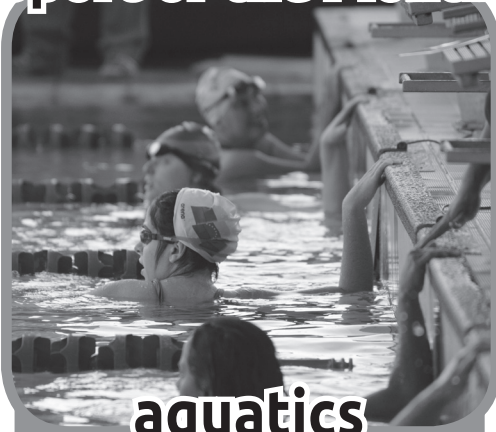


Grades 9–12 **May** Sport of the Month

Special Olympics



aquatics

Swimming is one of the most popular sports in the world. Unlike other sports, swimming is a life skill. People learn to swim both for safety and for sport. Swimming competitions include everything from short sprints to longer endurance events and relays. Special Olympics includes swimmers of all abilities, from strong, fast competitors to swimmers who are still learning.

Dear Student,

It is time for us to wrap up our yearlong Special Olympics study, and we'll be doing it in the best way possible: In class, we'll select one issue, problem, or challenge related to inclusion and tolerance in our community that we would like to change. We'll then undertake a service-learning project that will make an impact.

We hope you—and your family as well—have learned a lot about Special Olympics and people with intellectual disabilities this year. Check out local Special Olympics events and support the athletes whenever you can. Most of all, continue to foster an atmosphere of caring, acceptance, respect, and encouragement at home, at school, and with your friends. You can—and will—make a difference!

teacher signature

This month's theme: **taking action**

We'll begin the month learning about Eunice Kennedy Shriver. This inspiring woman started Special Olympics and turned it into an organization that spans the globe in support of people with intellectual disabilities.

Next, we'll set up small collaborative groups in our class that will select a problem or issue related to the inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities in our community. Our task will be to propose solutions to the problem, research and develop a plan, and then put the plans into action.



What you can do:



Take action This year you've been immersed in learning about Special Olympics and in advancing the cause of inclusion and respect for people with intellectual disabilities. Are you ready to do even more?

Start by checking out the Special Olympics website at www.specialolympics.org to learn about exciting events and opportunities. In fact, there's an entire section of the Special Olympics website dedicated to you, the fan and volunteer. You can find it at http://www.specialolympics.org/get_involved.aspx. Make it your goal to gather a group of friends, attend a Special Olympics event, and cheer like crazy for the athletes. Your support, enthusiasm, and encouragement will do wonders!