

National AccessAbility Week - Morning Announcement Ideas

National AccessAbility Week commences on May 28th and the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program (RHFSP) has created some suggested morning announcements you can use in your school!

Inspired by Rick Hansen's historic Man In Motion World Tour, this is an important occasion to celebrate and promote the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Each suggestion below includes a fact about the week or a different physical disability. We encourage you to share these with your administration to help celebrate this important week with your students.

Primary Grades

Monday

Did you know that this week is National AccessAbility Week? it is an important week for Canadians to come together to celebrate, highlight, and promote inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities in our schools and communities. Famous Canadians with disabilities include Rick Hansen, Terry Fox, Ryan Straschnitzki and Michael J. Fox.

Tuesday

Options:

1. Being kind and including others is an important way we can show we care. One way you can show kindness to your friends is always making sure they have someone to play with at recess. If someone cannot join your activity because it is not accessible for them, play something else so everyone can join!
2. Do you know someone with a mobility, vision, or hearing disability? Probably! 1 in 5, or 6.2 million Canadians have a disability and through National AccessAbility Week we can help promote inclusion and accessibility so everyone can go everywhere! Let's take some time this week to learn more about accessibility and remember – even the smallest of actions can have a big impact.

Wednesday

Options:

1. Do you know what a service dog is? It's a special dog that helps people with disabilities, like guiding people who are blind or alerting people who are deaf. Service dogs are amazing helpers but it's important to remember that they are also working! It's a good idea never to pet or distract a service dog because they need to focus on their jobs. You can admire them from a distance, though, because they are awesome! You can spot a service dog when they are working by the vest they are wearing.
2. Did you know you should never pet a service dog? This is because they are working and petting them could put the dog and its handler in danger. Remember: harness on means hands off.

Thursday

Did you know, a small, easy action you can take to help someone who has hearing loss is speaking clearly and looking straight at them. Don't hold your hand in front of your mouth or turn away when speaking.

Friday

Tomorrow is the last day of National AccessAbility Week! We encourage you to continue to challenge myths about people with disabilities and keep learning long after this week is over.