

Hi Mom & Dad,

Today the Art Parent came into our class and showed us our **Masterpiece of the Month**. To get us in the mood for Halloween, we learned about a very famous painting called **The Scream** painted by **Edvard Munch**. I have seen that Scream Halloween costume a million times...and I never realized that the facemask was from this famous painting...how cool!

Edvard Munch (pronounced Moonch) was born in Norway. His parents and siblings orphaned him at a young age. Munch painted all of the sad memories of his life. His paintings were like his journal.

Edvard Munch got the idea for *The Scream* one evening when he was walking on a road along the water. He felt tired and sick. The sun was setting and the sky was bright red. He thought, "It felt as though a scream went through nature...I painted this picture...the colors were screaming". When he painted this picture, Edvard Munch tried to make the colors scream. Repetitive, wavy lines swirl all around the background to help convey a frightened feeling.

Edvard Munch didn't ever explain why the person in his painting was screaming. He left it up to us to create our own scary tale. (There are two creepy guys dressed in black walking behind the man on bridge. Perhaps that's it.) We built a scary story in class about *Scream*. It was fun.

Edvard Much used the art concept of repetition in his paintings to show exaggeration and emphasis. Then we got to draw our own scary pictures using the technique of repetition to show fear.

It is going to be fun to know the *Scream* Halloween mask is really from a famous painting. Now I am really excited for Halloween!

Ask your child why he/she thinks the man in *The Scream* is screaming. I am sure they will have a lot to say.