



# 3'S AND TREES

OCTOBER 2014



**WE'RE GOING ON A TREE HUNT!**

- AFTERNOON THREE'S LOOK AT THE NEEDLES OF THE BLUE SPRUCE.
- MORNING THREE'S REACH THEIR HANDS UP TO THE LEAVES.

This month we really branched out with our theme, Trees! The children learned about the different parts of a tree using felt board pieces and the song "Roots, Trunks, Branches, Leaves". We enjoyed reading about animals that live in trees using the big books and story props for "Life in a Tree" by Melvin Berger and "Good-Night Owl!" by Pat Hutchins. The friends learned how a tree grows with the book, "From Little Acorns" by Sam Godwin and by watching a time-lapse video of an acorn growing into a sapling. We also acted out the song, "I'm a Tree" about the importance of trees.

To get a better idea of the many trees that are all around us, we went on a tree scavenger hunt! The children saw the berries that fell from the flowering cherry tree and took shelter under the large oak tree during a short drizzle. We felt the rough bark of the oak tree's trunk and then gave it a big hug! We smelled the pine needles of the long white pine and noticed the fan-shaped leaves of the ginkgo tree.

Science and sensory experiences inside the classroom included looking at a real squirrel skull and seeing how it uses its teeth like the back of a hammer for cracking acorns.

Friends also explored how tree artifacts can be used for music, as painting tools and for making paper. We also did an experiment using a celery stalk to represent a tree. We saw what happened when the "roots" soaked up the colored water and changed the color of the leaves. In dramatic play, friends enjoyed pretending with a small and large tree house, a chipmunk family, wooden objects and food props.

During the last week, we were visited by educator Joe Stavish from Tree Pittsburgh. He shared a great story and interesting findings from unique trees.



KENDAL AND MARINA SEE THE FIRST STEP OF THE CELERY EXPERIMENT.



CASH PLAYS A TREE STUMP LIKE A DRUM!



LEEZA PICKS UP A CINNAMON SCENTED PINECONE.

# EXPLORING PARTS OF TREES



Elowyn uses a Y-shaped twig to paint.



Max views leaves and sky through the binoculars.



Kendal and Izhak play with buckets and pulleys in the wooden tree house.



Zahra and Leeza spend time in the large tree house.



Marina paints a leaf in preparation to make a print.



Kaya brushes gold paint on with a pine needle twig.

## SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS TO TRY!



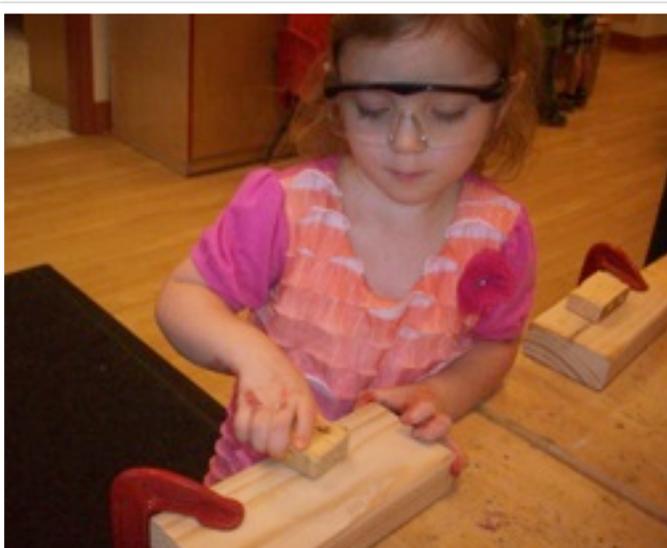
Elowyn collects leaves at the light table.



Izhak opens the door to say, "Hello!" in the dramatic play cardboard house.



Max enjoys bean bag exercises at gym.



Kaya sands away at a pencil drawing in the woodworking area.



Zahra uses two daubers to cover a leaf-shape.



Cash helps the animals climb up the cliff next to the Mangrove tree in the water table.



Joe Stavish from Tree Pittsburgh reads, "This Tree Counts".

Thank you to families who read stories and visited for your child's birthday in the Red Room: Max's mom, Mrs. Todaro; Malena's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Friedman; and Evan's mom, Mrs. Tulenko. Thank you to Calabria's mom, Mrs. Kim for reading and doing an activity with the Morning Blue Room friends and Henry's mom, Mrs. Ragano and babysitter, Brittany for teaching us about Sycamore trees! Thank you to Dr. Carver for sharing about the trees in your neck of the woods and finally, Joe Stavish for sharing a love for all the trees that we are so fortunate to find in Pittsburgh.

Fun Fact:  
Tree Pittsburgh will be planting about 2,000 trees in the city this year!

Leaves Are Falling All Around!

Leaves are falling all around -  
Red,  
Yellow,  
Orange,  
And brown.  
Twirling, swirling to the ground -  
Look how many leaves I've found!  
- Jan Trautman



To all families:

Thank you for coming to our Open House to celebrate your child's new school experience. We hope that you enjoyed your visit!

The Three's Team

P.S. Our next theme will be Transportation!