

JM Gets a New Sand Volleyball Court

By Andrea A. Firth

When Nick Piatt tackles a project, he isn't afraid to get some dirt under his nails and even a little sand between his toes. Nick approached Bruce Burns and Brad Carn, principal and assistant principal at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM), offering to complete a service project at the school. Building a sand volleyball court seemed like a good fit for a young man with energy, enthusiasm, and a great network of support. "I have known Nick and his family for several years," noted Bruce Burns. "When we talked about the project, I knew he could do a good job. We were also very fortunate to get financial support from the School District, the PTA, and the Student Body Fund."

Nick is a member of Boy Scout Troop #212, and he is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout later this year. To achieve this goal, Nick is required to complete a major service project where he maintains responsibility for the project planning, management, and implementation. Constructing the sand volleyball court at JM required all of this and a whole lot more. "The project took about 180 hours to complete and included the help of other scouts, my father, my brother, my mom, their friends, and some of my friends," explained Nick.

Before starting work, Nick researched the court dimensions and the best materials to use. "There are a variety of sands that you can use," noted Nick. "We felt that the white beach sand was the best option." He also had to figure out how to manage drainage for the court and found digging the drainage trench a difficult but fun aspect of the project. In addition Nick coordinated the recruitment of the many hands that helped to get the work done. "My fellow troop members were very supportive. And, I owe a big thanks to my Scout Master, Tom McIntosh, who is always a great help to me," added Nick.

Although Nick quietly admits to feeling relieved that the volleyball court is now done, he is pleased with the outcome. "Completing this project was very challenging and a lot of hard work. It made me realize what I could accomplish. I hope the kids at JM really enjoy using I the volleyball court."



Nick Piatt (center) at work on the sand volleyball court

Photo courtesy of Trish Piatt