**World Down Syndrome Day acknowledgement request**

ON behalf of [*Enter Organization Name*], I would like to encourage you to have your school community acknowledge World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) on March 21st. Spreading awareness helps foster inclusion and prevents bullying, involving the student leadership committee in creating a World Down Syndrome Day campaign has been shown to be highly successful.

Here are a few examples of effort which were effective in the past within Connecticut:

* Strafford High School, the Manchester school district and Rockville High School participated by doing a fundraiser by suggesting a $1 donation to go to the Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut and asking students to wear funky mismatched socks. It’s called the “Rock You Socks” campaign.
* Stratford Academy sent out flyers to all students encouraging students and teachers to wear funky mismatched socks on 3/21 and listed facts about Down syndrome. In addition, everyone was invited to do random acts of kindness campaigns for Down syndrome awareness. They also held an assembly and brought in Fred Willis, who wrote “Just Jessica”. Jessica was a former student in Stratford, CT.
* The entire West Hartford school district participated by wearing funky mismatched socks and doing a sock drive for the homeless.

Some additional examples:

* School announcements – Discuss WDSD, facts about Down syndrome and encourage them to wear blue and yellow for WDSD. Promote the “Rock Your Socks” campaign.
* Have a bulletin board in school dedicated to World Down Syndrome Day using Blue and Yellow colors, add decorations of funky mismatched socks, facts about Down Syndrome, and information on inspirational people who have Down Syndrome.
* Show videos and read books to the students. This is something you could possibly show at lunch, home room, or at an assembly. See list of [recommended books and videos on DS ACT website](https://mydsact.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/DS-ACT-Book-Video-Recommendation-List.pdf)
* Art Projects – Poster Contests, decorate funky mismatched socks by tracing students feet up to knee, or print out picture of blank sock templates.
* 321 Dance Challenge – During an assembly or during a class movement break, have 3 people (or 3 classes) dance for 2 minutes for 1 cause. You can play on the numbers 3-2-1.
* Set up a special reading area in the library with books about Down syndrome or that have characters that have Down syndrome.
* Create custom World Down Syndrome Day t-shirts and sell them as a fundraiser. This are many websites that offer this, a search on “custom T-Shirts for fundraiser” should offer a selection.

If you need assistance, [*Enter Contact Name*] is happy to help answer any questions you may have. [*S/he*] can be reached at [*enter phone number and email address*].