

THE MONTHLY

GROWING TREE CHILDREN'S CENTER

Branch

December 1, 2020

Dear Families,

Where oh where has November gone? Whether it was coming together (via phone) 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 gratefulness of friends and family was our focus for the month of November.

Ms. Kenzie and I do believe we achieved that during the month! We discussed the importance of friendships during many of our circle times. We introduced a brand-new game to our circle called the "compliment game." It 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 and give that friend a compliment. As we went around the circle, each friend was able to give as well as receive a compliment. We brainstormed what we thought a compliment was as a whole group and we came up with the conclusion: A compliment means that you are saying something kind 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 on how our hearts felt after hearing such kind words from their neighbor.

Throughout the month, we played the "compliment game" numerous times, with compliments becoming more detailed! We hear compliments being given left and right between our Branch friends. Learning and feeling empathy is such an important piece to being not only a Brancher, but a friend as well!

Participating in 'Friendship Addition & Subtraction' proved to be quite engaging with each Brancher. By using unifix cubes we participated in a 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 are now hearing the children adding objects in the classroom all through the day! Math is being enjoyed throughout the classroom, but so has beading! 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 as possible on the pipe cleaner 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 families are just as equally important! 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.

Whether it was family graphing or last name memory game, we discovered a fun new way to learn more about one another's families! Our classroom "Family Board" is filling up quite nicely! If you have not had the chance to bring in a family photo, please do so! We also encourage bringing in more than one picture! We cannot wait to see how the "Family Board" grows throughout the school year!

As the month of November progressed, our Branchers participated in many fun, hands on and creative and independent art projects. Whether it was colorful finger printing for 'friendship fingerprints', using plastic forks as paintbrushes to create 'thankful fork turkeys', tracing and lacing to cutting and gluing, we stayed quite busy at the art table!

The art did not stop there...each Brancher was able to create their very own "Family Portraits" and it is safe to say that each Brancher is showing more attention to detail, and it shows on these particular portraits!

Before enjoying a few days off for Thanksgiving, pumpkin pie was a must on our list of things to do! We enjoy baking and making food in our classroom, so what would Thanksgiving be without making our very own pumpkin pie! With just a few simple ingredients, we were able to create a tasty masterpiece! 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!

With December fresh in the air, please remember that a lot of our gross motor development is outside play. Whether snow, sleet or rain, we are busy, busy, busy moving and playing outdoors. Proper clothing is definitely encouraged.

Below are a few items that might be a great idea to bring in:

- snow pants
- hat/beanie
- gloves
- boots!

This has been quite the year! We have gracefully managed to get through all of the ups and the downs.....together! So once again, we thank you for everything! Let's end the year with some fun! December will be filled with the sights, sounds, scents, and science of the season and all it brings!

-Ms. Heather & Ms. Kenzie



Dec-20

'Tis the Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Snowflake Self Portraits	Spicy & Sweet Cinnamon Pinecones	Beautiful Beaded Snowflakes	Seasonal Gingerbread Playdough
Homemade Nutmeg Ornaments	The Gingerbread Boy	"Let it Snow" Paper Snowflakes	Brancher Garland Decorations	A Hot Chocolate Suprise
Countdown to Christmas Paper Chains	Ornaments- A Growing Tree Tradition	Paint Swatch Evergreen Trees	Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree	Candy Cane Stripe Science
How The Grinch Stole Christmas	All Aboard the Polor Express	A Magical Christmas Celebration	CLOSED	CLOSED
A Christmas Wrap Up	New Years Confetti Science	A New Years Wish	Continued	

Growing Tree
Closed...
24th & 25th-
Merry Chirstmas!
1st-
Happy New Year!

BRANCH