

January 1, 2020

Branch Families:

Can you believe that it is the end of yet another wonderful year? As great as this past year has been to us, we are so excited to welcome 2020 with open arms. First, let us look back on all the wonderful things we have accomplished this past month!

December is always a jam-packed month in the Branch room. We love to take the month to celebrate the holidays and come together to create a joyful classroom. So, we dedicate the month to all things festive! We were able to accomplish a lot of fun science and art activities that really helped us feel the holiday cheer.



This wouldn't have been possible without the help of a special visitor! The Branch room welcomed our very own Elf into the classroom. Our Elf would surprise us with fun activities and visits throughout the month!

- We were tasked to come up with a list of names for our Elf to choose from- because every elf needs a name, right? Our Brancher's creativity really shined through with this challenge! And ultimately the Elf decided on the name, drum roll please.... Sweetie Pie Sparkles! Such a sweet name for such a sweet elf.
- We were challenged to think a lot about "Kindness", which was perfect because it was our word of the month. With these challenges, the Branchers were able to come up with many ways to

show kindness such as hugs, high fives, and as Hadley would say, "Showing the love!"

- We were treated to a Candy Cane Taste Test, which of course we loved! The Branchers were able to take a taste of a candy cane and determine what word they would use to describe the taste, as you can imagine we heard a lot of "spicy".

It was a pleasure to have Sweetie Pie Sparkles in our classroom and we will surely miss her!

The Candy Cane taste test wasn't the only tasting we did this month! We also participated in a Hot Chocolate Taste Test, which was a great way to warm up on such a cold day. The Branchers were able to help make the hot chocolate by measuring both the mix and water, as well as stir! The Branch room is so helpful. Following along with recipes is a great way to test our math skills.

December wouldn't be complete without making our very own ornaments! We created them with nothing other than applesauce, cinnamon and glue. With these three ingredients we were able to form a dough, roll it out and use cookie cutters to cut out stars and trees. Then in the oven they went! Not only were the ornaments beautiful, but they sure filled the classroom with a delicious smell!



We also made some pretty marvelous paper plate trees, that we were able to dye green and decorate to our hearts content with all sorts of decorations. We then made some paint-swatch trees by cutting out various colored triangles out of old paint swatches, stacking the triangles, then gluing them together. They made some very creative trees! The Branch room loves to get creative and use odd materials to create something special- and that's exactly what we did with these trees!

We had such a blast this month, and it was such a special time in the classroom. We love the holidays and being able to take this time to celebrate each other. It really is a magical time of year! But now we are ready to say hello to 2020! January we will be focused all on Snow Science! Buckle up for a great year ahead!

- Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather



Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!



