

**Chatsworth Avenue Elementary School**

**Art Appreciation: Fall, 2011**

**Stuart Davis: Letter to Parents**



Dear Parents,

On {fill in day and date}, your child's class will study the life and art of Stuart Davis (1894-1964) who was a progressive and experimental early American modernist painter. He was known for his "ashcan" pictures portraying scenes of daily life in New York's poorer neighborhoods which he produced in the beginning years of the 20th century. He is best remembered however for his jazz influenced, proto pop art paintings of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, which were bold, brash, and colorful. (Please note, a biographical synopsis is available for your review on the School's PTA, Art Appreciation web site.)

The Art Appreciation Parent Volunteers in each class will be guiding the viewing and discussion of Davis' work with leading questions about perspective, subject matter and layering of color, shapes and lettering.

The children will then be invited to create paintings/collages that express and represent what is important to them in their own environments and experiences. They will be asked to include elements representing the buildings, music, places and other things that are meaningful to them.

We hope you will enjoy hearing about their Art Appreciation session and seeing the work your children create with the works of Stuart Davis in mind.

Sincerely,