

In Your Backyard

By Liz Holzemer



Cameron Eng, Joshua Bean,
Principal Fred Rundle, Dylan Thomas

This month's profile is all about a former history teacher who pursued his passion and now runs one of the state's premier elementary schools and he's only 29! Meet Saddle Ranch Elementary principal, **Fred Rundle**, whose always-open-door policy and mismatched argyle socks make him a loveable, born leader to 827 eager learners.

What do you love most about your job?

The opportunity every day to be a perpetual student, teacher and leader—I have the most dynamic profession.

Your most memorable teaching experience?

In my first year of teaching, about 80 percent of the kids I taught didn't speak English. At the end of the year, I realized I had made a difference and reached them, and that has had a tremendous impact on me.

Finish this sentence, "This time next year, I will ... "

Have led Saddle Ranch Elementary for a year and have grown and improved, both professionally and personally.

Describe your dream vacation.

Strapping on a backpack with my family and spending four weeks hiking in Vietnam.

What was your first job?

A Pizza Hut dishwasher.

If you could have dinner with any historical or political figure (dead or alive) who and why?

FDR. I studied the 30s and 40s the hardest in school, and to me it's the most intriguing and fascinating era.

What makes you tick?

The desire to get better.

If you own one, what's on your iPod right now?

U2, folk music and the late, great John Denver.

What's your favorite indulgence?

The Denver Broncos.

Your advice to those considering a teaching career?

You never know when you're going to make a difference, and you don't have to be in the classroom to do that.

What would your epitaph say?

A life long teacher and 'argyle power.'

What's the story behind the argyle socks?

It's a tribute to an inspiring friend who was killed in high school. He stood for carpe diem, and ever since he died I've worn mismatched argyle socks every day to honor his life. I wear them with everything, even when I'm running.

Today, Principal Rundle wore blue, green and brown ones.

Liz Holzemer is a frequent contributor to Life. She can be reached at info@lizholzemer.com