Heads Up!

Can you spare 12 minutes to learn more about recognizing concussions and treating them appropriately? The National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) and National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) have teamed up and created short videos about concussions in sports. They’re available at www.nata.org/health-issues/concussion.

The Centers for Disease Control has also gathered resources on concussions in high school sports. The Web page includes fact sheets, action plan guidelines, videos, podcasts, and more. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/high_school.html.

Poverty, Reading, and Graduation

In a recent blog, Mel Riddle, NASSP associate director of high school services, discussed the findings in Double Jeopardy, a study recently released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Among the points he emphasized:

- Students who have lived in poverty are three times more likely to drop out or fail to graduate on time than their more affluent peers.
- If they read poorly, too, the rate is six times greater than that for all proficient readers.
- For black and Latino students, the combined effect of poverty and poor third grade reading skills makes the rate eight times greater.
- Poverty troubles even the best readers: Proficient third graders who have lived in poverty graduate at about the same rate as subpar readers who have never been poor.

(Riddile, 2011, paragraph 4)


The full text of Double Jeopardy is available at www.aecf.org.
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Principal Leadership

Like it? Love it? Think we can do better? Write to Jan at plmag@nassp.org to tell her what you think about this issue of Principal Leadership.

COURSE MATERIALS FROM MIT

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has a Web site to share course materials. It includes mathematics, science, and humanities courses developed specifically for use in high school. In addition, MIT made introductory courses in 11 subject areas available for high school teachers and students. Each course may include videos (of lectures or demonstrations), lecture notes, reading assignments, problem sets, and exams. Under “Exam Preparation,” students or teachers can find lessons to help them review for AP exams in biology, chemistry, and physics. It’s all available at http://ocw.mit.edu/high-school.

“WE ARE WHAT WE REPEATEDLY DO. EXCELLENCE, THEN, IS NOT AN ACT, BUT A HABIT.”

—ARISTOTLE

Breakthrough Schools

Q:

I think we could be a Breakthrough School—how do I get our efforts acknowledged?

A:

You can nominate a school for the MetLife Foundation–NASSP Breakthrough Schools award if the students are middle level or high school age; at least 40% of the students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals; and the school is having success implementing strategies in three areas: collaborative leadership; personalization; and curriculum, instruction, and assessment. More information, including the nomination form, is available online at www.nassp.org/breakthrough.

Connect for R E S P E C T

The National PTA has created resources about bullying for PTA leaders and other parents. The information guides PTA leaders through planning an antibullying event, explains best practices in bullying prevention, and includes links to other resources. For parents, there’s information on preventing their children from bullying, protecting their children, and a guide to finding more help. It’s all available at www.pta.org/bullying.asp.