

BRANCH NEWS

Wow! Where did the month of July go? I guess time flies when you're having fun! To say our Brancher's were busy, is definitely an understatement! Whether they were involved with swimming lessons or busy being 'insect detectives', our days were filled with excitement and adventure! As you may have heard, our Brancher's were so engaged and interested with our Insect Study that we chose to continue the insect education through the month of July! Much of the information and fun facts that were taught in June played a roll in the discovery and education in July! As we learned about ladybugs, the Brancher's knew exactly what to look for as they searched for ladybug larva outside on the playground. The insect discovery and education....it's never-ending! We have been blown away by the information each Brancher is not only retaining, but then teaching to others as well! It is safe to say that our class absolutely loves this Insect Study!

Literacy and books are a pretty hot topic in our classroom, whether it is friends bringing in books from home to share with the classroom or filling up the bookshelf with books from the public library, each Brancher show immense interest in reading...which is awesome! Eric Carle is a wonderful author/illustrator. We have many of his books in our classroom library, many of which are insect books. The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Very Grouchy Ladybug have been the classroom favorites so far! When we're not busy voting on which book to read at our circle times, you can find us discussing comparing each Eric Carle book. It is amazing the details provided with each answer! The Brancher's are proving to be quite skilled with attention to detail. Listening to and understanding the concept of each story is pre reading and a wonderful skill to obtain!

Throughout the month of July, we focused our study on spiders, worms, ants and even fireflies! Learning about each insect (although worms are not) was fun and engaging.... but art activities are just as fun too! We put our fine motor skills to work as each Brancher made their very own spiderweb! Not only were they in charge of cutting the center of a paper plate out, they also were able to use a hole puncher to punch holes all around the plate itself! What a great way to build those finger and hand muscles! Lacing the spiderweb together came next. Each Brancher was able to design their very own web in a back and forth lacing pattern. This was a multistep activity, and the Branchers aced it! Speaking of multistep activities, 'paper weaving' was introduced to the Branch Room! While learning all about ants, we discovered that ants love to drink and eat anything sweet. An ant will pet an aphid with its antennas and the aphid will produce a sweet honeydew that the ants love! When we discovered this interesting fact, we decided that ants must love picnics, so each Brancher set out to make a (construction paper) tablecloth for a picnic. We talked about checkerboards and the gingham print on picnic tablecloths and what they had in common. We then discussed patterns. We decided that both the checkerboard and the gingham tablecloth had a two color pattern, or and A,B pattern. We then achieved the pattern by weaving red and white paper together! "Under the red, over the red" were terms being used by each Brancher as they kept up with their pattern paper weaving. It was amazing to witness each child really understand and grasp the concept! We are amazed each day with these amazing skills our Branchers have obtained.

With all these fine motor skills we focus on throughout the day, updating our self portraits was a must! Be on the lookout for new beautiful smiling self portraits being displayed throughout the classroom! It has been amazing watching the progression and growth with each student's pencil skill but again, their attention to detail! We have been collecting each self-portrait throughout the school year and are anxiously excited to share them with you next month!

As you know, August will be the last month for your child to be in the Branch Room... bittersweet to say the least! It has been an AMAZING & OUTSTANDING year for not only our students but teachers as well! We have been so blessed with such a wonderful, witty, empathetic, eager and loving group of little human beings! We have been able to educate, play, learn and grow together which makes us all a pretty dynamic group. We have felt a great amount of support from parents, guardians and family! We are eager to see them succeed and blossom next school year as they move up. Thank you all for everything!

YOUR BRANCH TEACHERS.

HEATHER, MCKENZIE, & STACIE

TO INFINITY.....AND BLOSSOM

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
GROWING TREE			WHAT IS OUR SOLAR SYSTEM?	PLANETS VS. MOONS & STARS	STAR GALAXY DISCOVERY BOTTLE
CLOSED		MOON SAND TEXTURE TESTING	MOON WALK SPACE DANCE	BOOK: IF YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE MOON	MOON ROCKS & SPACE SLIME
THURSDAY		MARSHMALLOW SUPER STAR CONSTELLATION	ALPHABET STAR SEARCH AND DISCOVER	SUN, MOON, STAR AND PLANET SUN CATCHERS	SUPER NOVA COLOR BLEND
30-AUG		NAME BLOCK BLAST OFF?	GLOW IN THE DARK PLAYDOUGH	SPACE OUT PLANET GRAPHING	SUPER STRAW ROCKETS
FRIDAY		OUR SUN IS...	TO INFINITY AND BLOSSOM	CLOSED	CLOSED
31-AUG					

BRANCH