

# THE MONTHLY BRANCH

GROWING TREE CHILDREN'S CENTER

October 1, 2020

Dear Branch families,

What an amazing beginning to what will be an amazing school year in the Branch classroom! We started September getting to know the classroom's rules and safety was a must! We discussed how we have rules in and out of the classroom to keep us safe. Once that important information was established, we then conversed about different stations and areas in the classroom. We spoke about what was similar and what was different with their new classroom verses their old classroom. Knowing and understating their new environment is key to having fun but also staying safe! Safety knowledge didn't stop there...we then moved to rules of the playground! Our first week of school was solely dedicated to classroom and playground safety...the "do's and the don'ts" were established. Our Brancher's have shown a great deal of responsibility so without further ado...the play structure is now open for business!

A new class with not only new students, but new teachers as well, means it is a necessity to learn more about one another. "What I Like About Me" is a book we read at circle time. It discusses how each one of us is different and how to embrace each wonderful quality that we each have! It also allowed each student to think about what makes them special and what they love about themselves. As an art activity, each student was asked to draw a picture of themselves...the term "self-portrait" was introduced. Using only a mirror, a pencil and a single piece of paper, each Brancher drew what they saw in the mirror. They observed their face, eyes, ears, nose, hair, eyebrows, eyelashes...and with that, they became artists! Seeing their facial expression when we showed a side by side comparison to actual drawing was priceless! Because "self-portraits" are something new to the Branchers, this art

activity is definitely a "work in progress".

Throughout the school year, your Brancher will participate in a monthly self-portrait. You will be amazed at the progression and attention to detail each portrait will have by the end of the school year! This art activity has always been one of our favorites!

As September continued, we began our discussion on GERMS! We discovered that everyone has germs, both good and bad. Unlike books, games and toys...germs are NOT for sharing! Hand washing is such an important piece to germ control. We learned a couple fun new hand washing ditties...that I'm sure you all know by now! "Icky Sticky Sherm the Germ is rather catchy...it has definitely become a classroom favorite! Because germs cannot be seen, visual activities, table stations and circle time activities were set in place to further educate. Using pom-poms, we were able to demonstrate just how important it is to cover your sneezes and coughs. When using a tissue, your germs (pom-poms) stay confined in the tissue, but when a tissue isn't used, germs (pom-poms) spread and go VERYWHERE! Throwing dozens and dozens of pom-poms out as germs served as a great visual at our circle time. Did your child show you their pom-pom germ?

We also conducted a super fun science experiment called "glitter handshake". By sprinkling just a little bit of glitter onto our hand, Ms. Kenzie and I began shaking each Brancher's hand, then each Brancher began shaking their friend's hands. At the end of this whole group activity, each and every hand had glitter on them! We talked about how germs are so tiny, it is impossible to see with just our eyes, so simulating germs with glitter gave them a different perspective on germs and sharing them with just a simple handshake.

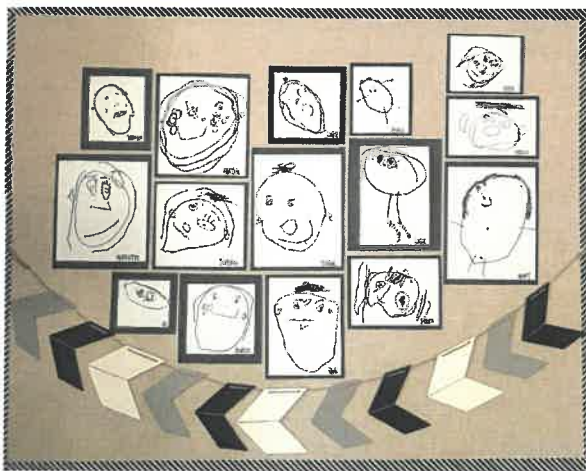
As September came to an end, I think it is safe to say that being a Brancher is pretty awesome! Ms. Kenzie and myself feel honored to have such a fun, caring, creative, and enthusiastic group of children. We are truly enjoying getting to know each and every one of their personalities! October is sure to bring more art, fun and games as we “Fall into Autumn.... with our 5 Senses”. Apple tasting, applesauce making and pumpkin carving.... OH MY! All the sights, smells, and tastes of Autumn will prove to make an awesome month full of learning!

We appreciate each one of our Brancher families, as we navigate through new rules and regulations set at Growing Tree pertaining to the pandemic we are facing. We will get through all of this together! On a positive note, we are enjoying communicating through Brightwheel, as we hope you are too! If there is anything you would like more of, please let us know!

Our Family Board is filling up and looking amazing! We love seeing all the beautiful faces and families! Please feel free to keep those pictures coming in, as we will continue adding pictures throughout the school year!

Last but not least, we have a brand new Brancher! Not only is he new to our classroom, he is new to Growing Tree as well! Please welcome **Charlie**! Our Brancher friends have made Charlie’s transition easy with their warm and welcome hearts!

-Ms. Heather & Ms. Kenzie



**Oct-20**

**Fall Into Autumn....and our 5 Super Senses!**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<b>Amazing Autumn Self-Portraits</b>	<b>Making Sense Of Our 5 Senses</b>
<b>Can't Touch This! (Temperature Test)</b>	<b>Sense of Touch Mystery Bag!</b>	<b>Textured Hand Prints Sensory High 5</b>	<b>Rainbow Sensory Boffles</b>	<b>The Listening Walk By: Paul Showers</b>
<b>Pumpkin Sights Sounds</b>	<b>Dig in &amp; Dig Out Pumpkins!</b>	<b>Pumpkin Seeds Roast, Toast &amp; Taste!</b>	<b>Sweet Vs. Sour Math Graph</b>	<b>Pumkin Trace &amp; Lace</b>
<b>Autumn Apple Taste Test Compare &amp; Describe</b>	<b>Whole Apple Half Apple Quarter Apple</b>	<b>Outstanding Homemade Applesauce!</b>	<b>Warming Press &amp; Melt Autumn Leaves</b>	<b>Scented Cotton Ball Match Up!</b>
<b>Poppin' Corn Super Science</b>	<b>Friendship Stew!</b>	<b>Coffee Bean Texture &amp; Scent Playdough!</b>	<b>I hear. I smell. I see. I taste. I touch..</b>	

**Branch**