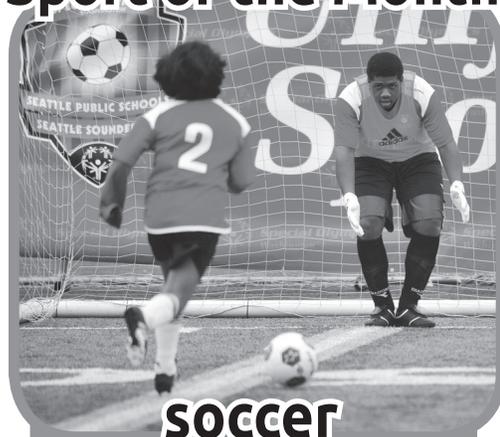


Grades 9–12 **October**

Sport of the Month



Soccer

Played in just about every country, soccer can be enjoyed by children and adults of almost any physical build and ability. The sport requires little in the way of specialized equipment and is organized using simple, intuitive rules. Soccer is so fundamental to the future of Special Olympics' growth that it is the focus of a worldwide initiative. Soccer is perfect for Special Olympics Unified Sports, where people with and without intellectual disabilities play on the same teams.

Special Olympics



Dear Student,

As you know, our class continues to work with Special Olympics to reverse the trend of discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. This month, we will use the Special Olympics sport of soccer to look at the importance of perseverance in the lives of Special Olympics athletes, as well as in our own lives.

Perseverance is an important quality. It makes the difference both in overcoming the obstacles that many of us encounter, as well as in overcoming the unique hurdles we each face. As a class, we are looking at ways to help each other develop perseverance.

You, your family, and your friends can reinforce the learning that is going on in our classroom. The time and attention you give to helping our school community with this important effort is appreciated.

teacher signature

This month's theme: **perseverance**

To teach the importance of perseverance, our class will play a game of pillowcase soccer. In this game you'll work in pairs, each student with a leg in a single pillowcase (similar to a three-legged race). This game provides a good reminder of how important it is to support each other, encourage each other, and learn that what we have inside us will help us persevere in the face of a shared difficulty. We'll need old pillowcases to use in our game, so ask your parents to watch for that request in the days to come. Please note that pillowcases will not be returned.

After the game, you will be asked to create your own games and activities that people of all abilities can participate in. And we hope to culminate our discussions about perseverance with the Perseverance Day Games—a day devoted to playing student-created, inclusive games and demonstrations of Special Olympics Unified Sports, which feature teams of kids with and without intellectual disabilities.



What you can do:



The Special Olympics sport we're spotlighting this month is soccer. Soccer requires very little equipment, and nearly anyone can play.

Take action Invite your family and friends to head outside to enjoy a game of soccer. Include everyone, from little kids to grandmas and grandpas. Anytime a participant gets frustrated, take the lead and encourage other players to show their support.

Most of all, get out and have fun!