

A New Face at Stanley Middle School

By Lee Borrowman

Students arriving at Stanley on the first day of school will be greeted by the smiling face of new principal David Schrag. When the Lamorinda Weekly caught up with Schrag in early August, he was already hard at work preparing for the all too rapidly approaching school year. Classroom assignment charts dot the walls of his office, and teachers and parents alike drop by to offer greetings.

"I'm just amazed at the quality of the programs that exist here at Stanley," says a delighted Schrag. "The administrative team is unbelievable, and the fact that Stanley has retained such outstanding teachers year after year speaks volumes about the caliber of the school."

Although kids of this age can be a challenge to parents and teachers alike, Schrag likes working with middle school students. "You don't work at a middle school unless you enjoy the age group," says Schrag, continuing, "I'm excited about working with

kids at this at transition age; it's an incredible opportunity for enrichment when you can set high goals for students and see them achieve; it's a golden time in their lives, when kids really come into their own."

Schrag brings to Stanley a collaborative approach to management coupled with emotional intelligence and the desire to build strong, respectful relationships with teachers, students and parents. "I have always been an accessible and visible presence, whether it's in the classroom or supervising the playground. To be effective, a principal needs to know the teachers' programs, know what's going on in the classrooms and be in touch with the pulse of the school."

In announcing Schrag's appointment, the Lafayette School District said, "David was an essential member of a school leadership team that focused on using data to improve student achievement." Schrag discussed this data



David Schrag

Photo by Lee Borrowman

management tool which he says, "Allows us to break down and disaggregate information about students' progress, strengths and weaknesses; in short, who's doing what well." Accessible from a workstation, a teacher can pull up data from this year and last. Its framework is STAR test-based, but other external data can be uploaded as well. "We are also developing collaborative assessment tools to measure students' progress in the areas of critical and creative thinking."

Schrag is a graduate of UC

Davis and Stanford, and was an Assistant Principal at Ralston Middle School in San Mateo County. He lives in Walnut Creek with his wife and two young children. And yes, the rumors are true – in addition to his many strengths as an academic administrator, Schrag is also an accomplished hip-hop dancer. The Stanley community will be looking forward to his first performance, and your friendly neighborhood newspaper hopes to be in attendance (camera at the ready).

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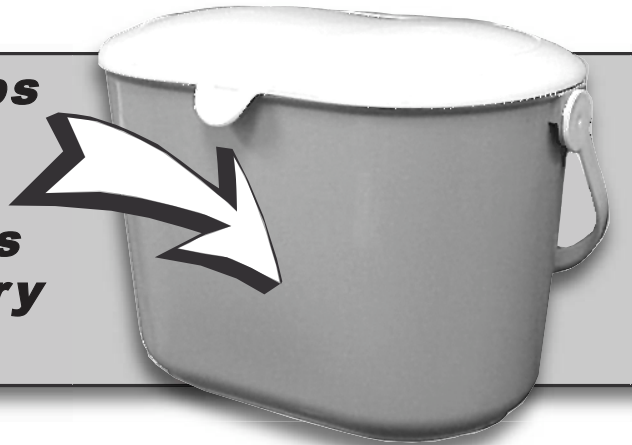
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