

JCSH News and Resource Bundle for January 18 2019

Hello everyone

Here is the News and Resource bundle for this week.

Cheers

Susan

News Articles:

1) Student-teacher relationships matter

Two studies have examined outcomes in elementary students, based on whether their teachers specialize in subjects or generalize and remain with the class for the entire year, or more than one year. The practice of having content-specialist teachers came about roughly a decade ago, in response to pressure to improve standardized test results. A 2018 experiment by Harvard University of a Houston, Texas school district found teacher expertise did not have the expected results; moreover, there were unintended consequences that were also negative. “[P]upils are not pins, and the production of human capital is far more complex than assembling automobiles,” the lead author wrote, calling his Houston experiment a “cautionary tale.”

<https://hechingerreport.org/two-studies-point-to-the-power-of-teacher-student-relationships-to-boost-learning/>

2) Kids with concussions can phase in exercise, screen time sooner than before

Recent research by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Centers for Disease Control have found that children who have experienced a concussion can return to school and mild physical activity sooner than earlier thought. Any more rest than a couple of days may result in children feeling depressed and isolated, said the study's lead researcher. This work supports a 2015 [study](#) that found that children who rested for one to two days after a concussion reported fewer symptoms, and recovered faster than those who took a strict five-day break from school, work, and physical activity.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/12/03/672002830/kids-with-concussions-can-phase-in-exercise-screen-time-sooner-than-before>

3) New lens on Life: Residents of Pinehouse in northern Saskatchewan are using photography to heal from trauma

This multi-media report of why and how the Pinehouse Photography Club was founded is worth reviewing in its entirety. It is the story of how public health nurse Dre Erwin was able to have teens in this small northern Saskatchewan community move from trauma to an appreciation of the natural beauty around them through photography: "It wasn't long after I started posting these pictures [of northern lights] that a whole bunch of youth came to me and said 'Hey, man, I'd love to come out with you. I've never seen the northern lights like this before, or at all.' " The CBC article also notes that when last a news crew came to the small village it was 40 years ago to report on the high addiction level. This story tells about how photography captures more than pictures: "Some English words do not translate perfectly to Cree. The word photographer, for example, doesn't really exist. Instead, the

word *omasinipihcikiw* might be used. Some say it refers to someone who captures something while others say it means a painter."

<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform/photographing-pinehouse>

4) Does handwriting have a place in today's tech driven classrooms?

A 2009 [study](#) from the University of Washington seems to [hold true](#), that students who graduate without handwriting opportunities or instruction miss out on cognitive skills that are not learned through writing by computer or smart technologies. "In our computer age, some people believe that we don't have to teach spelling because we have spell checks," said the study's author. "But until a child has a functional spelling ability of about a fifth grade level, they won't have the knowledge to choose the correct spelling among the options given by the machine." And this, say educators such as Marianne McTavish, a professor of language and literacy education at the University of British Columbia, can be problematic: "I saw a student using an app where they were forming an 'm,' and the app asked them to do the first stick and then the second stick and then do a 'v' in the middle. To me, that is not pedagogically sound at all."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/does-handwriting-have-a-place-in-today-s-tech-driven-classrooms-1.1231769>

Resource: Non-teaching Staff Are Important for Wellbeing in Schools

A School Health Research Network study in Wales has explored the role of teaching and non-teaching staff in relation to student health and wellbeing in secondary schools. Findings from interviews conducted with students, parents and school staff demonstrated that the prominence of wellbeing in schools relies on staffing structures which include a team of non-teaching support staff to work alongside teaching staff to provide the time and space to deal with student issues immediately and build trust and rapport in a one-to-one setting. [Read the article](#) and find [more articles](#) about the same subject.