



A Coat Full of Rainbows

Mary San



Every morning, Mr. Harrison slips on his lanyard and steps into the bright, bustling hallway of Oak Tree Elementary. Sunbeams stream through the tall windows as the morning bell chimes, signaling the start of another wonderful school day. He wears a warm smile, ready to greet every student who walks through the doors.



As the first and second graders flood the hallway, excited whispers and giggles fill the air. Little footsteps hurry toward Mr. Harrison, eager to say hello to their favorite friend in the hall. He kneels down to their height, listening intently to their cheerful stories about breakfast, lost teeth, and morning dreams.



A young girl with twin pigtails reaches into her backpack with a triumphant grin. She pulls out a bright golden star sticker and gently presses it onto Mr. Harrison's plastic name tag. He gasps with dramatic delight, making the children burst into merry laughter.



Soon, a friendly line of children forms around him, each carrying tiny shiny treasures. One by one, they add sparkly dinosaurs, colorful hearts, and happy smiley faces to his school ID card and lanyard. With every sticker placed, Mr. Harrison's heart glows a little warmer.



Before running off to their classrooms, a few affectionate second graders wrap their arms around Mr. Harrison in a sudden group hug. He chuckles softly, carefully balancing his badge so the fresh stickers stay perfectly in place. The hallway sparkles with genuine happiness and warmth.



By lunchtime, Mr. Harrison's once-plain school badge has completely transformed into a vibrant collage of colors. Shiny stars, glittery animals, and tiny flowers overlap in a joyful pattern, catching the light as he walks. He proudly wears his wearable gallery for everyone to admire.



As the afternoon bell rings, signaling the end of the school day, Mr. Harrison steps out into the cool evening breeze. The sun dips low, casting a golden glow over the empty playground where quiet falls over the campus. He checks his pockets, satisfied after another successful day.



Suddenly, heavy footsteps patter down the concrete path behind him. Two older fourth graders come running, breathing heavily with wide, excited grins on their faces. They call out his name, waving their hands eagerly to catch his attention before he reaches his car.



The fourth graders catch their breath and unroll a special sheet of giant holographic stickers they saved just for him. They carefully place a rainbow-colored ribbon sticker right in the center of his lanyard, whispering how grateful they are for his kindness every single day.



Standing under the warm glow of the twilight sky, Mr. Harrison looks down at his fully covered badge and smiles. He knows that each little sticker carries a big piece of love from the children. He clasps his badge gently, knowing these sweet memories will stay in his heart forever.