



The Creative Arts Therapy Newsletter

January 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Meet the Teachers

SARAH PLUTZER, MPS, LCAT
 Art Therapist, Art Teacher

Sarah Plutzer is a NYS licensed art therapist whose work with nonprofit social service agencies spans more than fourteen years. Sarah joined Stanley Lamm in 2014.



Born and raised in New York City, Sarah has always loved admiring art, creating art and teaching others about art.

Sarah believes that children learn best by doing. Through experimentation with different materials, they learn how art is made and how to express themselves through it. It is the process, not the product, and the journey, not the destination that are most important.

CRAIG BRASHEAR
 Movement Specialist, Dance Teacher

Craig is a long-time dance partner with the Rebecca Kelly Ballet and now serves as the company's technical manager and Appleby Foundations Executive Director.

He co-founded Kids Co-Motion! A unique choreographic method of teaching dance. He began his performing arts career in musical theatre in high school, he studied modern dance in college and graduated with a degree in physics from Haverford College.



Craig has been the Movement Specialist at Stanley Lamm for 22 years.



The Color Wheel

Since the beginning of the school year, students have explored many art materials including crayons, markers, oil pastels, tempera paint, water color paint and collage.

Recently, all classes learned about Primary and Secondary colors. The Pre-K classes were able to create color wheels (shown above) that show how colors are related. They remind artists how to mix and think about color. The students used only red, blue and yellow tempera paints to make their secondary colors of purple, orange and green. This exercise required attentiveness and patience. What a remarkable job they all did!

Recommended Art Books for Children

- "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds
- "Sky Color" by Peter Reynolds
- "Beautiful Oops" by Barney Saltzberg
- "Mouse Paint" by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Approach to Movement



Some parents might wonder what goes on in a preschool movement class? A typical Kids Co-Motion class includes six or seven dances or dance-based activities chosen from a repertory of about 30 dances. Each dance is constructed around two or three concepts such as balancing, turning, moving up and down, counting, circling, sliding, walking, hopping, jumping and imaginative play. The music is dynamic and eclectic, drawn from the folk, classical and pop music of many

cultures. Craig sings the instructions or descriptive words which go with each dance, and encourage the children to sing along too. Spatial awareness, rhythm and counting skills, and group cooperation are all part of the fun while the children increase their coordination. They also work with scarves, and the colorful "shapes course" in which children learn about symbols which stand for movement.

The classes also help with communication, interaction, and the ability to make connections that are essential to learning and go hand in hand with being part of a group acquiring or developing a skill. So a creative movement and music class is

not limited to the technical skills associated with making or performing dance or music. It is the Kids Co-Motion belief that inside each child is a love of dance, a love of music, and a love of song, which when awakened and experienced, stimulate intellectual and physical growth.

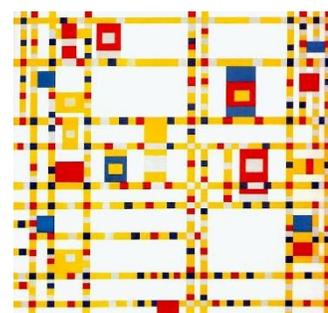
Learn more about Kids Co-Motion by clicking on the 'KCM Home' link on Craig's website:
www.rebeccakellyballet.com.

Artist Study: Mondrian

Piet Mondrian (1872-1944) was a Dutch Painter who found his way to New York in 1940. Mondrian was best known for his grid based abstract paintings using primary colors.

In early November, the students began identifying, naming and exploring colors. Using Mondrian as inspiration, our young budding artists made wonderful works of art. The pictures on the right demonstrate the simplicity of using color shapes to create a composition.

The students at Stanley Lamm will be introduced to several well known and important artists over the course of the year. It is never too soon to learn about and recognize notable artists of the world.



Piet Mondrian's "Broadway Boogie Woogie" 1942. On permanent display at the MoMA in Manhattan.