

THE MONTHLY

GROWING TREE CHILDREN'S CENTER

Branch

February 1, 2020

Dear Families:

Just like that.....January 2020 is officially in the books! We say this every month, so we'll say it again, "this last month flew by". Would you agree yourself?

In the Branch room we had many fun topics but studying snowflakes was our focus throughout the month. Although Ms. Kenzie and I are pretty pleased with the mild season thus far, it proved to be quite a challenge when it came time for circle, science and hands on activities. Without the snowfall, we improvise. Some activities did not require snow, but some of them would have been a lost cause without it.

We began our study with discussing the season winter. With winter, typically comes snow. "How is snow created?" was one of our morning circle time Q & A activities. Each child was asked to come up with their own idea as to how snow is created. We had some pretty creative, witty, knowledgeable and as always, very interesting answers. Once every friend at circle had given their answer, we then read a nonfictional informative book that provided us with the proper answers regarding the question, "How is snow created" We now know that snow is created when water vapors in the air freeze before they can turn into water. This happens when the temperature in the clouds are very cold.



Practice makes
progress!

With that established, it was time to get started! Our first art project of the month involved small, medium and large popsicle sticks. We discovered that by crisscrossing a total of 3 sticks, a wooden snowflake could be created. Once each student had done all three different sized snowflakes, proper snowflake paint colors were suggested. We could have gone with basic white but decided to "mix" it up a bit. As a class, we came up with the idea that we would mix blue and white paint together. We discussed how adding a different amount of white paint to each cup of blue paint would change the shade of blue when mixed. Our blue paint ranged from dark blue to a beautiful pastel blue. The amazement beamed from each Brancher's eyes, as they realized that they had made a new fun color! Once the snowflakes were painted, they were of course sprinkled with glitter, because well, everything is better with glitter! You can see these beautiful little gems sparkling in the sunshine hanging in the windows of our classroom. This activity, much like many of our activities, took time, patience, discussion and problem solving!



Measuring snowfall was an amazing math activity for our Branchers at morning circle time. Before any measuring could be done though, the introduction of a ruler and a yardstick was a must! Each child was able to examine the ruler and measuring stick then after 5 seconds they passed them to their circle time neighbor. Taking turns was key when it came to this circle time. It was such a pleasure not only watching them be patient, but also using their “pleases” and “thank yous” as they passed them around. We discovered that a ruler is smaller than a yard stick, but they share some of the same numbers. Those numbers help you figure out how small or big something is. We focused on using the numbers which measured the “inches”. After that information was established, each child was given a ‘snowball’ (unifix cube) and then asked to lay them out side by side, and we would measure each time. I think it is safe to say that comparing and measuring has become a huge hit throughout our classroom! Measuring snowfall outside (if the snow decides to stick around) will now be a breeze for these super smart measuring mathematician Brancher’s!



In the Branch classroom we love science! All throughout the month we conducted many hands-on science activities. I am convinced that the crystalized snowflakes topped the chart with popularity amongst the friends in our class! We began the science activity by creating two fuzzy string (pipe cleaners) snowflakes. We then warmed water up (just under boiling) added it to one jar with about ½ cup of salt, mixed it all together and placed a snowflake in the liquid concoction. We then moved onto the second jar. This time, we added boiling water and Borax together and placed a snowflake in the jar. We then had each child discuss, determine and predict what would happen to the snowflakes over the weekend. When we returned to school on Monday, what would we discover? Would the snowflakes be the same?

Would they be different? As we arrived on Monday, we discovered that the jar with the Borax had created a beautiful crystalized snowflake. We GREW our very own classroom snowflake! Science is so much fun!



As we conduct our studies each month, we always incorporate our circle time, books, art activities, sensory and hands on stations (or stations) to help further the informative and educational aspect to learning. Some of our activities this last month included: cotton ball alphabet searching, blue sensory beads and magnifying glasses, winter colored pom-pom sorting, ice block igloo construction, ice watercolor suncatchers, symmetrical snowflakes, paper snowflakes, paper ripping and pasting snowmen, floof & floam, open art folders, name strips and snowflake self-portraits were just a few of the many fun hands on activities that filled up our month of learning!

February is sure to be a fun month for us in the Branch room, as we will be learning, discussing, and discovering tooth and dental care! Did you know that February is National Children’s Dental Health Month? This dental study is going to be nothing but amazing! Let the learning begin!

Ms. Heather & Ms. Kenzie

FEB-20

HEALTHY HAPPY SMILES

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BRUSH, BRUSH BRUSH YOUR TEETH	TOOTH CARE 101	TOOTH KNOWLEDGE WEB	WHAT IS TOOTH CARE?	HAPPY TOOTH. SAD TOOTH.	
TOOTH DIAGRAM	DENTAL FLOSS TOOTH LACING	Q-TIP TOOTHBRUSH	SHOW A LITTLE LOVE FOLDERS	HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!	
CLOSED PRESIDENTS DAY	PAGING DR. DE SOTO	HARD BOILED EGG ENAMEL STAIN	HARD BOILED EGG ENAMEL STAIN	THE GREAT TOOTHPASTE HYPOTHESIS	
MARSHMALLOW SMILES	LOOSE TOOTH SUBTRACTION	HEALTHY TOOTH CHOICES	SUPER SMILE SELF PORTRAIT	HEALTHY TEETH CARE PACKAGE	

FEB 14-
HAPPY V-DAY!
FEB 17=
GROWING TREE
CLOSED FOR
PRESIDENTS DAY

BRANCH