

November 1, 2019

Dear Families,

Wow, what a month it has been! Is it just us or does it seem like the Branchers are growing like weeds? Not only in height, but in knowledge as well! It has been a blast to witness the growth of these children. We can only imagine how far they will come within the next year. So exciting to think about!

October found us studying the 5 Senses, and we threw in some pumpkins to help us celebrate this beautiful season. The 5 Senses are one of our favorite lesson plans, because we can incorporate so many fun, hands-on activities! We started off the month by exploring what exactly the 5 Senses are (touch, taste, see, hear and smell). Next, we established a baseline of knowledge, as we dug into each sense a little more.

Touch: we participated in a Mystery Grab Bag. The children were asked to put their hands inside of a bag and choose an item. They were then asked to guess what the item was, without peeking! The children were encouraged to move the object around in their hands and feel what kind of shapes or textures there might be. Once they took a guess, they were able to unveil what the item was. We had a lot of interesting guesses to say the least! But we also had some guesses that were spot on! It was so fun to watch the children's brains work out what they thought they were holding. And they seemed to enjoy it as well based off their smiles! We also explored our touching sense by cutting and digging into a pumpkin. Some of the children loved the feel of the inners of the pumpkins; others however were a little more hesitant to get their hands dirty. Which is always A-Okay with us! We were able to collect all the pumpkin seeds from inside the pumpkin thanks to our Branch kids.

Taste: we experimented a lot with different kinds of food. Each taste test we conducted; the children were asked to describe what it was they were tasting. We started off by taste testing apples. We asked the Branchers to think about the taste of an apple and some words that they would use to describe the taste. We heard things like sweet, crunchy, and of course yummy! After the taste test was conducted, we used our leftover apples to make some warm, homemade applesauce! The Branchers took turns putting apples and spices into the crockpot and helped mix it all up. After cooking all afternoon, we were finally able to try our very

own applesauce! We decided that our applesauce was a success! It was both sweet and "spicy" thanks to all the cinnamon we used. But that wasn't all the cooking we did this month. We also had the opportunity to bake the pumpkin seeds we collected! We created two types of pumpkin seeds: sweet and savory! For the sweet seeds, we mixed some vanilla and cinnamon; for savory we used a blend of garlic and onion powder. Once we baked our pumpkin seeds, we were able to eat and vote on which seeds we enjoyed more. It was no surprise to us that the sweet seeds won the hearts of our Branchers!

Sight: we planned some fun science experiments! Using celery, we watched how colored water could change the color of both items. We started off by filling cups of water and then dyeing them the colors of the rainbow. Then each Brancher was able to put one celery stick into whatever color they preferred. We made some predictions on what we thought may happen. After some conversation, we decided that we thought that the celery would turn the colors of whatever water they were in. After some time, we were able to see that the celery was indeed changing colors! The Branch kids' eyes grew so wide when they noticed the changes in color. It was a great surprise to them!

Hearing: We tested the Branchers hearing sense by playing a fun guessing game! The children were asked to close their eyes and quiet their bodies so that they could listen to different sounds. After we played the sounds, they were asked to guess what they thought it was. We played a wide varieties of sounds, such as pans clanking, wind blowing, and various instruments. But one of the categories that the Branchers loved, was of course the animals! We couldn't trick them at all. They sure do know their animal noises; but then again, were we really surprised?

Smell: Last but certainly not least, we had our lessons on smelling. Our smelling sense was something we talked a lot about when conducting our taste tests and science experiments. We had the kids smell the celery, as well as our applesauce and pumpkin seeds. With all the cooking we did, we sure did have a great smelling classroom for a few days!

October turned out to be a great month, and we have so enjoyed getting to know your Branchers more and more. We have been working hard in the Branch room on our social-emotional skills. It takes a ton of work, but we are seeing improvements each day. We are so appreciative to all our families for the support we have felt thus far! It is extremely encouraging to us teachers. It really is going to be a great year in the Branch room! With all that being said, we are ready to move into November which will be dedicated to learning all about our families and thankfulness!

-Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather

Reminders:

- Growing Tree will be closed on November 11th for conferences. Be on the lookout for the sign-up sheets. We look forward to seeing you there!
- Please, please bring in pictures for our family board! We would love to see all your beautiful families up there!



Applesauce Taste Test



Rainbow Patterns



Time for a good book and friend



Self Portraits

NOV-19

FANTASTIC FUN FRIENDSHIPS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FRIENDSHIP FINGERPRINTS	FRIENDSHIP ADDITION SUBTRACTION	FRIENDSHIP MIX & MAX COLOR MIXING	FRIENDSHIP BEADING BRACELETS	FRIENDSHIP STEW!!	THE GIVING TREE
CONFERENCESENSES	MY FAMILY IS....	COLORFUL FAMILY GRAPHING	LAST NAME MEMORY GAME	THANKFUL FAMILY PORTRAITS	STONES OF THANKFULNESS
THANKFUL FORK FEATHER TURKEYS	IF YOU'RE THANKFUL & YOU KNOW IT...	THE THANKFULNESS GAME	THE THANKFUL TURKEY	CLOSED	
PUMPKIN PIE TASTE TEST	HOW DO YOU MAKE A PUMPKIN PIE?	PUMPKIN PIE MATH GRAPH			

DATES TO REMEMBER
NOVEMBER 11TH CONFERENCES (VETERANS DAY)
NOVEMBER 28ND THANKSGIVING DAY (CLOSED)
NOVEMBER 29TH (CLOSED)

BRANCH