

My Dear friends

I cannot believe it is already the end of October and just in a few more weeks we should be ready for Christmas.

We have two new friends who have joined our club from this week. A warm welcome to *Elika* and *Kendall*! We are excited to see your art work!

As for the snack, you are most welcome to have any snack for yourself or share with your friends. We want to have a very relaxed and enjoyable time while we are learning and improving. **But it is very important to know we have students who may be allergic to nuts. So please make sure that your kids do not bring any snacks which have or may have nuts in them. It is also a good reminder if someone else has any kind of allergy, please let me know.**

When we are working in the gallery, it is impossible to prevent all kinds of mess and dirt. So please avoid wearing the dresses and the clothes that are expensive or dear to you.

If you cannot attend any sessions for any reasons, please let me know at least 48 hours in advance so that I can manage to arrange for a make-up session.

I should use this opportunity to inform you that we are going to have an exhibition to show our work and challenge. All the students will have the chance to present at least two art work and be ready to explain the style and the way they made them. We are still deciding on the time and date and will notify you accordingly. However, in the meantime, if you have any preference or if there is any date or time that you would not be able to participate, please let me know in advance so that I can take them into account.

If you have any suggestions for the better holding of the exhibition, please share them with us. We would be glad and welcome all your suggestions. Your suggestions make us stronger and the exhibition better. Also if any of you can volunteer for making the gallery ready for the presentations day, I would greatly appreciate if you let me know. The exhibition is also a good opportunity to offer your art works for sale or to see and buy others' works of art.

We are always prepared to provide the necessary materials and tools for the class. However, if you prefer to make your own purchase, we can refer you to art stores where you can find your supplies with more reasonable prices.

Mahshid, one of my great and talented students, has prepared an article which is attached to this letter. Thank you Mahshid! You did a great job although I know that you were really busy.

Besides showing our feeling and talent and what is inside us, we use our time to know about art and artists and more. So please read the article which is prepared mostly by our friends and share your opinions with us.

Remember that humanity comes first, then comes art and then painting!

Once again thank you so much for the support of all parents and Colorotopia's students to make this gallery bright, shiny, warm and friendly.

Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter who depicted the culture of her country in a style combining Realism, Symbolism and Surrealism. She was married to Mexican cubist painter Diego Rivera. She is widely known for her self-portraits, often expressing her physical pain and suffering through symbolism. In the past 30 years Frida has gained respect in Europe and the US. Julie Taymor had directed a biographical movie about Frida Kahlo (*Frida*; Salma Hayek starred). The film sparked even further interest in Kahlo's life and work. Her house in Coyoacan, Mexico is now a museum that is visited by tourists.

Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderon, as her name appears on her birth certificate was born on July 6, 1907 Coyoacan, which at the time was a small town in Mexico City. Her father, Guillermo Kahlo (1872-1941), was born Carl Wilhelm Kahlo, Kahlo claimed her father was of Jewish and Hungarian ancestry, but a 2005 book on Guillermo Kahlo argued that he was descended from a long line of German Lutherans.

Kahlo contracted polio at age six, which left her right leg looking thinner sometimes than the other (a deformity Kahlo hid by wearing long skirts). As a girl, she participated in boxing and other sports.

In September of 1925, Kahlo was riding in a bus when the vehicle collided with a trolley car. She suffered serious injuries in the accident, including a broken spinal column, a broken collarbone, broken ribs, a broken pelvis, eleven fractures in her right leg, a crushed and dislocated right foot, and a dislocated shoulder. An iron handrail impaled her abdomen, piercing her uterus, which seriously damaged her reproductive ability. Though she recovered from her injuries and eventually regained her ability to walk, she was plagued by relapses of extreme pain for the remainder of her life. The pain was intense and often left her confined to a hospital or bedridden for months at a time. She would undergo as many as 35 operations in her life as a result of the accident, mainly on her back and her right leg and foot.

After the accident, Frida began a full-time painting career. The accident left her in a great deal of pain while she recovered in a full body cast; she painted to occupy her time during her temporary state of immobilization. Drawing on personal experiences including her troubled marriage, her painful miscarriages, and her numerous operations, Kahlo's works are often characterized by their portrayals of pain. Of her 143 paintings, fifty-five are self-portraits, which frequently incorporate symbolic portrayals of her physical and psychological wounds.

As a young artist, Kahlo approached the famous Mexican Diego Rivera, whom she had previously admired, and asked him for his advice on pursuing art as a career. He immediately recognized her talent and her unique expression as truly special and uniquely Mexican. He encouraged her development as an artist, and began an intimate relationship with Frida. They were married in 1929. Both Kahlo and Rivera had notoriously fiery temperaments and both had many extramarital affairs. The couple eventually divorced, but remarried in 1940; their second marriage was as turbulent as the first.

The official cause of death was given as pulmonary embolism, though some suspected that she had died from overdose that may or may not have been accidental. An autopsy was never performed. The end of battle with life and death had come to an end at the age of 47, July 14, 1954.

