

July 1, 2021

Dear Families,

June has come and gone, just like that! Not only have we anticipated summer and beautiful weather, but we have also anticipated a fun month of learning! June was dedicated to learning all about... INSECTS & ARACHNIDS!

We started the month off by taking a deep dive into the lifecycle of Butterflies! It is always so fascinating to not only the Branchers, but to the teachers as well! The process of Metamorphosis is so exciting. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to see this process up close and personal! The Branch room welcomed 5 healthy caterpillars into the classroom and over time we were able to see those caterpillars go through some pretty amazing stages. Before we knew it, our caterpillars had formed their chrysalids and were ready for their long 'nap'. You can imagine the excitement the Branchers felt when we had finally come to school with brand new Painted Lady Butterflies! It was a slow process, but we truly enjoyed being able to observe this phenomenon.

Dragonflies and Damselflies were next in line! It was amazing to witness just how quickly the Branchers picked up on the differences and similarities between the two insects! All though they are extremely similar, the Branchers were able to discover that they show differences in their eyes, wings, and body size. Before we knew it, the Branchers were spotting the winged wonders and showing us examples of dragonflies and damselflies around the classroom and within books provided in the library. It was great to see the children focus in on the little details that made them different but alike.

We couldn't learn about insects without learning about the hardworking Bees! We were amazed at how Bees have so many jobs. One of those jobs being... making honey! We were able to learn about the complex work of not only bees, but of Beekeepers as well. We loved watching the two teams work together to create something that we love to enjoy! But we couldn't talk about all this honey without sampling some for ourselves. We were lucky enough to get our hands on some local homemade honey! And boy was it delicious...and sticky!

The next part of our study found us exploring spiders! A common misconception about spiders, is that people often mistake them for insects. Well, as the Branch room discovered, spiders are not actually insects, they are arachnids! We learned that insects have six legs, and spiders have eight legs! This distinction classifies them as arachnids. After discovering the characteristics of the spider, we were able to learn some interesting facts about spiders, such as spinning webs! We discovered that a spider has a lot of uses for its 'silk'. Ask your Brancher to tell you some of the ways spiders use their silk!

After much excitement learning about spiders, we explored ladybugs! During our outdoor investigations we discovered lady bugs out by the Willow Tree! Ladybugs are quite interesting, especially because they also have such amazing lifecycles! Each Brancher was able to put their searching skills to the test as they looked for eggs, larva, pupas, and even full-grown ladybugs! We are so lucky to have such an awesome playground, but the ladybugs made it extra special!

In the Branch room we were able to create some really awesome pieces of art this month, inspired by the amazing little creatures we were learning about! We made Caterpillar Lifecycle Diagrams, which really helped the Branchers show off how much they had learned. But how could we learn about butterflies without making some of our very own? The Branchers used simple coffee filters and markers to help create some pretty awesome Tie-Dye flyers. They turned out beautiful! We even were able to get creative with popsicle sticks and made our very own black and yellow bees. Our classroom was busting at the seams with insects!



We could go on and on about this month's study because it was packed with learning and discovery! But we also have one other very important thing we celebrated this month. That would be, of course, Father's Day! We were thrilled to be able to celebrate all the fathers in our Branch classroom. We hope that each and every one of you felt the love on your special day. We know how much your Branchers love and adore you all. Thank you for all that you Fathers do for the Branch classroom! We appreciate you all.



Next month we begin our "Out of this World" study on... you guessed it, space! It will be a thrilling month!



- Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather



July 2021.

To INFINITY... And BEYOND

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
			Welcome To NASA	Our Solar System 101
Growing Tree CLOSED	“Here We Are” By Oliver Jeffers	Magnificent Marbled Planets	The Mysterious Pluto	Spectacular Space Graphing
Mathematical Moon Phases	Moon Sand Texture Experiment	“If You Decide To Go to the Moon” by Faith McNulty	The Great Race to the Moon	A Special Moon Walk
The Sun is A Star?	Branch Constellations Creations	Super Nova Color Blend	Alphabet Star Search	Marshmallow Constellation Building
Blasting Off To The ISS	Life In Space	Astronaut... What Do You See	Name Block Rockets	Astronaut Taste Test

Reminders:

- Growing Tree CLOSED on July 5 in observance of Independence Day.