

Hi Mom & Dad,

Today the Art Parent came into our class and showed us our **Masterpiece of the Month**. We are learning about flowers in the classroom, so today we learned about a very famous painting called **Sunflowers** painted by **Vincent Van Gogh**.

The story of Vincent Van Gogh is a sad one. Vincent was not a happy kid and hardly ever smiled. Vincent always got into trouble, got bad grades in school and had a hard time making friends.

But Vincent loved to draw. He was really good at it. But he never thought that being an artist could be a real job.

Vincent tried lots of jobs, but they never worked out. He tried working in his Uncle's art gallery. He tried being a teacher. He even tried being a minister. But he felt sad all the time. Sometime he even forgot to go to work, and he got fired. Vincent felt like a failure when his jobs didn't work out.

With the encouragement of his dear brother Theo, Vincent finally decided to become an artist. He moved to Paris with brother and became friends with other painters (like George Seurat who we learned about earlier this year!) Vincent was a pest and he was messy. No one really thought Vincent was a very good artist except for his brother Theo - who really believed in him. Theo believed in Vincent so much that he loaned him lots of money to pay for his art supplies.

Vincent was still sad all the time so he left Paris and moved to the South of France. He lived in a yellow house surrounded by beautiful yellow sunflowers. For the first time ever, Vincent felt happy and he painted beautiful pictures of flowers, which looked very happy. But no one wanted to buy his paintings...and that made him sad.

One day, Vincent had a terrible accident and cut off part of his ear. The police rushed him to the hospital. But Vincent was never the same after that.

Vincent died when he was only 37.

One of the most remarkable things about Vincent Van Gogh is that he was an artist for only 10 years of his life. Remarkably, in those 10 years, he made over 1,700 paintings and drawings. That's almost one every two days!

A man named Don MacLean wrote a sad song and Vincent Van Gogh that we listened to in class (lyrics are attached.) We observed sunflowers in a vase and created our very own masterpieces. We even planted some sunflowers to grow at home!

Talk to your child about **Sunflowers by Vincent Van Gogh**. I am sure they will have plenty to say!