

May 1, 2020

Dear Branch Families,

We think it is fair to say that the month of April has sure been a strange one! Figuring out our path during these uncertain times has proved challenging; but one thing that has stayed the same has been your continued support. We deeply appreciate your patience and kindness during these times. It has been a wild ride. Let us hope that we will be moving onto happier and brighter days soon! Although April looked a little different in the Branch room, we continued trooping through it and tackled our study on...weather! It was a busy month for sure- and the recent trends in weather really helped us take our learning a step further.

We started the month off by discussing all the various types of weather we see in beautiful Central Oregon. The Brancher's decided that we see a lot of snow and (thankfully) sunshine! After our discussion, we decided that a vote was in order. So, voting we did! Each Brancher was given the opportunity to vote on which weather type they thought was the most enjoyable. Selecting between rain, snow, windy, sunshine, and stormy weather proved to be a little challenging, because there are so many things to enjoy about each. But the votes were counted, and snow was the reigning champ! No surprise there since we know how much these Branchers love to play in snow.



One of our favorite weather types to learn about was the rain. We were able to accomplish so many fun and engaging activities with this part of the study! To start, we explored all the various types of clouds. Which led the Branch classroom to discover their new favorite word... Cumulonimbus! It was amazing how many times we heard this word throughout the month. Can your Brancher tell you what exactly a Cumulonimbus cloud is? To further their learning, the Branchers created their very own clouds out of cotton balls. They were able to stretch them out to create light and wispy Cirrus clouds, fluffy white Cumulus clouds, and dark Cumulonimbus clouds.



After learning about the clouds, we began to explore the water cycle! The Branch classroom really caught on quickly to precipitation, evaporation and condensation. These Branch kids are such scientists! To help give a visualization, we recreated the water cycle in zip-lock bags. We were able to hang up the bags and let the sunshine do its work! One of our fan-favorite activities was the 'Rain Cloud in a Jar'. We filled a jar up with water, and then topped it off with some good ole' shaving cream. Then the Branchers took turns dropping blue food coloring into the shaving cream cloud. They were then able to observe how when there was too much blue dye, it travelled through the cloud and dispersed into the water- much like what happens when it rains! It was fun to watch the Branchers fill with excitement when the water began to turn blue!



To add on-to the science fun, the Brancher's conducted a pinecone experiment by submerging various pinecones into water. They were amazed when they discovered that the pinecones began to close! Soon they learned that pinecones close when it rains to help protect their seeds and open in heat to disperse them. It is wild how weather can affect the world around us!



Now we would not truly be learning about weather without a little Bob Shaw action! So, the Branchers learned all about meteorology and how we can predict the weather. With the help of some books and videos, the Branchers were able to learn more about the tools used when looking at the weather. They were able to put this new knowledge to test by becoming meteorologists themselves. That is right- the home center was transformed into KTVZ-Weather station! The Branchers were able to get creative and broadcast their weather predictions all throughout Central Oregon... unfortunately, Central Oregon saw a lot of snowy conditions!



We had a blast learning about weather! But you know what they say: April showers bring May flowers. So, the month of May will be dedicated to learning all about plants and flowers! The Branch classroom will come alive with color, as we plant various flowers and vegetables. We will learn all about the life cycle of a plant, how plants grow, and we will even develop a

knack for gardening. So, cross your fingers that we have some green thumbs in the Branch room! We are so looking forward to the month of May. We are missing all of you desperately, so take good care of yourselves, and we hope to see all your smiling faces soon.

- Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather

MAY-20

APRIL SHOWERS...BRING MAY FLOWERS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SEED SORTING & SEED PLANTING	FANTASTIC FLOWER GRAPHING	BEAN SPROUT BAGS	MAKE A WISH DANDY DANDELION	PLANT LIFE CYCLE 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, 10
MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY MAY, 25
GROWING TREE
CLOSED
HAPPY
BIRTHDAYS TO:
AUBREY, MAY 28

BRANCH