



News Release

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Press Contact:

Meg Jacobsen, Executive Director Innovation & Engagement
4750 Date Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942
Phone (619) 668-5700

Maryland Avenue Elementary School Mural Dazzles Community

A new mural at Maryland Avenue Elementary School in La Mesa has taken shape that is getting the attention of students, staff, and community members. Donations from the Maryland Avenue Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA) were utilized to create the “We Are” mural. Local artist Hanna Daly was selected to help carry out the vision for the painting. The artist suggested “We Are” as the centerpiece and Maryland Avenue Elementary staff brainstormed with students over 50 inspirational words that captured the dynamic culture of their school community.

Principal Kelli Maringer wanted the Peace Circle area to be positive, bright, and a great place to welcome the community each morning. Principal Maringer shared, “The students are so excited to see their words included and to see how the artist designed an image to help represent their words. It was important to the artist to paint the mural when school was in session so the students would get to be part of the experience and take ownership of the mural.”

Getting the mural up was also a team effort. The PTA at Maryland Avenue fundraised to be able to donate money for the project. The maintenance and operations team at the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District took time and dedicated effort to prep and prime the space for the new mural to go up. The artist and many volunteers worked to make the vision a reality. Along with creating the wall, the artist, Hanna Daly, is also creating a sensory walk for students to enjoy. Principal Maringer describes Daly, “She seems to really enjoy the students and engages with them when they ask her questions.” To view the project from before and after, check out Maryland Avenue Elementary on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @Maryland_LMSV.

