

# THE MONTHLY

GROWING TREE CHILDREN'S CENTER

# Branch

November 1, 2020

Dear Families,

Wow, what a month! Is it just us or does it seem like the Branchers are growing like weeds? Not only in height, but in knowledge! It has been a blast to witness the growth of these children. We can only imagine how far they will come within the next year.

The month of October brought us studies on our 5 senses, as well as pumpkins and apples to help us celebrate this beautiful season. The 5 senses are one of our favorite lesson plans, because we are able to incorporate so many fun, hands-on activities!

One of the "Hands-On" activities we participated in was a Mystery Grab Bag. The Branchers were asked to put their hands inside of a bag and chose an item. They were then asked to guess what the item was, without peeking! The Branchers were encouraged to move the object around in their hands and feel what kind of shapes or textures there might be. Once they took a guess, they were able to unveil what the item was. We had a lot of interesting guesses to say the least! But we also had some guesses that were spot on! It was so fun to watch the children's brains work out what they thought they were holding. And they seemed to enjoy it based off their smiles!

We also explored our touching sense by cutting and digging into a pumpkin! Some of the children loved the feel of the inside of the pumpkins; others however were a little more hesitant to get their hands dirty. Which is always a-okay with us! We collected all the pumpkin seeds from inside the pumpkin thanks to all our Branch kids!

How could we learn about the 5 senses without exploring our taste buds? And boy did we taste! To get a feel for our taste buds, we tried out all sorts of different flavors! Each Brancher was given a type of food to taste. But to add a fun twist, we had the Branchers keep their eyes closed so they could feel and smell the mystery food first. Then after taking a

guess, they were allowed to open their eyes and see if they were right! We tasted sour lemon, bitter black licorice, sweet chocolate and salty pretzels. The Branchers had so much fun incorporating all their senses in this fun activity. And the teachers LOVED watching their reaction to the sour lemon!

What better way to start off apple season than by taste testing some apples? To test our taste buds, we sampled Pink Ladies, Golden Delicious, and Granny Smith apples. When tasting the apples, we asked the Branchers to describe what they tasted using descriptive words. We heard things like sweet, crunchy, and of course yummy! We then voted on which apple was our favorite. In true Branch room fashion, it was a three-way tie between the apples!

Our taste test wasn't the only thing we did with apples! We made our very own Brancher Applesauce! The Branchers took turns mixing up apples and spices into a crockpot. We slow cooked our apples all afternoon. Can you imagine how wonderful our classroom smelled?! After some patient waiting, the applesauce was finally ready. We were so excited to try! After tasting, we decided that our applesauce was a success!

We also had the opportunity to bake the pumpkin seeds we collected! We create two types of pumpkin seeds: sweet and savory! For the sweet seeds, we mixed some vanilla and cinnamon; for savory we used a blend of garlic and onion powder. Once we baked our pumpkin seeds, we ate them and voted on which seeds we enjoyed more. It was no surprise to us that the sweet seeds won the hearts of our Branchers!

Last but certainly not least, we made Friendship stew! To make our stew, we used carrots, celery, potato and... onion! As you can imagine, the Branchers were not excited to see that onion. After some hard work and love, our stew was ready, and we were ready to put our cooking skills to the test. The Branchers LOVED the stew! It was fun to see how their opinions on certain vegetables (aka onions) changed after creating our stew.

To learn more about our sense of hearing, the Branch room read the book, "The Listening Walk", which taught us all how to use our sense of hearing as a way to relax our body and minds! After reading the book, we took part in our own version of a listening walk! We turned the lights out and laid as still as we could. Then we simply just listened to our surroundings! We heard the doorbell ring, friends playing outside and friends taking breathes. We don't think the Branch room has ever been that quiet before!



To incorporate some fun artwork in the Branch room, we created some spooky jack-o-lanterns and some very fall-ish maple leaves. Creating artwork helps us develop those tricky fine-motor skills, as well as decorate our classroom! When creating our jack-o-lanterns, the Branchers scissor skills were put to the test! They were able to cut out their paper pumpkins and then we are able to decorate their pumpkins with some spooky smiles and eyes. To add a creative touch, the Branchers then laced around the pumpkins with black yarn. This activity defiantly put us in the Halloween spirit! When making maple leaves, we broke out the warming tray! We were able to melt fall colored crayons onto wax paper to create a beautiful blend of colors. We then cut the wax paper into the shape of beautiful maple leaves. The Branch room loved using the warming tray for the first time. Which is great because it is something we like to use a lot in the classroom!



With such a jam-packed month, it sure went by quick as a flash! October was such a fun month for the Branch room. Looking forward to November, we will be taking part in activities all about Family, Friends and Thankfulness. This month always leaves our hearts feeling extra warm. Just in time for the holiday season!



Thank you for your continued support!

- Ms.Kenzie & Ms. Heather

**Remember:**

- Conferences November 11<sup>th</sup> School closed
- School closed November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving



**NOV-20**

**Thankfulness, Friendship & Family Oh My!**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
	<b>A Recipe For Friendship</b>	<b>Friendship Fingerprint Trees</b>	<b>Friendly Addition &amp; Subtraction</b>	<b>Friendship Beading Bracelets</b>	<b>The Giving Tree</b>
	<b>My Family Is...</b>	<b>Colorful Family Graphing</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>Last Name Memory Game</b>	<b>Thankful Family Portraits</b>
	<b>Fork Feathered Turkeys</b>	<b>If You're Thankful &amp; You Know It...</b>	<b>The Thankfulness Game</b>	<b>The Thankful Turkey</b>	<b>Stones of Thankfulness</b>
	<b>Pumpkin Pie Playtough</b>	<b>Pie Slice Math</b>	<b>Pumpkin Pie Taste Test</b>	<b>closed</b>	<b>closed</b>

<b>Dates To Remember</b>
<b>November 11th Conferences (veterans day)</b>
<b>November 26th Thanksgiving Day (closed)</b>
<b>Novmeber 27th (closed)</b>

**Branch**