

## ***SESSION 2: Boys’ Educational Issues***

### Readings to complete before class:

- (1) Kindlon, Dan and Michael Thompson. “Thorns Among Roses: The Struggle of Young Boys in Early Education.” Chapter 7 in *The Jossey-Bass Reader on Gender in Education*. Edited by Jossey-Bass Publishers. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2002. ISBN: 0787960748. (This reading was originally published in Kindlon and Thompson’s 2000 book, *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*.)
- (2) Sadker, Myra and David Sadker. “The Miseducation of Boys.” Chapter 8 in *Failing at Fairness*. New York, NY: Scribner, 1995. ISBN: 068480073X. (This reading can also be found, identically, in Chapter 8 of *The Jossey-Bass Reader on Gender in Education*. See publication information above.)

### Discussion notes:

- (2) “The Miseducation of Boys” is from “Failing at Fairness” (where last week’s (1) “A History of Women’s Education” was also from), which was based on research conducted in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s.
- Never before thought of the “burden” of being a “star”
  - Definitely recognized the “star” stereotype from personal experience with classmates.
  - “Runner-up stars” a fascinating concept.
- “It is precisely because they intensified traditional notions of masculinity that educators found sports so attractive and incorporated them into the official school program” (Jossey-Bass Reader p. 188).
- In early 1900s, more women top school were administrators than today!
- Murder statistics really shocking.
- “Whatever sophisticated planning has gone into curriculum design at Alan’s school, the distinction between a good class and a bad class, for his point of view, has a lot to do with the freedom it offers to stand up and walk around” (Jossey-Bass Reader p. 159).
- Slower language development in boys: “If you start teaching [reading] any earlier, it looks as if all your boys have reading disabilities” (Jossey-Bass Reader p. 164).
- Action figures: “to be big instead of small, to have power in the world instead of the role of powerless child” (Jossey-Bass Reader p. 161).