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THE WEEK OF

Monday Jan, 18th, 2016

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Canvas & Cupcakes a Painting Party

Matthew Buitron —*River Talk News, Camas & Washougal, WA* - Canvas & Cupcakes was thought of in September of 2015. We had our first painting party that following November", explains Kathy Dering, owner of The Paint Roller also the instructor of the paint parties. "The kids love it and I love it. I just love watching the kids", Kathy chuckles. "They are so serious about their painting, and when it's the adults, it's really fun and a lot of chatter-chatter-chatter, but with the kids, they are just quiet and much focused. They're so proud when they're done. It's really great to see!"

I asked Kathy about any other locations for the kids paint parties. "Currently, Wild Flour Café & Cupcake is the only place that we're having the painting parties for kids", Kathy explains. "We are exploring other locations here in Camas & Washougal as well as Vancouver too. The kids are really enjoying this as much as the adults are and we want to get it out there and make the program as accessible as possible."

How often are the kids painting parties and how does it work? "Twice a month", Kathy says. "And then on holidays we do extra days. Spring break we'll do extra days, as we did in the

recent winter break. The way we get started is with a cupcake and a glass of milk or juice", Kathy says sweetly. "They are shown two theme paintings. One is a little larger and more detailed than the other, so the kids get to pick the one they wish to paint. They can use any color they wish to and change anything thing they would like. Everyone's doing the same two pictures, but in their own perspective ways. While they are painting, I try to get some feedback from the kids", Kathy urges, "Because I learn from them too."

We've had as many as 50 kids paint beautiful paintings in the past six painting parties. So, we're very excited to see this continue to grow in popularity", Kathy proclaims. The parents seem to be equally as enthusiastic about the painting parties as the kids are, so it's really fun for everyone and meaningful for everyone involved."

"I really love this and think it just a wonderful program for the kids." Said parent Amber Lee. "This is my 8 year old son Brandon's third time here. He really loves art and is having a great time."

After chatting with Amber a bit, I want-

ed to hear from one of the kids, so I interrupted one of them who was finishing up one of her paintings, 7 year old Rylee Quinn. I asked Rylee, "What is this that you are painting? Rylee looks at the painting objectively, shrugs her shoulders and replies, "Hmm, I don't know." So I asked Rylee, "What do the words say that you have painted?" With a big smile she sweetly read's to me her painted words, "I love art because it's fun." Rylee went on to report that this was her second painting and that she has made new friends here. I asked Rylee if she wants to do more painting "Hmm, I think so. Yes!"

Raylynn Quinn, Rylee's mother, "I think this is a really great activity for our kids. They have a great thing going on here. Something else that I really like about this program is, they do house parties too! So, whether it's birthday parties or adult parties, it's pretty cool."

If you are interested in joining a painting party or want to sign your child or children up, you can reach Kathy at 360-835-3618 Find The Paint Roller's ad here in River Talk NewsPaper. You can also check out other Paint Roller party info on their facebook page, www.facebook.com/ThePaintRoller

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