

## Branch December Newsletter



The month of November has come and gone, and what a month it was! Whether it was coming together for your child during conferences or coming together as a family during the holidays, we were all able to appreciate one another as friends and as families. The importance of friendship and families was our focus for the month of November. Ms. McKenzie and myself do believe we achieved that throughout the month! As we began our month, we discussed the importance of friends and friendships in many of our circle times. The “compliment game” was a huge hit with our class! The directions for the game were quite simple. As we sat in our circle, each Brancher was asked to look to their neighbor (a friend sitting next to them) and give that friend a compliment. As we went around the circle, each friend was able to give a compliment as well as receive a compliment. We brainstormed and came up with the thought, that giving a compliment means that you’re saying something nice to a friend. All summed up, we like to have “happy hearts”, and giving compliments achieves that feeling in your heart. At the end of each game, we were able to reflect individually or as a group on how our hearts felt after hearing such kind words from their neighbor. The answers were heartwarming! Throughout the month, we played this game numerous times, with compliments becoming more detailed! We hear compliments being given left and right between our Branch friends, which is music to any teacher’s ears! Learning and feeling empathy is such an important piece to being not only a Brancher, but a friend as well!

“Friendship Stew” was yet another classroom hit! As we participated in a morning circle time, we debated on ‘what makes a good friend’. At the end of our discussion we came up with the ‘main ingredients’ to our stew. They included: Caring (carrots), Kindness (green peas), Love(corn), Smiles(broth), Hugs & High Fives (alphabet noodles). We then mixed all of our ingredients together in a crockpot and enjoyed “Friendship Stew” at afternoon snack!

Friends are important, but families are just as equally important! As a class we discussed how each one of our families are different. It was so nice to hear the children speak about their family and what they think is so special about them. We truly have a classroom full of love for the friends and family! We have created a ‘fantastic family’ bulletin board. There, you will find pictures of each family, animals included! If you haven’t brought in a picture or two, please feel free to do so! We have really enjoyed all of the pictures we’ve received! We plan to keep the pictures up through the new year!

As our month progressed, our Brancher’s participated in many fun, hands on and creative art projects. Whether it was melting crayons on a warming tray to create apples and pumpkins, creating friendship

trees or constructing Popsicle stick houses, we stayed quite busy at the art table! The art didn't stop there...have you noticed not only the new "self-portraits" but the "family portraits" displayed in the classroom as well? These wonderful pieces of personal art, took a lot of patience and time. Self Portraits are one of my favorite. With each month, it will be amazing to see the growth with their pencil skills and knowledge!

As we enjoyed a few days off for Thanksgiving, we came back refreshed and full bellied with yummy food! Thanksgiving wouldn't be the same without pumpkin pie! A pumpkin pie taste test was a classroom must! We put our taste buds and opinions to the test as we graphed out our 'likes' and 'dislikes' to an all-time favorite Thanksgiving treat!

December will be filled with the sights, sounds, scents and science of Christmas and all it brings!

- Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Annual Christmas Program, 6:00-7:30pm. \*Santa will arrive at 5:45!
- Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> -Center closed, Christmas Day.

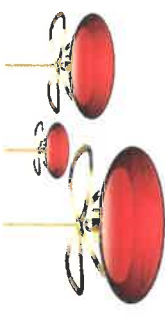

Warm wishes for this upcoming holiday season!



Ms. Heather and Ms. Mackenzie

DEC-17

**CHRISTMAS SCENTS, SIGHTS, SOUNDS & SCIENCE**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
CLOSED					<b>CHRISTMAS PAPER CHAIN</b>
DECEMBER 25TH	<b>NATIONAL COOKIE DAY!</b> Sugar Cookies!	<b>CHRISTMAS TREE DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PAINT SWATCH CHRISTMAS TREE</b>	<b>ALPHABET CHRISTMAS STICKER TREE</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS TREE BALANCE</b>
MERRY CHRISTMAS!	<b>CHRISTMAS TREE NAME GAME</b>	<b>NATIONAL POINSETTA DAY</b>	<b>POM POM CHRISTMAS TREE</b>	<b>GREEN GLITTER PINE SCENTED PLAYDOUGH</b>	<b>STUFF &amp; LACE CHRISTMAS TREE</b>
	<b>CHRISTMAS PRESENT SURPRISE!</b>	<b>LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO A TREE FARM!</b>	<b>YARN WRAPPED CHRISTMAS TREES</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF WINTER! Favorites!</b>	<b>WINTER SNOW GLOBE</b>
	<b>*****CLOSED***** MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>GREEN OIL &amp; WATER SCIENCE</b>	<b>HOT CHOCOLATE TASTE TEST GRAPHING</b>	<b>CANDY CANE TASTE TEST STRIPE SCIENCE</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS WRAP UP</b>

**BRANCH**