

Dear Family,

In my class today, I explored emotions using an expressive sculpture.

Did You Know?

- Children feel different emotions but sometimes do not know the words for those emotions. Helping children to name and talk about their feelings can help make those emotions easier to deal with. Sometimes children feel confused by what they are feeling. When children are encouraged to show how they are feeling, parents can validate those feelings by letting them know it is okay to feel that way.
- Before we had cameras, artists painted pictures of people and their families. These pictures are called portraits. Portraits can be paintings, photos, drawings, or sculptures (like Rodin's *Pierre de Wissant* sculpture). Portraits sometimes tell us about the person. If the person in the picture is smiling, we think the person is happy.

Ask Your Child:

- Show me a happy face, sad face, tired face (name other emotions).
- Describe how your face changes (eyes, mouth, cheeks) when you express an emotion.
- Tell me what emotion you saw in the sculpture.

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- Discuss expressions with your child. Make silly faces together, and name the emotions you are imitating. Help your child to make a list or draw pictures of things that make him or her happy, and send it to school to share with the class.
- Explore artwork you see when you are out together. Discuss the textures and expressions you see in the pieces. Talk about the size of the pieces; are they life-size, bigger, or smaller?

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:

- **expression** – the way someone's face looks at a particular moment that shows how they feel.
- **emotion** – a strong feeling, such as love, sadness, or fear.
- **examine** – to look at in a close, thorough way.
- **facial feature** – a quality of the part of the head containing the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- **portrait** – a descriptive representation of a person or animal, especially a painting.
- **sculpture** – the art of making statues by carving, chiseling, or molding.