



LA MESA-SPRING VALLEY SCHOOLS

News Release

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Press Contact:

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

La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools Enjoys A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood



On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, about 80 La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools teachers arrived at Reading Cinemas in Grossmont Center to attend a private screening of the recently-released *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (starring Tom Hanks) about the children's television icon, Mr. Fred Rogers. Many of the teachers were sporting their best red cardigan sweaters, blue sneakers, some even had toy trolleys in hand.

The gathering was the brainchild and labor of love of Ellen Monfredi, 2nd-grade teacher at Casa De Oro Elementary School, who coordinated this rare opportunity with Sony Pictures. In true Mr. Rogers spirit, Ellen held a "Let's keep a neighbor warm" sweater drive. Other neighbors quickly jumped in. Barnes & Noble was also kind enough to donate books & bookmarks for raffle. Not to be outdone, East County Schools Federal Credit Union graciously underwrote the entire event.

David Feliciano, Superintendent of La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools, shares often that Mr. Rogers is one of his heroes. In fact, #LMSVHeart is a hashtag commonly found in social media symbolic of a mindset in La Mesa-Spring Valley relating to seeing beyond the student to the needs of the whole child. As part of his Thanksgiving message to staff, David included this particular Mr. Rogers quote: *"As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has - or ever will have - something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression."*

