



Branch Newsletter June, 2018



What a fantastic month May turned out to be! We would first off like to thank each and every one of our Branch families. We were most definitely blown away by the love, support and recognition shown during Teacher Appreciation Week! We are blessed beyond measure! As you know, the month of May was full of flowers, fruits & vegetables, but did you know that as a class we also studied seeds, plant life cycles and did plenty of graphing? We love keeping our Branchers busy learning new things, and this month proved to be a success. Whether it was selling fresh produce and flowers at 'The Vegetable Man Stand' (home station), organizing and sorting different types of beans/seeds, designing floral arrangements at the sensory table or busy looking at the many books provided in our classroom library, our Branchers enjoyed every moment of this study!

Throughout the month, we were able to get our hands dirty while planting both vegetable and flower seeds. Our first planting experience began with our Mother's Day gifts. Each Brancher planted Black Eyed Susan's and African Daisy seeds into cups. We're hoping the seeds have turned into sprouts and are continuing to grow! The planting didn't stop there.... we also planted tomato, carrot and radish seeds in our greenhouse. Planting, growing and maintaining all of our soon to be flowers and vegetables is hard work! It's a good thing that our Branchers are so incredibly smart, they have what it takes to properly care for their newly sprouting seeds! With many of our morning circle time activities, we discussed what care is needed for plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables to grow. As a whole group we discovered that water, fresh air, healthy soil and of course sunshine are required in order to grow to its full potential!

Our Branchers sure do love math! Whether it is graphing out our favorite flower being displayed in a mason jar during Teacher Appreciation Week, voting on our favorite fruits and vegetables using simple tally marks, sunflower seed addition or flower patterning, it's a pleasure to see each Brancher expand their math skills daily! Math has proven to be quite popular in the Branch classroom.... but so has science! Throughout the month of May, we have incorporated many different hands-on learning science activities. The 'Carnation Color Station' has been the most visible in the classroom. As part of a morning circle time activity, carnations were introduced to the Branchers. We discussed all of the different parts of the flower. Once that was established, we then brought out six different food coloring colors. As a whole group, we decided to add food coloring to each cup of water provided, and just like that..... we had beautiful colored water! The next step was to add four to five Carnations to each cup. Now, on to the big question..."What would happen to the Carnations as they sucked up the water through their stem; (which is like a straw)? We hypothesized that the Carnations would change

to the color that was in each cup. This circle time activity was fun and exciting, but not as exciting as watching the Carnations begin to change in color almost instantly! Our Branchers beamed with pride, as their prediction was correct! Science can be fun and science can be beautiful!

Speaking of beautiful, did you know we are growing and raising our very own caterpillars, soon to be butterflies? The kids have loved to watch the caterpillars and look forward to seeing how they have changed each and every morning. As teachers, we love to see the Branch room so excited about having insects in the class. Especially since our next study will be... insect and arachnids! We think the Branch kids are going to be ecstatic for this study. We already have a few Branchers who have shown interest in finding insects outside; so we know they will only be that much more interested! We look forward to the month of June!

- Miss Heather, Miss Kenzie, and Miss Stacie



