Victor Valley College
Press Release

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**Discovery School of the Arts Kindergarten Teacher Honored by Teachers R Heroes**

Someone once wrote that teaching kindergarten is akin to herding cats. In the case of this talented teacher, cats had better beware because it wouldn’t take but a few days and she would have them marching by twos and singing in unison. According to her peers, Joyce Applegarth can take any group of 33 students of the age of 4, 5 and 6 and make teaching seem like high tea in the afternoon. For this reason and her history of success, Mrs Applegarth has been selected as this month’s honoree of the Teachers R Heroes award.

Nominations entered on Mr. Applegarth’s behalf speak glowingly of her love for the profession and care for her students. One nominator wrote, “Mrs. Applegarth is a hero in my eyes. She is one of the most amazing kindergarten teachers I’ve ever known. She is patient and kind and shows this to each and every one of her students. It takes a special person to be able to teach 33 4, 5 and 6 year olds and still have a smile on her face at the end of the day. She always does. You can tell how much she loves her job and loves doing what she does. She has amazed me with how much she has taught my daughter is such a short amount of time. It is so important that children love school from the beginning. I believe it’s this base that will either have them loving and doing well at school or hating and not doing well at school. With Mrs. Applegarth I know my daughter will get that base and continue to grow.”

Another nominator wrote, “I had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Applegarth in 2002, at a student assessment for my daughter. From the beginning she made me feel comfortable. She had a "motherly" way with my daughter that immediately put my daughter at ease. In the months that followed, my daughter had nothing but positive experiences to share about her teacher. She exhibited great patience and loving firmness with all of her students. She always respected each student as individuals. My daughter had a tremendous first year of schooling. She tested GATE in 3rd grade which I credit to the tremendous love for school that Mrs. Applegarth helped instill. So much so, that when my daughter was a 6th grader and her brother was about to begin kindergarten, she insisted that no other teacher would do for her brother. Once again, we were blessed. I saw the way in which my son lit up when he spoke about his teacher. He responded positively to her lesson plans, promptings and expectations much to our delight. He is currently a
2nd grader in a pre GATE class, again with credit going to the positive experience while in Mrs. Applegarth's kindergarten class. Fast forward 2 years and Mrs. Applegarth now has our youngest daughter. She loves her and strives to learn all that is being taught. I have seen my youngest grow from a tentative child worried about leaving mom to a self confident kindergarten seeking perfection. This was quite the transformation to witness.

I could not nominate a more deserving teacher for this recognition, Mrs. Applegarth is not only my Hero, but more importantly, she is my children's Hero!”

The “Teachers are Heroes” program is sponsored by Victor Valley College and Eldorado Broadcasting. School participation is coordinated through San Bernardino County Schools. Participating businesses and agencies include Wal-Mart, Little Caesars Pizza, Red Robin Restaurants, Reed Foods, Taco Chon, Victorville Speed Wash, High Deseret Therapeutic, Seattle’s Best, Ultra Star Theaters, First District Supervisor Brad Mizelfelt and the Daily Press.

Teacher nominations may be submitted in the form of 500 words-or-less essays to www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com, www.Y102FM.com, www.TheFox106.com, www.Talk960.com, or www.vvc.edu. Nominations may also be sent by mail to Victor Valley College, Teachers are Heroes, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395, attention Dr. Lori Kildal.