Exercise, diet, and sleep improve brain skills (and health)

Note: I am not an expert in this area, and the references are given mostly for concreteness and to have a starting point.
Exercise

“Regular exercise changes the brain to improve memory, thinking skills”

“Aerobic Exercise Is 'Miracle-Gro' for Your Brain”

The Influence of Exercise on Cognitive Abilities
Compr Physiol. 2013 Jan; 3(1): 403–428
Average composite of 20 student brains taking the same test

BRAIN AFTER SITTING QUIETLY

BRAIN AFTER 20 MINUTE WALK

Research/scan compliments of Dr. Chuck Hillman University of Illinois
Exercise, more


Deskcycles
“A new tool in a Paramus Elementary school is promoting physical activity while learning.”

Learning is optimal immediately after aerobic exercise

Physical activity: Culture, woven into routine, not special
Many tasks can be done while moving
Brain foods: the effects of nutrients on brain function

*Nat Rev Neurosci.* 2008 July; 9(7): 568–578. doi:10.1038/nrn2421

You plate should look like:
Sleep

Sleep Drives Metabolite Clearance from the Adult Brain
Science 18 Oct 2013

“Sleep allows brain to wash out junk”

[…] in addition to its well-described effects on memory consolidation.