

Branch Room News



Where do we begin? March proved to be quite a rather busy month...it was challenging to fit in all the learning, activities and art planned; but we are pretty determined in the Branch classroom, so we were able to get it done! Although we celebrated a few Branch birthdays, we also celebrated a very special birthday for.... Dr. Seuss! As we celebrated his special day, we began by first reading, Happy Birthday to You, written by none other than, Dr. Seuss himself!

Throughout the month not only did we rhyme but we learned as well. We began our "Rainbow Study" by just simply talking about the rainbow, its colors and its shape. As a group, we discussed how a rainbow is created. Our Brancher's discovered that a rainbow is formed when sunlight shines through raindrops and although a rainbow appears to be in the shape of an arch, it is a full circle, we are just unable to see half of it. Simple explanation, big result!

Our Brancher's were so excited to learn just how a rainbow was formed! As we made our way out the door for outside time that morning after our discussion, many friends in the classroom ran outside to search the sky for the beautiful and colorful wonder! With all the excitement discovering different facts and knowledge about rainbows, it was time for a little voting. As you may know, classroom voting is done nearly on the daily...whether we are voting on a book to read at circle or which table stations to set out, we provide each Brancher the opportunity to give his or her opinion and a chance to stand out and say what they like. Our voting topic for the day: "What is your favorite color in the rainbow?" Each Brancher was able to stand up in front of the class at circle and vocalize their favorite color. Once their color was chosen, they were then asked to find the construction paper letter cut out that their favorite color started with (R-red, O-orange...you get it). We then taped each colored letter up to display. Once all the votes were in place, we then tallied up each color's votes! We thoroughly enjoyed each Brancher's thought process as they decided individually which favorite rainbow color was theirs! When the rainbow graph was up, we then decided it was time for some rainbow art! By using only 6 markers (I'm sure you can guess what colors) each Brancher was asked to create a beautiful rainbow. Knowledge of the rainbow order is kind of a big deal, so learning a new and fun rainbow song helped us gain and retain the color order as each Brancher drew and colored their very own rainbow! Because art is so wonderful, we didn't stop there! The Brancher's created beautiful rainbow paper chains, and we even introduced the warming tray to the classroom...which became an instant hit! Who knew melting crayons on wax paper would be so thrilling! Our amazing art masterpieces can be viewed and admired hanging in our classroom windows, looking like 'stained glass'. With each art activity we provide

in the classroom, many different skills are obtained. We are so proud each day as we witness the progress each Brancher has made. Whether it is coloring inside the lines to cutting on the pencil line and following the shape provided, we have seen such impressive growth!

You may have heard, we had a tricky leprechaun come to visit us in the Branch classroom! For three full days, we didn't know what fun and exciting adventures and games were in store for us! We discovered that our classroom leprechaun went by the name of Ryan O'Brien. He was a rather small leprechaun.... measuring out to be only 2 inches tall! He was so small, that our search for him came up empty handed. We knew he was there though! As we entered our classroom one morning, we discovered that Ryan O'Brien had played with our stations and toys and get this.... he didn't even clean up after himself! Good thing we have a classroom full of respectful and responsible children. Our Brancher's cleaned up his mess in a jiffy! We discovered that Ryan O'Brien was a huge fan of glitter.... green glitter. After our rest time, each Brancher awoke to find glitter sprinkled all throughout the classroom, even on themselves! To this day, green glitter can be found in the class. The last day searching for Ryan O'Brien consisted of going on a rainbow shamrock scavenger hunt. Letters, clues and tips were left throughout the classroom in hope that the Brancher's could track down Ryan O'Brien's lost gold. Sure enough, by listening, problem solving and team work, we found the missing gold and in return, our little leprechaun thanked us by giving us each a Hershey kiss...in our shoe! Although we had a lot of fun with Ryan O'Brien's shenanigans, we were happy to send him off to his home of Ireland! Safe travels!

As we end our radical rhyming and rainbow filled month, I think it's safe to say that it was a good one; now onto the next month and study! April is all about the "weather"! April showers.... bring May flowers!

Reminders:

- April 5th-First Friday
- April 12th-Center Closed for Parent/Teacher Conferences (sign-up sheet coming soon)

Ms. Heather & Ms. Kenzie

