

Murray Avenue Art Appreciation Program Basics

Mission: To help children learn how to look at art, talk about art and enjoy art.

Method: By introducing them to important artists and/or artistic styles, by looking at and discussing artworks as a group, and by experiencing unique art techniques through hands-on art projects.

The Team: The Art Appreciation co-chairs plus class volunteers

Chrystal Chambers: (834-1121), chambers95@gmail.com

Suzanne Jacoby: (834-8616), suzjacoby@mac.com

Naz Hedayat Munroe: (315-9464), naz@hedayat.us

PTA/Teacher Partnership: In an effort to strengthen the Art Appreciation program further, a new parent/teacher partnership was created last year. In addition to the three Art Appreciation co-chairs, PTA Executive leadership, three Murray teachers (at different grade levels), Murray's art teacher Mr. Stone and Principal Monaco all participate on the committee. The teachers and participants provide valuable feedback and curriculum information that assist the co-chairs in planning, executing and enhancing the programming.

Parent Volunteers: This program would not be possible without the class volunteers who generously donate their time and enthusiasm to the program. A list of all the class volunteers will be available at the first presentation and extra copies will be available in the Art Appreciation cabinet. (Please view your contact information for accuracy.) One parent from each class has been randomly designated as the **Contact Person**. This person should oversee scheduling in-class presentations and should start things off by contacting the other parent volunteers in her/his assigned class to discuss how the group would like to work together. Ideally, the volunteers should take turns presenting to the students (unless they don't want to). We encourage all volunteers to attend the Art Appreciation Committee Presentations. If you cannot attend, please ensure that one of your fellow class volunteers can make it. You need a minimum of 2-3 parents per each in-class presentation: at least one to present, at least two to help with the project. Volunteers work together to choose dates that work with teacher and calendar.

Volunteer Responsibility:

1) To attend instructional Committee Presentations (schedule below).

2) To make a presentation to your child's class and to oversee a related hands-on art project.

Time commitment: 1 hour per meeting; 1 hour per in-class presentation + project, including clean-up.

COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

At each meeting, the Committee will present an artist and related art project to parent volunteers. Again, we encourage all volunteers to attend the Committee Presentations; however, if that is impossible, please make sure that there is at least one parent volunteer from your class at each presentation. Meetings are held at 9am in the Murray Cafeteria (reminders will be sent out in TigerTalk). At these meetings, you will view the artworks to be explored with the children and you will receive Presentation Notes, lesson plans and instructions for a hands-on class project.

Presentation Schedule

African Batik-style Textile Printing

Committee Presentation: Friday, October 14th at 9am

Classroom Presentations: October 17 – January 13

Middle Eastern Tile Painting

Committee Presentation: Friday, January 20th at 9am

Classroom Presentations: January 23 – March 29

Australian Aboriginal Dot-Painting

Committee Presentation: Friday, March 30th at 9am

Volunteer Presentations: April 2 – June 8

Art Appreciation Headquarters:

On the Art Appreciation website (find the link at <http://mamkschoolspta.org/murray/>), you will be able to download program and presentation materials. Art Appreciation also has a dedicated PTA cabinet in the basement. (DIRECTIONS: Walk into school via the main entrance. At Library, turn left. Go down stairs and cabinet is at base of stairs. It is has the words “Art Appreciation” on the front). In the cabinet you will find:

1) Art Images: Large laminated images for the presentation.

2) Art Supply Tub: A plastic tub holding the majority of the supplies you need to do the suggested projects with the children will be in the corner next to the art appreciation cabinet. On the plastic tube will be a list of the supplies in the tub AS WELL AS a list of supplies to be pulled from the cabinet. CHECK SUPPLIES a few days before your presentation to make sure you are familiar with what is provided and that quantities are sufficient. Please call the Committee Chair listed on the Presentation Notes if more supplies are needed. **SUPPLIES MUST BE CLEANED, NEATLY RESTOCKED, and RETURNED to tub/cabinet IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESENTATION.**

**In the rare case the materials/images are missing from the supply cabinet please check the scheduling calendar for last class/parent volunteer who used materials and contact them.

3) Program Materials: You will find copies of Program Basics, the volunteer list, & lesson plan in the closet as well as on the website.

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS & ART PROJECTS

Scheduling: (***)SAME procedure as last year!)

The volunteer designated as the Contact Person should coordinate with the other class volunteers and the teacher to determine which days/times are best for an in-class presentation. We have created an on-line calendar through Google accessible on the Art Appreciation website (find the link at <http://mamkschoolspta.org/murray/>). You will be able to view available time slots. Then the Contact Person should email an Art Appreciation co-chair (a link will be provided on the site) to request a date/time. A confirmation will be sent within 24 hours.

Please schedule one hour for class presentations/projects. If the project is a messy one, consider booking the small lunchroom and setting it up there. To do that, you must go to the main office and complete a room reservation form.

Presenting at Different Grade Levels

Volunteers will receive a “lesson plan” for each presentation to help prepare for the presentation and discussion with the students. As many experienced volunteers already know, one size doesn’t fit all. When appropriate, we will offer different lesson plans and variations on the art project (tailored to different grade levels). Please keep in mind that students in the lower grades have shorter attention spans than the older students. With the younger students, please try to keep the presentation to 10 minutes (leaving 40 minutes for the project and 10 minutes for clean-up). It is not necessary to cover every artwork and every detail from the artist’s biography. Choose a few artworks that exemplify the artist’s style and will spark discussion. In the upper grades, you may allocate 15 - 20 minutes for presentation and discussion, and 30-40 minutes for project and clean up. After the in-class presentation, please also notify the co-chairs if you have any issues or constructive feedback.

Teacher Communication

Before the presentation, please take the time to tell your teacher what you hope to accomplish during the class presentation. Some teachers like to be involved and have ideas about how topic relates to curriculum. The teachers know their class dynamics the best and have valuable feedback from prior years—please ask them in advance for suggestions on presenting at their particular grade level. As always, please respect their classrooms and clean up thoroughly. (All class volunteers are expected to help clean up and return materials to the Art Appreciation cabinet.) Please also solicit their feedback to enhance future classroom presentations.

Parent Communication

Accompanying each presentation is a “letter home to parents.” This letter tells the parents what you did in class, notifies them to look for the resulting art projects when they visit the school, provides parents with some of the words and lingo discussed, and lists local/regional exhibits where the children can see artwork firsthand. It is the Parent Volunteer’s responsibility to ensure that the teacher receives sufficient copies of the letter to distribute on the day of the in-class presentation. (You may also opt to email this letter to parents.). If you do not receive a hard copy of the letter at the Committee Presentation then it will be available on the Art Appreciation website (<http://mamkschoolspta.org/murray/>).

Making It Your Own

Our hope is that we provide you with everything you need for an effective presentation and fun project. But many of the finest Art Appreciation moments have come from the creativity of Parent Volunteers and from sharing personal experience. So feel free to customize, especially if you have a specific knowledge of the subject, if you have your own idea, or if you speak to the teacher and find there is curriculum crossover.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the Art Appreciation program!