

June 1, 2020

Dear Families,

This month we are going to share our Coronavirus Blessings:

- **Heather:** has been able to take this time to take a step back and enjoy the simpler things. She has been busy planting flowers at her home and getting ready for the warmer days ahead. Her and her dog, Haley, have really enjoyed their long walks together in the sunshine!
- **Kenzie:** is thankful for her community during this time. It has been amazing to see how the community has pulled together to find creative ways to support each other and local businesses! Central Oregon is simply the best.

In what ways do you feel that the virus has had a positive effect on you, your family, and your community? We challenge you and your Brancher to find some joy and positivity around you!

We hope that you all enjoyed your Mother's Day weekend. In the Branch classroom, we planted flowers and made our very own Freezer Jam to celebrate and show our thanks to our mothers. What did your Brancher do for you? We are sure that whatever it was, it put a huge smile on your face! Thank you, Moms, for simply being you!

What a beautiful month it has been! May brought us a lot of sunshine, and for that we are grateful. During the month we took a dive into gardening. As they say- April showers bring May flowers! This is always such a fun and exciting study for both the teachers and the students. It allows us to see the growing process from start to finish, as well as getting our hands dirty! We created great hands-on visual experiences by planting an assortment of different flowers and vegetables! With some thoughtful consideration, the Branch room was able to narrow it down as to what to plant. Believe us, it was not easy. Who knew the

Branchers loved vegetables so much? Once the decisions were made, off to the green house we went! We planted some beautiful Zinnias, Shasta Daisies, Green Beans, Peas, Tomatoes, and of course... Radishes (we were surprised by this vote, too!) Each day, the Branchers would look at our plants to see if any had grown or blossomed. We have green thumbs in the Branch room! We cannot wait to take a taste of our success. Stay tuned!

One of our favorite books to read during our Gardening study was *The Tiny Seed*, by Eric Carle. This story is a great visual for what the life of a seed looks like. We love the artwork that Eric Carle creates, so we made the decision to create our very own Carle-esc flowers for our classroom and boy did they turn out beautiful! We created these magnificent flowers by texture painting paper, using various colors to create some awesome swirls of colors and patterns. Next, we cut out stems, leaves, petals, and pistils. We put them all together and wha-la, we had flowers! We used the same method to create healthy soil for our flowers to grow from, because what would flowers be without dirt? These flowers added great color to our windows. Spring has sprung in the Branch room!



Those were not the only flowers we created. We put our fine motor skills to the test by drawing our own replicas of flowers. We drew dandelions (both yellow and “fluffy” ones), roses, poppies, and lilacs. To challenge our fine motor skills, we used thin markers so we could focus on our grasp and making controlled detailed lines. It is always fun to watch the Branchers draw so intently. You could really see their brains hard at work!



were soaking in. This gave us a great visual as to how a flower’s stem can be used as a ‘straw’ to soak up water and bring it up towards the pistil and petals of the flower. Science can be so awesome! To add mathematical elements to our study, we participated in the Viva La Veggie Graph. Each Brancher was asked to vote on their favorite vegetable; once all the data was collected, we created a fun and colorful graph to determine what the class favorite was. Turns out we LOVE corn in the Branch room!

It is hard to believe that the month of May is over. It has gone by in the blink of an eye! Onward to June we go. During this next month we will be digging into Incredible Insects & Amazing Arachnids! Get ready to be heading outside and discovering all the interesting creatures around you...

-Ms. Kenzie & Ms. Heather



No study would be complete without science and math, both a favorite in the Branch room! When exploring the various parts of a flower, we put our lab coats on and got to work by performing our very own science experiment, Radical Rainbow Blooms! The experiment was a simple one, but full of teachable moments. We simply just placed flowers into water with food coloring. As time passed, we watched the flowers turn the color of the water they

JUN-20

INTERESTING INSECTS & AMAZING ARACHNIDS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
FATHER'S DAY...	INSECTS VS ARACHNIDS	CATERPILLAR BUTTERFLY LIFECYCLE	OH THE WINGED WONDERS	STAINED GLASS BUTTERFLIES	BUTTERFLY MOTH SCIENCE
JUNE 21ST	THE DYE FLYERS	DAMSELFLY VS DRAGONFLY	SUPER DRAGONFLY SUNCATCHERS	I SPY WITH MY DRAGONFLY EYE!	ON THE WINGS OF A DRAGONFLY
	THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER	THE LIFECYCLE OF A ARACHNID	ACCORDION SPOOKY SPIDERS	THE ANTS GO MARCHING	A FATHER'S DAY SURPRISE
	A LITTLE LADYBUG 101	LADYBUG MUNCH AND CRUNCH	"THE GROUCHY LADYBUG" .ERIC CARLE.	WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT?	POPCICLE STICK BUMBLEBEES
	BUSY BEE POLLENATION STATION	WELCOME TO THE BEEHIVE			

BRANCH