

Hi Mom and Dad,

Today the Art Parent came into our class and showed us our **Masterpiece of the Month**.

Before we got to learn about our Masterpiece of the Month, we experimented with watercolor paints. We made beautiful watercolor drip paintings using a straw to simulate the wind.

**Then we learned about a famous painter named Winslow Homer and one of his most famous watercolor paintings, Fog Warning.**

Winslow Homer was born in 1836 and was America's most treasured **watercolor artist**. He was most famous for his watercolor paintings that captured American landscapes and seascapes.

Winslow's father was a talented watercolor artist and owned a hardware store. His mother was also a talented watercolorist and she loved to paint flowers. Winslow began to draw as soon as he could hold a pencil but never took even one art class. Instead, he spent his childhood fishing (not studying art.)

He was famous for capturing the sparkling brilliance of moving water and cloudy skies. He loved vacationing by the sea (in places like Maine, Florida and the Bahamas) and it always inspired his art.

When Homer painted Fog Warning, it was quite common for fisherman to get lost at sea. Fishing was a dangerous living. Sailors in huge boats would travel out to sea and then take a little boat off the big boat to put out their fishing hooks. Then they would haul their catch back to the big boats and return home. **Fog Warning shows a fisherman rowing back to the big boat in rough water with his catch - a halibut weighing between 100-150 pounds!** He observes the foggy weather, and looks tired.

**Winslow Homer loved to paint the power of nature (severe weather) and the power of water.**

We got a chance to create our own watercolor seascapes inspired by America's greatest watercolorist, Winslow Homer.

Ask me about **Fog Warning by Winslow Homer**. I will have a lot to share!