



## Branch Room 2018

Wow, can you believe it's October already? Time flies when you're having fun...learning and discovering! In September and the new school year, we embarked on a grand adventure; an adventure of learning, listening, taking turns, using our words, observing and problem solving. Our first week of school was solely dedicated to classroom and playground safety...the "do's and the don'ts" were established and we learned that having rules at school helps keep us safe and allows us to learn and have fun at school! Safety in and out of the classroom is important.. Our Brancher's have shown a great deal of responsibility so now the playground tower is open for business!

A new class with not only new students, but new teachers as well, means it is a necessity to learn more about one another. What I Like About Me is a book we read at circle time. It discussed how each one of us is different and how to embrace each wonderful quality that we each have. It also allowed each student to think about what makes them special and what they love about themselves. As an art activity, each student was asked to draw a picture of themselves...and the term "self-portrait" was introduced. Using only a mirror, a pencil and a single piece of paper, each Brancher drew what appeared in the mirror. They observed their face, eyes, ears, nose and hair...and with that, they became artists! Seeing their facial expressions when we showed a side by side comparison to actual drawing was priceless. Our wonderful self-portraits are displayed in the classroom for everyone to enjoy! Throughout the school year, your Brancher will participate in a monthly self-portrait. You will be amazed at the progression and attention to detail each portrait will have by the end of the school year. This art activity has definitely become a "Branch Room" favorite! Eye color graphing, people and family patterning were just a few more fun hands-on activities we engaged in while learning about one another.

As our month continued, we began our discussion on GERMS! We discovered that everyone has germs, both good and bad ones. Unlike books, games and toys...germs are NOT for sharing! Hand washing is such an important piece to germ control. We learned a fun new hand washing song...that I'm sure you all know by now. It has definitely become a classroom favorite. Using pom-poms, we were able to demonstrate just how important it is to cover your sneezes and

coughs. When using a tissue, your germs (pom-poms) stay confined in the tissue, but when a tissue isn't used, germs (pom-poms) spread and go EVERYWHERE! Throwing dozens and dozens of pom-poms out as germs served as a great visual at our circle time. Did your child show you their "bag of germs"?

We also conducted a super fun science experiment called "glitter handshake". By sprinkling just a little bit of glitter into our hand, Ms. Kenzie and I began shaking each Brancher's hand, and then each Brancher began shaking their friend's hands. At the end of this whole group activity, each and every hand had glitter on them! We talked about how germs are so tiny, it is impossible to see with just our eyes, so simulating germs with glitter gave them a different perspective on germs and sharing them with just a simple handshake.

As September came to an end, I think it is safe to say that being a Brancher is pretty awesome! Ms. Kenzie and myself feel honored to have such a fun, caring, creative, empathetic and enthusiastic group of children. We are truly enjoying getting to know each and every one of their personalities! October is sure to bring more art, fun and games as we "Fall into autumn....with our 5 Senses". Apple tasting, applesauce making and pumpkin carving....OH MY! All of the sights, smells and tastes of autumn will prove to make an awesome month full of learning!

Our Family Board is filling up and looking amazing! We love seeing all the beautiful faces and families. Please feel free to keep those pictures coming in, as we will continue adding pictures throughout the school year.

**Dates to Remember:**

- Branch photos and class photos will be taken on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- October 5<sup>th</sup> is First Friday.
- Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting up at the DD Ranch for our annual "Happy Harvest" from 9:30 am -11:00 am. We hope to see you there!

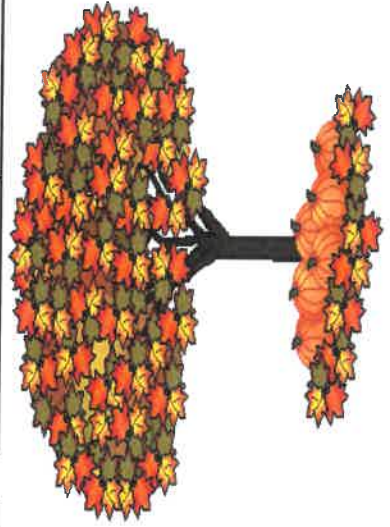
Ms. Heather & Ms.Kenzie



**Oct-18**

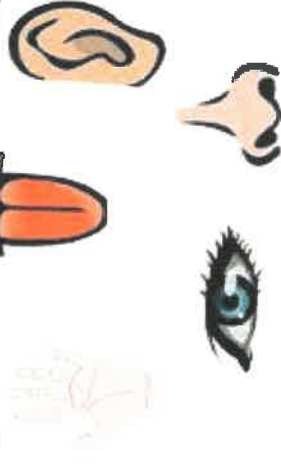
**Fall into Autumn....and our 5 Senses!**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b>	<b>Make Sense of our 5 Senses!</b>	<b>Amazing Autumn Self-Portraits</b>	<b>When Autumn Falls....</b>	<b>I hear. I smell. I see. I taste. I touch....</b>	<b>The Listening Walk</b> By: Paul Showers
<b>October 4th &amp; 5th</b>	<b>Can't Touch This! (Temperature Test)</b>	<b>Sense of Touch Mystery Bag!</b>	<b>Textured Hand Prints Sensory High 5</b>	<b>Rainbow Sensory Bottles</b>	<b>Color Absorbing Celery</b>
<b>*PICTURE DAYS*</b>	<b>Pumpkin Sights Sounds</b>	<b>Dig in &amp; Dig Out Pumpkins!</b>	<b>Pumpkin Seeds Roast, Toast &amp; Taste!</b>	<b>Sweet Vs. Sour Math Graph</b>	<b>Pumpkin Trace &amp; Lace</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Autumn Apple Taste Test</b>	<b>Whole Apple Half Apple Quarter Apple</b>	<b>Outstanding Homemade Applesauce!</b>	<b>Scratch &amp; Sniff Name Guessing Game</b>	<b>Scented Cotton Ball Match Up!</b>
<b>October 6th</b>	<b>Compare &amp; Describe Rainmakers &amp; Noisemakers</b>	<b>Friendship Stew!</b>	<b>Coffee Bean Texture &amp; Scent Playdough!</b>		
<b>*DD RANCH*</b>					
<b>October 27th</b>					
<b>Decker's Birthday!</b>					
<b>Wednesday</b>					
<b>October 31st</b>					
<b>Halloween</b>					



**Branch**

**Our Five Senses**



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