

Five Stars for Art!



We're wrapping up a wonderful first year for our Art Docent Program. Nearly 100 students in Pre-1st through 3rd grades enjoyed monthly lessons in art history accompanied by hands-on projects. We explored the techniques of Da Vinci, Monet, Van Gogh, Seurat, Kandinsky, Cassatt, Pollock and Dali. We experienced the evolution of art from Renaissance realism to impressionism and beyond.

Some favorite projects included outdoor action painting (à la Jackson Pollock), acrylic-on-canvas impressionist landscapes, abstract drawing to music (à la Kandinsky), and mother-and-child watercolor paintings inspired by Mary Cassatt.

We recently put out a year-end survey, in which students were asked to vote for their favorite artist this year. The favorite in nearly every class was Van Gogh. (And we didn't even cover the story about his ear!) Mrs. Cullen's class chose Da Vinci as the favorite, with Van Gogh a close 2nd.

We also asked the students to rate our program with up to five stars. Brookfield students honored us with a five star ranking! We were also delighted to read their comments about having art in the classroom. Read on to see what they said:

“What Did You Most Enjoy?”

PRE-FIRST GRADERS: “You are really good teachers! I like everything! Every day you come it’s the best! You teach art really well.” *“The whole year was great.” “I liked using paint.”*

“I liked making Starry Night.” “I liked every single thing!” **FIRST GRADERS:** “I liked when we did the strokes with the oil pastel and paint because it made me feel very good!” “I liked that you shared what you know about the artists.” *“I liked doing the projects because they are fun. My favorite project was Starry Night.” “I liked making hearts out of dots because it is so creative.”* “I liked learning about Van Gogh because he painted pretty paintings.” “I liked the Seurat’s Dots that you did with us! And Van Gogh’s Starry Night.” *“Everything in the program was fun. It was so fun and I cannot wait for next year.”*

SECOND GRADERS: “I enjoyed everything. It was awesome! If I could do more I would.” “I liked all of it!!!” “I liked drawing with calm music!” *“I enjoyed painting and using pastels.”* “I really liked drawing the Mona Lisa.” **THIRD GRADERS:** *“I enjoyed that every month you picked a new artist. I also enjoyed that every month we would learn what strategy of art the artist used.” “I enjoyed learning about Mary Cassatt. I also enjoyed the paintings we did through your program.”* “I enjoyed the project where you have those dot markers and you dot it in. I really liked painting.” “The thing that I really enjoyed was using my imagination. I also liked to paint and have fun.” *“I enjoyed when we learned about a woman artist for Mother’s Day. I also enjoyed doing bright and colorful Monet paintings.” “I enjoyed doing the art because I felt like I was the only person in the room.”*

TEACHERS: **“The program is amazing all around! The artist background/history is so skillfully taught in an engaging, age-appropriate manner. Love your program! Thank you!”** *“This program is the perfect balance of learning and doing...and your gentle, encouraging manner with the students and your personal knowledge of art is outstanding! We are so lucky to have you!”* *“You are both so nurturing, sweet and patient with the children. They were enthralled with the whole lesson every time!”* “The lessons were age appropriate for my students, and they learned something about the artist and style of art in addition to creating a piece. Well done!!”