

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for attending tonight's Title 1 and PTO Art Night! Tonight, we explored the vibrant worlds of two influential artists:

- **Eric Carle:** Famous for his vibrant tissue-paper-like art, utilizing various textures throughout his work often depicting various animals, insects, and nature themes. As an illustrator, he said he chose to portray animals in unconventional colors to show his young readers that in art, there is no wrong color.
- **Yayoi Kusama:** Famous for pieces showcasing her adoration of spots representing infinity, self-obliteration, and cosmic energy. She utilizes a combination of pop art and minimalism to support her mental health making her one of the most popular contemporary artists in the world.

During our creation time, students made:

- Tissue-paper butterfly pieces inspired by Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- Created paintings using Q-Tips to make polka-dot art, inspired by Yayoi Kusama.

Students' art pieces have the opportunity to be displayed at our **Haverhill Public Library** for one month beginning **April 20th**. Please complete the release form if you'd like the artwork displayed, and ensure your child's name is clearly written on the back of the artwork they left with us.

Below are some ideas to extend learning at home as well as a list of books that you can read together at home. We hope you enjoy spending time together learning about art!

Sincerely,

Walnut Square Staff and PTO

To extend the learning at home, here are some ideas:

Eric Carle Focus:

- **Painting with nature:** Gather sticks, leaves, pinecones, rocks, etc. to use as a paintbrush.
- Encourage your child to sample the various types of foods found in Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- Talk about the ways that foods help us grow and transform throughout the lifespan.
- **Mapping Favorite Foods:** Map out with your child what foods make our bodies happy (nutrient dense foods) and what foods make our brains happy (treats) to support healthy balanced eating habits.

Yayoi Kusama Focus:

- **Patterned Creations:** Paint using different shapes of different colors and sizes to create patterned art pieces.
- **Polkadots and Emotions:** Paint facial expressions using dots to represent different emotions (happy, sad, angry, confused, etc.).
- **Sculpture Art:** Find various parent-approved items in your house or outside to make sculptures out of.

Books to Read

- *Stone Giant: Michelangelo's David and How He Came to Be*, Jane Sutcliffe
- *Who Was Leonardo da Vinci?*, Roberta Edwards
- *The Music in George's Head: George Gershwin Creates Rhapsody in Blue*, Suzanne Slade
- *Who Was Pablo Picasso?*, True Kelley
- *Sandy's Circus: A Story about Alexander Calder*, Tanya Lee Stone
- *Jackson Pollock*, Mike Venezia
- *Michelangelo*, Diane Stanley
- *Georges Seurat*, Mike Venezia
- *Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White*, Melissa Sweet
- *Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist*, Jan Greenberg
- *Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer*, Robert Byrd
- *The Dreamer*, Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Building on Nature: The Life of Antoni Gaudi*, Rachel Rodriguez
- *The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art*, Barb Rosenstock
- *An Eye for Color: The Story of Josef Albers*, Natasha Wing
- *José! Born to Dance*, Susanna Reich
- *The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau*, Michelle Markel
- *Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*, Robert Byrd
- *The Garden of Monsieur Monet*, Giancarlo Ascari
- *Edgar Degas: Paintings that Dance*, Kristin N. Cole and Maryann Cocca-Leffler
- *The Artist and His Models: The Art of Rembrandt*, Hanuel Ddang
- *Mr. Matisse and His Cutouts*, Annemarie van Haeringen
- *Lives of the Artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbors Thought)*, Kathleen Krull
- *The World Is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid*, Jeanette Winter
- *Seen from a Distance: The Art of Monet*, Seon-hye Jang
- *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring*, Jan Greenberg
- *Pippo the Fool*, Tracey E. Fern
- *Mario's Angels: A Story about the Artist Giotto*, Mary Arrigan
- *Firebird*, Misty Copeland
- *Ellington Was Not a Street*, Ntozake Shange