" be a part of every school's curriculum? Why Gay pride? Why Black pride? Why pride as a woman? As a child with epilepsy? As a Sikh person? Why is it even the business of the schools? Isn't their job the teaching of reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic? Isn't that why we test for those things?

I recently watched the landmark documentary *Eye of the Storm*, produced by ABC News. It was the first video to document Jane Elliott's courageous undertaking to help her third grade class understand the meaning of prejudice. In it, Ms. Elliot talks to the camera about how, on the day after the assassination of Martin Luther King, she felt compelled to provide her all-white Midwest class something more than platitudes. They needed an experience that would move them to appreciate where racism comes from and what its devastating consequences can be on all parties.

The video shows her implementing that lesson plan three years later, with yet another group of third graders, in which she divides them by eye color and uses examples of the blue-eyed children's bad behavior to generate derogatory stereotypes about blue-eyed people. You watch the blue-eyed children shrink before your very eyes. You watch the brown-eyed children, over the course one school day, turn into bullies who are willing to mistreat their former best friends. On day two, Ms. Elliot announces that she was mistaken and that it is actually brown-eyed people who are less capable and honorable. Again, she uses real examples to support her thesis and the children believe her. All of them. Again, everybody's behavior changes, with the targeted people doing less well on reading tests and the privileged ones behaving meanly. Elliot talks, at the end of the film, about how test scores dropped or rose on cue and then, when the lesson was over, became high for the rest of the year. Why? Because the curriculum was meaningful. Because the message was clear that prejudice damages everyone.

And that things as superficial as eye color have no bearing on your worth as a human being, your intelligence, your compassion. And because children were trusted with a kernel of truth: the messages you tell yourself, and that others tell you about yourself, are more powerful than most of us realize. So tell yourself messages that will help you to become the best you can be.

How many schools address race prejudice and racism head on today? Precious few. And precious few address sexism, heterosexism, xenophobia, or anti-Semitism and other religious bigotry and oppression. A few do address ableism, without giving children that language, but at least helping people notice stereotypes they may have about people with disabilities. And as the grandmother of one child with developmental disabilities and another with cerebral palsy, I appreciate that. But it is such a meager start.

Pride is the polar opposite of shame. When we don't teach pride then, by omission, we "teach" shame. We don't have a choice but to teach one or the other. Children's and teens' worlds are filled with racially-skewed news coverage, gratuitous anti-Gay slurs on sitcoms and commercials, music and films that demean women, and politicians who tolerate the profiling of people of color and of Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent. If we don't help students recognize those influences for what they are, if we don't offer other images to counterbalance those, then we are complicit. Complicit in the shame that targeted young people feel and in the bullying behavior of those who target them. *And complicit in the lower test scores that result.*





## Safe Schools Coalition

Schools do address bullying. But many teach only the "safe" things in those curricula. Things like assertive responses to bullies and how to report harassment to an adult. How many address the prejudices that often underlie children's choices of slurs? Not many. How many teach what it means to be an ally or that one way to maintain your dignity is to call oppression "oppression"? And how many educators infuse into the environment and the conversation the recognition of historical figures' religious beliefs, hidden disabilities, ethnic backgrounds, gender expressions, sexual orientations and gender identities?

The Safe Schools Coalition offers them resources so that they can, through training, a list serve, publications and a web site.

I believe that more educators are teaching pride today than when we began offering resources, twenty plus years ago. And I know that we have a long way to go until every young person is helped at school to feel pride in his or her culture and to understand and resist prejudice and oppression.