

## Branch Room Newsletter

# January

The holiday season has been bright and merry this year in the Branch Room, thanks to all the wonderful kids and parents we have! It was a fun and festive month for us! We were lucky enough to have our very own Elf visit our classroom! We welcomed Jellybean Jingles early in the month, and the excitement was almost tangible! Each day Jellybean Jingles surprised us one way or another. Whether it was bringing us treats or sticking mustaches on our pictures, we always looked forward to his visits and the notes he left behind!

We kept very busy throughout December! Some of the highlights of the month were conducting a Hot Chocolate Taste Test! We created the concoction together as a classroom, talking through each step and following the directions. After sampling the hot chocolate, we voted on whether we enjoyed the taste, (or not). As you can imagine, the hot chocolate was a hit! We created paper chains, which can be a very challenging fine motor and cognitive skill, but the Brancher's were up to the challenge and did a great job! The Brancher's also became scientist when we conducted our Candy Cane Stripes experiment. We put candy canes in a tub of water and guessed what would happen to the candy canes. In time, we were able to see that the water dissolved our candy canes and made the water smell just like peppermint! The kids loved passing the water around and taking a big whiff! Of course, we had to make some sort of Christmas Trees to celebrate the season and in true Brancher style, we had to make them unique! So, we used old paint swatches to cut out various colored rectangles and made our own trees. It was so fun to see the kids pick out all their own colors and express their own style! We ended December by creating our special ornaments. We measured our Branch kids using ribbon and stuffed the ribbon inside with many different cut out shapes. We wanted to create something that would capture this age and help families reminisce in the years to come!

The Brancher's had the opportunity to show off their singing skills to their families and loved ones at our annual Holiday Sing-a-Long! All our Brancher's looked so sharp dressed in black and white! We loved singing and dancing to the Penguin Waddle and Skidamerink! Both of those songs are very special in the Branch room! We appreciated everyone who was able to make it to this fun event. We love being able to come together and show off our awesome Brancher's! December was a great month, but we

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are so ready for January! During this month we will be transforming our classroom into a Winter Wonderland and Snow Science Lab- so cross your fingers for that snow to fall! Cheers to a great holiday season, and an even better 2019!

- Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather



