

Branch Room November, 2017 Newsletter

Falling into autumn has been a huge success so far....and it's only just begun! It seems as though the month of October flew by so quickly in the Branch Room! We started the month off with a sweet beginning.....APPLES! Through circle time activities and class discussions, we learned about apple orchards, the life cycle of an apple (from farm to table), the body of an apple, we even were able to put our taste buds to work as we conducted an apple taste test! Each child was given an apple chunk. Using only one word, each child was asked to describe the apple's taste. It was awesome to hear all of their answers! Some of the answers consisted of "sweet", "sour", "juicy", "crunchy", and "tart". This activity was so fun and interactive. We didn't stop there though...once our apple taste test was complete; we realized that we had left over apples. All of those apples were then sliced up into halves and quarters and then painted to create apple prints. As each child sat down at the art table to do the activity, we discussed the sizes of each piece of apple. Each child's eyes lit up when they realized that 4 slices of apple create a full apple, and 2 half apples create a full apple as well. Who knew math and art would go together so well? With all of our apple talk and discovery, we realized how hungry we were. What better way to fill our tummies, but to make applesauce! Using just a few simple ingredients, we created a mouth watering masterpiece! As a circle time activity, each child was given a number. Once each child had a number, they were then asked to collect that many apple chunks and then add them to the crockpot. This not only involved number recognition and counting, but patience and turn taking too! Once all of the apples were counted out and added to our pot, we then added a pinch of cinnamon, a little bit of water....and 4 hours later, we had applesauce! Our classroom smelled amazing! We even enjoyed our tasty and healthy treat for an afternoon snack!

Apple discovery, science and tasting were such a huge success in our classroom, that we didn't stop there; next up....PUMPKINS! We first began with "Happy Harvest"! It was so awesome to see our Branchers at DD Farms! What a fun and exciting time for all of us. Picking pumpkins out was a blast. While walking around, did you notice all of the different shapes, sizes and colors of the pumpkins in the patch? We loved the small little white ones so much, that we picked out 20 of them! Hmm....20 white pumpkins, 20 children in the Branch classroom... All of those pumpkins were then displayed in the class decorated with beautiful sparkly glitter. Each child "drizzled" glue on their pumpkin and chose their color of glitter. They sprinkled glitter until all of the wet glue was covered. It was such a fun, messy and shiny art activity. Because we know that glitter sticks to EVERYTHING, I'm sure you were all relieved that the pumpkins were placed every so carefully in confined plastic bags! Learning all about pumpkins didn't stop there. It's not true pumpkin education without cutting a pumpkin open to discover what's inside. As a circle time activity, we participated in some pumpkin science. Once the top was cut open, we observed what was hiding on the inside.... "Pumpkin guts and seeds!" Each child had the opportunity to sift through the "guts" and retrieve the seeds. What a fun and gooey hands on activity that was for our Branchers! We cleaned the seeds up, seasoned them with both sweet (brown sugar and cinnamon) and salty (seasoning salt) flavors and popped them in the oven to bake. Taste testing is a huge hit in our classroom, so of course we had to taste test our finished product. We then took votes as to which was each child's favorite. Many friends chose the sweet seeds...imagine that! There was quite a bit of conversation and class discussion on taste buds after that activity. We all agreed that everyone has different taste buds, and that is A-Okay.

NOV-17

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		THE GIVING TREE	SELF PORTRAITS	TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FRIEND
FRIENDSHIP TREES	WE ALL FIT TOGETHER FRIEND PUZZLE	FRIEND ADDITION	FRIENDSHIP SCIENCE COLOR MIXING	CLOSED CONFERENCES
FAMILY PORTRAITS	MY FAMILY TREE	THIS IS MY FAMILY	POPCICLE HOUSE	LAST NAME MEMORY GAME
THANKFUL TURKEYS	IF YOU'RE THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT...	FEAST YOUR EYES ON A FEAST	CLOSED	CLOSED
PUMPKIN PIE TASTE TEST	HOW DO YOU MAKE A PUMPKIN PIE?	PUMPKIN PIE GRAPHING	NOVEMBER WRAP-UP FAVORITES	

BRANCH

This last month, our Branchers were introduced to scissors and cutting. We discussed scissor safety, the do's and the don'ts. Our first scissor skill activity: black bats! We discovered that using scissors builds different muscles in our fingers, hands and even arms. It was so awesome hearing our Branchers discuss how big their muscles were getting by using scissors. We are very excited to introduce more scissor skill activities in the future!

Throughout the remainder of the month, we focused our study on leaves, scented pinecones, apple and pumpkin alphabet games, sorting and patterning. Our daily focus as Branchers though, is to have fun and to have fun while learning! We think it is safe to say it has been a success so far! Would you agree?

As we start the month of November, we will begin our study involving "Friends & Family." We are thankful and grateful every day, but we would like to focus on the details. Self-portraits, family portraits, family graphing and patterning will be just a few of the fun things we will be working on. We are eager to get this month moving in full swing!

REMINDERS:

- Please bring in a family photo.
- Conferences will be held on Friday, November 10th.
- School will be closed on November 23rd and 24th for Thanksgiving Holiday.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Ms. Heather and Ms. McKenzie