



NEWSPAPER

Celebrating Good News

DOING GOOD



Marc Buljan
Principal at Eich Middle School

MAKING THE GRADE FOR ROSEVILLE

One of the earliest lessons Principal Marc Buljan learned was the importance of giving back to your community. Marc's grandfather was George Buljan, who served 24 years as City Councilman and Mayor of Roseville. George and his friends formed "Buljan's Cooking Crew" and volunteered their culinary talents for clubs and civic organizations for 20 years, raising more than a million dollars for community and youth groups. As a child Mr. Buljan accompanied his grandfather to these events where he witnessed the art of politics and passion for the Roseville community. Buljan honed his public speaking skills by going door to door for his grandfather and aunt Carol Langley's political campaigns.

Principal Buljan's life was greatly impacted by three teachers: Mr. Dave Phillips, his 2nd and 3rd Grade teacher; Mr. Pablo Guitierrez, his 6th grade teacher and soccer coach; and Mr. Casey Nichols, his yearbook teacher. While attending Eich Middle School, Buljan decided he too wanted to become a teacher. After graduating from Roseville High, he attended Chico State. He came back to Roseville's Spanger Elementary school for his student teaching and first teaching job. He moved to Eich Middle School where he taught math, coached competitive flag football, and girls basketball.

Teaching in a district where there is a middle school named after his grandfather, Mr. Buljan had to go above and beyond to prove he did not get his job because of family connections. In addition he had to face what many teachers face, lack of job security. Even with these challenges, Buljan loved education, so he returned to Sac State for his administrative credentials. He became assistant principal and then principal at Vincil Brown Elementary, a school named for a teacher who taught both Buljan and his father.

When he became principal at Eich Middle School, Buljan wanted to make a difference at his alma mater.

Principal Buljan investigated the International Baccalaureate (IB) program which offers a holistic approach to education. Accredited IB schools are required to

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-Principal Marc Buljan

offer performing and visual arts classes, and a foreign language; subjects which many schools are cutting for lack of funds. In addition, the school district must make a long term commitment to fund the program. Parents and teachers at Eich are excited about the application to become an IB school which will be an asset to the community. No one is more committed to the process than Principal Buljan, who says that IB “lays the foundation for us to produce students who are not only competitive but relevant in a global economy.”

Mr. Buljan is instilling in a new generation the rewards of taking responsibility for caring about people and the community. The students at Eich do many things: they collect loose change to buy toys for needy children from the Woodbridge School at the holidays; they donate money to buy food and gift cards for less fortunate families during the Jingle Bell Run; and they donate to a cancer related charity.

Whenever there is a cause where he can lend his time and talents, Mr. Buljan will be there. From the Roseville Chili Cook-off raising money for the Point Break Anti-bullying program, to the Tommy Apostolos Organization which provides clothing for needy children, Buljan is doing whatever he can. Taking pride in Roseville and all who make it an “All American City”, there is no better teaching method than leading by example. For that, Principal Buljan gets straight A's.

Know someone who is doing good?
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By Roxane Fritz, Photography by Emilie Bourdages

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