

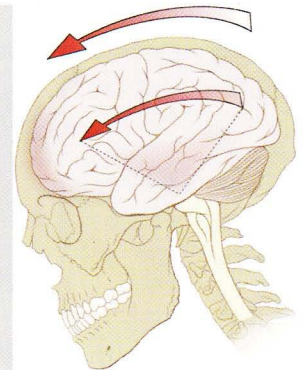
WHAT'S Happening CAMPUS

County Wide Concussion Care and ImPACT Testing Update *+ David Goldstein '13*

Over \$35,000 has been raised to help prevent concussions in high school athletics since the beginning of the school year. Eight thousand of those dollars were raised in the fundraiser held at the RE Upper School, which will provide one year of ImPACT Testing for all thirty-six public high schools in Miami Dade County with athletic programs.

Ransom Everglades has succeeded in implementing the ImPACT Test in the Upper School and has provided concussion education. Throughout this school year, every athletic team has been ImPACT Tested prior to its athletic season. Our faculty understands the difficulties that a concussion causes a student and how to accommodate those difficulties. Our athletic staff takes the necessary steps in the event of a head trauma, and our student-athletes are much safer and healthier because of this. I had the privilege of speaking to physical education teachers and athletic directors and trainers from public schools in Miami Dade County, sharing my story and stressing the importance of concussion education. I am proud to report that Miami Dade County public schools have implemented ImPACT Testing for Spring Football of this school year and will be testing Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, and Football next Fall. As the concussion program continues to become an established entity, the goal is for more and more sports to be tested because concussions can occur in any sport.

March was National Brain Injury Awareness Month, and coinciding with this month, the Florida Legislature proposed bills to protect youth and student athletes (HB301, SB730). The bills require independent sanctioning authorities, like the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), to adopt policies informing youth athletes and their parents of the nature and risk of certain head injuries. It also requires a signed consent form be obtained before an athlete participates in practices or competitions. In addition, it requires that a youth athlete be immediately removed from an athletic activity following a suspected head injury and that a qualified medical professional evaluate and release the athlete before returning to play. The bills are supported by the National Football League, the FHSAA, and a statewide Sports Concussion Task Force of medical experts, sports athletic officials and health care providers. As a member of this task force, I made my first-ever visit to our state Capitol in Tallahassee and spoke at the press conference that introduced the bills and their importance. I also met with ten state senators and representatives about my experiences in hopes of getting their support in helping other student athletes avoid similar sports-related concussions and consequences. Florida would be the 10th state to pass this needed legislation.



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RE BOOKSTORE

Get into the RE Spirit at the RE Bookstore!

Located on the upper school campus, opposite the Pagoda, - all parents and students are welcome to stop by and look around!

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For more information, contact Katrina Patchett, Director of Bookstores, at 305-460-8885 or e-mail kpachett@ransomeverglades.org

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