

WashingtonPrincipal

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Letting Go of the Asterisk*

David Morrill

Communications Director, AWSP

We've all seen it

in multiple places – the little star that signifies a condition to the claim being made:

- * Some assembly required.
- * Batteries not included.
- * May cause drowsiness, headaches, or irritability. (This one is especially disconcerting.)

This month, we challenge you to ask yourself and your staff, "What is my 'asterisk'?" What is keeping you from moving forward, from investing in yourself, or from taking on the next big project? This asterisk may read something like, "I'm too new." Or, "I'm too busy," "It's not practical," or "I'm not needed in that area."

This issue is full of examples of leaders who are letting go of the asterisk. They jumped head-first into leadership in spite of the "what-ifs" and "buts." From a team-wide focus on Social-Emotional Learning to tips on telling your school's story, we hope these articles inspire you. February is Future Educators Month, and we encourage you to find the next great teacher among your students or paras, and the next great principal among your staff.

Some asterisks are there for good reason (objects in mirror ARE really closer than they appear!), but others are self-imposed. We challenge you to question your asterisks and take the next step you might be holding back from. No extra batteries required.

- * For a list of ways you can let go and jump in, to helping with your professional association (that's us!), check out page 15 of the AWSP Member Handbook at www.awsp.org/handbook. ■



David Morrill is the AWSP Communications Director. He serves as Managing Editor for Washington Principal.