

## Dear Parents and Students

Everything has its own beauty; we just have to be sensitive enough to see it. Finally snow is here and we should be in a hurry to enjoy its white color and its purity before it melts away. So for the ones who want to make a snowman, try to use your creativity and artistic talent to make the most differently attractive snowman ever.

We have two new friends who joined us, Mikaiil who loves cartooning and Golarra who enjoys using colours all day long. Welcome friends and have a very colourful, interesting experience.

I know while your child is here you try to catch up with so many other responsibilities that you have as a parent but because our time and our space is limited, please respect each other's time. So **drop off** and **pick up** your child on time so that the students in the other group before or after your child's group can use their time as well and let me serve everyone my best. If your child is here earlier, he or she has to wait outside till the other group finish their work.

If there is any change in your schedule or exceptional situations, I should be notified in advance.

About tools and materials, because of the expenses and the qualities of the materials the students are not to share their materials or tools (e.g. Brushes) in the class. Please make sure your child has proper materials and tools each session. If they need anything that they do not have even although they need it, we would have to use some new tools or stuff for them which would cost them money.

I also take this opportunity to ask parents, in case you decide to buy any art stuff for your child, please make sure to buy the best quality which you can afford. Sometimes the student tries his/her best without seeing the proper result which they deserve only because the materials or tools are of low quality. This makes both of us disappointed though this is not anyone's fault or carelessness.

Due to the winter time and weather condition please send for your child an extra pair of indoor shoes to use while he/she is here. It helps a lot to control the mess and for their security on the stairs.

It is impossible to make everyone satisfied but I do my best if you just let me know what date and time is convenient for you to have your child's exhibition. Please give me a written note with at least three different days and times.

At exhibition time we try to show our beliefs, our dreams and our thought. So kids! Hurry! We have a long path ahead.

Last month was very important. It was the month of achievements for our young scientist “ARSHAM”. Congratulations on your success in “Taekwondo”; we are really proud of you. You worked hard so you deserve it. Also we have a super job article about a very famous artist, Vincent Van Gogh, which is attached to this newsletter. Read it, enjoy it and learn it.

All the articles which you have received, and will receive, are prepared by your kids. So please respect their time and interest and read them together with your kids. We will talk about them in the class as well so it adds to your kids’ knowledge while they become aware of the subject of the class and they will find more confidence and experience to join us and share their understanding.

No-one likes homework, do you? So let me call it practice to make it more interesting. With doing any kind of art just once a week for two hours, we cannot reach our goal the way that our talent deserves it. So please take it seriously and do what I ask you to practice at home. Even just for a few minutes a day. I do my best to make them really interesting but without parents’ follow-ups and supervision, it is impossible for me to make the students’ drawing and painting stronger. My adult students and teenagers! You are not exceptional. All these practices have their own reasons so if you do not do them at home, you should do them in the studio in a way or another. So I recommend you to save your time and mine by doing just a few minutes practice at home.

This week we will decide whether to keep the studio open or closed for holidays. So please let me know by next session if you have any plans.

In the end, have a very enjoyable winter with lots of great memories in it.

Mojgan Afshar  
December, 2007



### Vincent Van Gogh

He was a happy child who became grim, impoverished, melancholic, difficult to love, and suicidal-but he painted works that are now among the world's best known, best loved, and most expensive. He took up painting at the age of 27 and wanted his art to be a consolation for the stresses and strains of modern life. His subjects are wholly autobiographical, tracing every moment and emotion in his life. While the popular image of Van Gogh is of the tormented genius, he was also an educated, cultured man, who, despite the rapid pace of his output, put deep thought and planning into his art.

*Self portrait – (1889) oil colors on canvas*

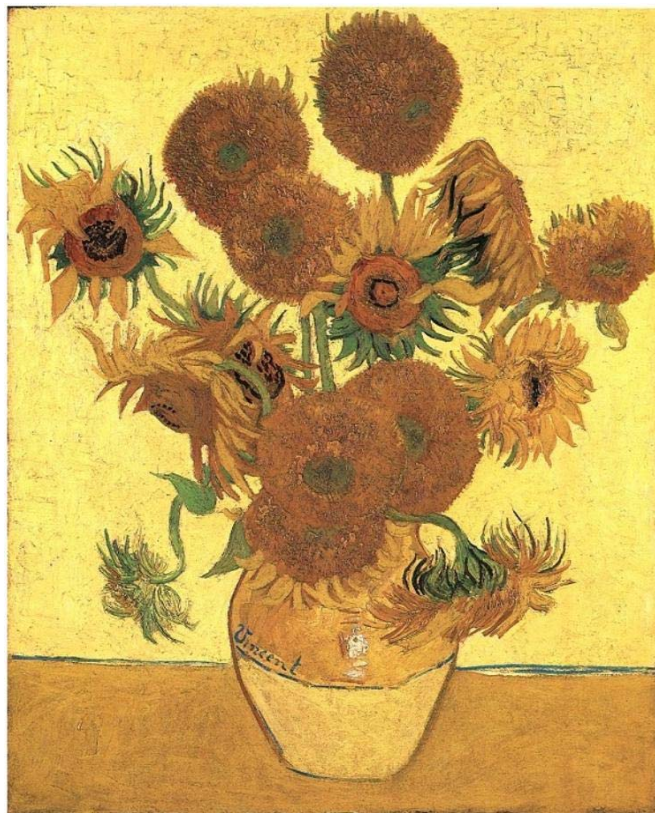


*Cornfield with Cypresses, (1889)*

### Life and works

Van Gogh came late to his artistic vocation, after years of unfulfilling careers, failed love affairs, poverty, and spiritual crises. Dismissed from his post as lay preacher for his too literal interpretation of Christ's command to give away worldly goods to the poor, he found a new mission in art. His early subjects were Dutch peasants and workers, whose honest

struggle he sought to portray. This moralistic tone disappeared from his later art, which, under the influence of Impressionism and Japanese woodcuts encountered on his move to Paris, developed into an expressive, swirling style. An unsuccessful attempt to found an artists' cooperative at Arles with Gauguin led to a breakdown (he cut off part of his left ear during a quarrel), and he briefly entered an asylum in 1889. Although an enormously productive period, his depression finally overcame him, and he died at his own hand, virtually unknown to the art world, leaving 800 paintings and 850 drawings, completing 200 paintings in the last 15 months alone. His obsessive letters to his devoted brother, Theo, which often explain work in detail, formed the source material for the quickly emergent cult that continues to grow around him.



*Sunflowers 1888 – Oil colors on canvas*

## Style

Van Gogh had an instinctive, self-taught, hurried style that is instantly recognizable. He used paint straight from the tube, applied as thick as furrows; strange perspectives; firm outlines, like a child's drawing; thrilling use of color, which takes on a

life of its own. He distorted form and color in order to express inner feelings, moving away from the reproduction of literal visual appearances toward a symbolic and expressive synthesis. His swirling brushwork bristles with energy and emotional power. He was able to endow inanimate objects with human personality (as did his favorite author, Charles Dickens), so that his yellow chair becomes a symbol or image of van Gogh himself. He had a passionate belief in the importance of first-hand observation, which can be electrifying; but he also used color symbolism, with yellow being especially significant in his works. He ranks with Cezanne and Gauguin as the greatest of the Post-Impressionist artists.

Source: 1-**Art** (Robert Cumming - Eyewitness companions)

2- [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)