



Branch News

This month sure has been a busy-- and wet, one! But for that, we are grateful! One of the best parts about living in Central Oregon, is that we have the lucky (or unlucky, depending on how you view it) privilege of experiencing a multitude of weather trends in the Spring season. One minute the sun is shining, and the next there is a full-on blizzard going on outside your window! The temperamental weather can be a pain to deal with at times, but it sure has helped our Brancher's learn and explore the various types of weather! We started the month off by discussing the various types of weather we can experience and the seasons in which they might coincide with. We took this opportunity to vote on which weather was our favorite, and for some it was an easy choice. Sunny weather was the fan-favorite, and we teachers can't complain! Here's to hoping that the Brancher's can wish up some sunnier days for us! A quick refresher course, and Branch kids were ready to hit the ground running and dive deeper into weather.

A huge part of our study was talking about no other than... rain! They do say April showers bring May flowers after all! To demonstrate all the moving parts of a rainstorm, we created a "Storm in a Jar". To create our storm, we added warm water into a jar and topped it off with a cloud of shaving cream! To show the Brancher's how rain moves through a cloud, we added blue food coloring to the top of the cloud. As the day's past, we were able to watch how the food coloring would travel down through the cloud and slowly begin to dye our water blue. We loved checking in on the "Storm in the Jar" so much so, that we continued the activity all throughout the month. It was a great visual experience for the Branch kiddos! After developing a basic knowledge of how it rains, we were able to dive deeper and learn about the Water Cycle! We learned all about condensation, precipitation and evaporation and boy was it cute to hear the Branch Scientists pronounce these words! To put our knowledge to the test, we had the Brancher's help us recreate the water cycle in a bag. When making the bag, the kids were able to walk us through the steps of the water cycle and help us create a beautiful landscape for our bag. Then we filled the bag up with water and hung it in the window to watch the magic happen! It was so fun to have a front row seat to the water cycle!

We also peeked into the various types of clouds there are and how we can use the clouds to predict what kind of weather we may experience. We learned that Cumulus clouds are the big, fluffy white clouds; Stratus clouds are the dark clouds that bring us rain and thunderstorms! And finally, that Cirrus clouds are the thin and wispy clouds that we can find scattered throughout the sky. Next time you're outside take a look at the sky and see if your Brancher can help you identify the different clouds you find! With the help of books, we were able to teach the Branch kids a little about weather trends we don't typically see in the Pacific Northwest, such as tornadoes and hurricanes! I think by the end of the lesson we heard almost every day that, "Tornadoes don't live in Bend, Oregon" Those clever Brancher's!

We had some pretty great lessons over the course of the month, but we cannot forget about the beautiful artwork we have displayed all throughout the classroom. Have you noticed? If not take a look around-- our Branch kids are great artists! We created some awesome cotton-ball clouds, and to really practice those fine-motor skills we incorporated some lacing around the edges of the paper! Lacing can take some time, but we have discovered that the Brancher's are getting better each time! As we like to say in the classroom, "Practice makes progress!" This isn't the only cloud artwork we created, we also made puffy clouds. Each Brancher was tasked with cutting out their own cloud, lacing the outside and stuffing the clouds with tissue to make them really stand out. By the end of the project, we had some real looking clouds hanging about! But by far one of the more popular art activities we created were the wax paper raindrops. Using the warming tray, we were able to create some really beautiful raindrops using a mix of blue, green and black crayons. The kids really enjoyed using the warming tray and mixing the colors! We also had a great time making Cloud Windsocks- which was something new to the Branch room. We glued cotton-balls all around a piece of paper and then rolled and glued the paper to make the windsock. To make it extra special, we hung rainbow streamers from the bottom of the windsock. They looked so great!

The month of April came as quickly as it went! We say it almost every month, but it reigns true each time! We stay so busy each month, that it really does make the time fly-- but we wouldn't want it any other way! We are so proud of how the Brancher's are continuing to grow and strive towards new goals. They truly are an inspiration! As we say goodbye to April, we are able to welcome May with open arms! The month of May will be dedicated to learning all about Gardening and Flowers! It will be such a fun and hands-on month, we can't wait!

We also wanted to take a minute to thank everyone who showed support towards our Brancher, Quin! It was so great to see the smiling faces of our Brancher friends at the JDRF One-Walk. It was a blast! We know it meant a lot to Quin and her family to have your support. We are, and always will be, Team Q!

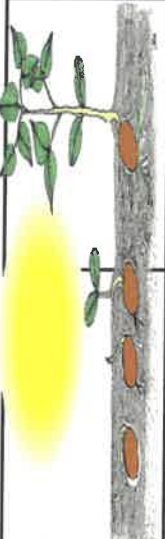
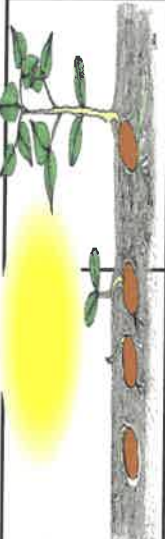
- Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather

Dates to Remember:

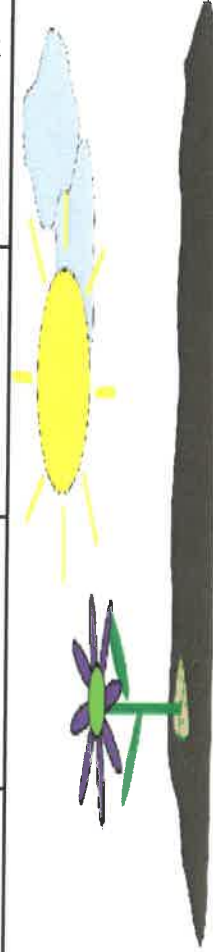
- 🌸 May 3rd- First Friday
- 🌸 May 27th- Growing Tree will be closed for Memorial Day



APRIL SHOWERS...BRING MAY FLOWERS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
SEED SORTING & SEED PLANTING	FANTASTIC FLOWER GRAPHING	PLANT SCIENCE 101 BEAN SPROUT BAGS	PLANT LIFE CYCLE MAKE A WISH DANDY DANDELION	FLOWERS FRUITS & VEGGIES OH MY! A MOTHER'S DAY SURPRISE!
RADICAL RAINBOW DASIES	CARNATION STATION COLORING	BEAUTIFUL BUSY BEES	STOP.....AND SMELL THE ROSES	HAPPY HEART GARDEN
THE TINY SEED ERIC CARLE	THE SEEDS WE EAT TASTE TEST	VIVA LA VEGGIE GRAPH	SUPER SOIL VEGETABLE PLANTING	EATING THE ALPHABET FROM A-Z!
CLOSED	THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER	BRANCH ROOM FLOWER ARRANGMENT	FANTASTIC FINGER FLOWERS	GROW LIKE A WEED GRAPHING

MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY MAY, 12
MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY MAY, 27
GROWING TREE
CLOSED
HAPPY
BIRTHDAYS TO:
THEO, MAY 7
FINN, MAY 9
BODEN, MAY 11



BRANCH