



## Branch Room, 2018

And just like that.... 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. Kenzie and myself do believe we achieved that throughout the month! As the month began, 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 heard 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 social skill, not only for a Brancher, but for everyone!

“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: **Kindness** (carrots), **Sharing & Caring** (red potatoes), **Hugs & High Fives** (celery), and **Love** (red onions). We then added water and seasoning, mixed all of our ingredients together and let the crockpot do the rest! We enjoyed our “Friendship Stew” as part of our afternoon snack! Who knew that creating a friendship could not only be so fun, but delicious too?!

Friendships didn’t just stop with the stew though! We also participated in, ‘Friendship Addition & Subtraction’. By using unifix cubes we participated in a whole group activity by adding and taking away. Each Brancher was given a certain amount of unifix cubes. They were then asked individually to add their cubes to the stack. Once each Brancher had participated in adding,

they were then asked to 'take away' the number provided by the teacher. This was a fun hands on learning math experience! We're now hearing the children adding things up all through the day! Math has been proven to be enjoyed throughout the classroom, but so has beading too! As part of an activity station, we had "Friendship Beading Bracelets". At this station you would find: colored pipe cleaners, (we liked to call them fuzzy string) and small beads. The object of this activity was to place as many desired beads on the pipe cleaner, (thus improving and strengthening their fine motor skills), then with a wrap around the wrist and a simple twist, each Brancher sported a beautiful one of a kind bracelet. We discussed how each bracelet was made of the same items, but when created, each bracelet was uniquely different, just like each one of us!

Friends are important, but so are families! As a class we discussed how each one of our families is 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 their friends and family! Whether it was family graphing or last name memory game, we discovered a fun new way to learn more about one another's families! Check at our "Family Board" which is filling up quite nicely! It is just another way for us to appreciate our families. If you haven't blessed our ever-growing board with a family picture, please do so! We are hoping to see more pictures come in throughout the year!

As our month progressed, our Brancher's participated in many fun, hands on and creative art projects. Whether it was colorful finger printing for 'friendship trees' or using plastic forks as paintbrushes to create 'thankful fork turkeys' we stayed quite busy at the art table! The art didn't stop there...have you noticed the new "self-portraits" on the bulletin board? These wonderful pieces of personal art, took a lot of patience and time. Self-portraits are one of our favorites. With each month, it will be amazing to see the growth with their pencil skills, attention to detail 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 the season and all it brings!

**Dates to Remember:**

- ❖ Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>- First Friday
- ❖ Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Sing-a-long
- ❖ Growing Tree will be CLOSED December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Have a safe and fun-filled holiday season!  
Ms. Heather & Ms. McKenzie

DEC-18

**SCIENCE, SCENTS, SOUNDS OF THE SEASON!**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
TIS' THE SAESON SELF	PAPER CHAIN ADD ON	HOMEMADE GOURMET	GREEN OIL & H2O	CANDY CANE TATSE TEST
PORTRAITS!	COUNT SOWN	HOT CHOCOLATE	COMBINE	STRIPE SCIENCE
I SEE WINTER!	CHRISTMAS TREE	PAINT SWATCH EVERGREEN	SPICEY / SWEET SCENTED	CHRISTMAS TREE
SOUNDS	DESCRIPTION	TREE	PINECONES	BALANCE
TRIANGLE	NATIONAL	POM POM	GREEN GLITTER	STUFF & LACE
TREE	POINSETTA	CHRISTMAS	PINE SCENTED	PINE
NAME GAME	DAY	TREE	PLAYDOUGH	TREE
*****CLOSED*****	*****CLOSED*****	AND.....THAT'S	YARN WRAPPED	WINTER
CHRISTMAS	MERRY	A WRAP!	FLOCKED	SNOW
EVE	CHRISTMAS	(WRAPPING PAPER)	TREES	GLOBE
*****CLOSED*****				
HAPPY				
NEW YEARS' EVE				



**BRANCH**