

November 2021

Dear Branch Families,

What a month it has been! October is a fan-favorite in the Branch classroom, and that's all thanks to our creative and explorative study on the Five Senses. Throughout the month the Branchers have been able to engage and explore their various senses, and what a blast it has been! To take a deep dive into our senses, we got busy with a lot of fun sensory experiments and activities. Before we knew it we heard our Branchers talking about their senses at meal times, while at stations, even when playing outside! We think it is fair to say our Branchers enjoyed the study just as much as their teachers did!

To kick off the month, the Branchers took a crash course in the 5 Senses: touch, hearing, sight, smell, and our personal favorite taste!. When exploring "touch" we did a lot of interesting experiments such as creating two sensory bottles- one cold and one hot. We then closed our eyes and tested out our sense of touch. Each Branchers was handed a bottle and asked if they thought it was the cold or hot bottle. With no surprise, the Branchers passed with flying colors! But that wasn't the only challenge the Branchers were given. They also put their sense of touch to the test by reaching into the Mystery Grab Bag to guess what item they grabbed without using other senses. This proved to be a little more challenging, but they did a wonderful job using touch and descriptive words to come up with some answers! Our sense of touch also brought us a very fun art activity: Textured Hand Prints. Each Brancher was able to paint their hands with a special mixture of paint and glue. Then sprinkle on various textures such as bumpy glitter and rough corn meal. They turned our pretty wonderful if you asked us!

To dig into our sense of taste, we took full advantage of the season! So, pumpkins and apples it was! We sure got our hands dirty by carving into our very own pumpkin. The Branchers were unsure of how they felt when helping digging out the seeds. We sure saw a lot of funny faces that day! After all the seeds were collected, the Branchers

got busy baking! We created two batches of pumpkin seeds. One savory, and one sweet. For the salty creation, the Branch room mixed together butter, salt, pepper and garlic. The sweet concoction was butter, cinnamon and little bit of brown sugar. Once out of the oven, we performed one of many taste tests of the month. The Branchers decided that they LOVED pumpkin seeds, but if they had to choose, the sweet would have been their favorite. Who would have guessed?

That sure wasn't the only taste test we did! This is where the delicious apples come in. First, the Branchers were able to taste different varieties of apples. We tasted a delicious red Pink Lady, a sweet yellow Opal, and a sour Granny Smith. We loved all the different varieties and were shocked by how each apple could look and taste so different. Next in our apple line up was creating our very own homemade applesauce. The Branch room mixed together apple chunks, cinnamon and little water into a crock pot and patiently got to waiting. All throughout the afternoon the applesauce sat cooking, and boy did our classroom smell amazing! Once it was finally ready, the Branchers couldn't wait to dig their spoons in and give it a try. They loved the warm cinnamon-goodness!

When it came to our sense of smell, the Branch room got busy making some playdough. But not just regular playdough- coffee playdough! The process of making playdough is great for our sense of smell because starting off, playdough is very 'plain' smelling. But after incorporating some ingredients, like coffee, we were able to create something much more appealing...especially to the teachers!

When working with our sense of hearing, the Branchers really put their ears to the test. While closing their eyes, the teachers played various sounds and it was up to the Branchers to guess what it was that making noise. We

heard a lot of funny answers! It can be challenging to figure out what something is by only listening. But when it came to listening to the elephant and the kitten, the Branchers were spot on! As a fun treat, the Branch room also got the opportunity to use their sense of hearing when popping popcorn! Who doesn't get instantly happy when hearing popcorn popping away? As you can imagine, we were all very excited!

Our sense of sight brought us a fun game, one that we love to play in the Branch room... eye spy! While all sitting down on the carpet, the Branchers had to use their sense of sight to look around at each other and figure out which friend the teacher 'spied'. It was awesome to see all the teamwork! This game is always a hit in the classroom, and they love to continue it around while playing outside.

It was a really great month in the Branch room. And we are thrilled with how much the Branchers picked up throughout the month! We are sad to see October go, but we are stoked to welcome November! We will be jumping into our next study which will be all about family, friends and thankfulness. It will be a month full of love and gratitude, and we cannot wait to share with you!

- Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather



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A Month of Family, Friendship & Thankfulness

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Friendship 101 Brainstorming	Friendship Fingerprint Trees	A Recipe For Friendship Stew	Friendship Beading Bracelets	“The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein
My Family Is...	Fantastic Family Portraits	Mathematical Family Graphing	Growing Tree CLOSED For Conferences	Last Name Memory Game
A Circle of Thankfulness	Festive Fork Feathered Turkeys	“Thankful” By Eileen Spinelli	Giving “Thanks” Cards	If You’re Thankful & You Know It...
Pumpkin Pie Playdough Mix-Up	Slice of Pie Math	Delicious Pumpkin Pie Taste Test	Growing Tree CLOSED For Thanksgiving	Growing Tree CLOSED For Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving Dinner Graphing	Friends, Family & Thankfulness Wrap-up			