Trees

Why study trees?

“Trees brighten the countryside and soften the harsh lines of city streets. Each year they increase in importance and find new uses. They are beautiful and majestic; among them are the largest and oldest of living things.”

(Herbert S. Zim, Ph.D. Trees: A Guide to Familiar American Trees)

“Educating children to the benefits of trees is a way to create lifelong stewards of the urban forest and the planet.”

(http://treepittsburgh.org/resource-type/education)

The following are some of the basics we studied in the Green Room:

Trees are plants and they grow from seeds. They have bark that protects the outside and roots that help the tree to stand and soak in water and minerals from the ground up into the branches and leaves. The branches grow leaves, and sometimes fruit and flowers. Trees can be identified by the shape of their leaves. Trees change through the seasons of the year. Trees provide shade, habitats and food for animals and people, enrich the soil, and keep the earth from sliding. Paper comes from trees. Old paper can be recycled to make new paper. Trees use the process of photosynthesis to change sunlight into energy. This very important plant is vital for us all, taking in the carbon dioxide from the air and changing it into oxygen for all living things to breathe.
Activity Time

Take a look at some of the favorite activities that we did during the month of October!

Nick, Avery and Charlotte use their imaginations while playing with animals that live in and around trees.

Mira and Jillian make October Pumpkin Locker Tags.

Emma balances animals on the Tree Blocks.

Finn explores items from local trees in the Science Center.

Gwendolyn paints with Pine Branches.

Matti gets ready to use the paper pulp he has blended to make a new piece of paper.

Max measures a small amount of tiny gel beads that will expand as they absorb the colored water.

Tyler helps Mrs. Marshall pour off the extra water from the expanded gel beads so he can play with them.

Roxy and Brylie create steps and houses with the Cuisenaire Rods, a base ten counting and measuring tool.
Avery and Jacob work on their Mr. M with the Munching Mouth Letter Journal pages.

Sahil creates patterns with wood shapes.

Sara arranges colored fall leaves and little pumpkins on and around a tree on the light table.

Charlotte, Roxie and Sammy play the Orchard Game.

Sardor, Brylie and Hudson roll the die and count acorns for their squirrels.

Camryn and Nick laugh together while playing with the Tree House.

Ethan takes a closer look at some tree rings.
Judah uses a pulley to haul little pumpkins to the top floor of the Tree House.

Daniel and Beau sort some of the fall tree items collected on a CMU Campus walk.

Jemma tries to fill her Tree Leaf Bingo card.

Owen, Asher, Rhys and Max play Tree Leaf Bingo together.

Owen mixes blue coloring into water before adding the Gel Beads that will absorb it.

Sammy and Ethan observe the expanded Gel Beads that absorbed water as tree roots do.

Ryan, Roxy and Saatwik taste different types of apples and record their favorite on a chart.

Jacobo mixes the topping and Jack waits to use the Apple Peeler to make Apple Crisp.
Camryn checks the celery that has absorbed colored water - just like tree roots!

Campbell fits many Gel Beads into a test tube!

Brylie, Nola, Max, Jacobo and Emma play Seeds for Birds with Miss Kirschenmann, the Green Room Student Teacher.

Nola and Roxy do some measuring with the pretend worms.

Tyler makes a color pattern with the small wood shapes.

The friends practice using Hand Drills in the Woodworking Center.

David uses a Hand Drill to make holes in wood.

Marley decides to use the orange paper pulp to make a new piece of paper.

Brylie and Mira guess how much the pumpkin will weigh.
Miyako laughs with her friend Lily as they play outdoors.

Mrs. Opferman’s friends have gym outside on a beautiful day.

Hudson and Rhys choose a favorite pumpkin from the “Pumpkin Patch”, compliments of CMU’s Facilities Management Services department.

Sardor fills a pot with mud in the Mud Play Box on the Playground.

Jacob and Daniel attach the diggers to the Playground fence to keep them from rolling down the hill.
Birthday Celebrations and Special Visitors

Owen’s mom reads a story to the Green Room friends to help celebrate Owen’s birthday.

Mrs. Solomon’s friends prepare Pancakes for Owen’s birthday snack.

Miyako’s mom, dad, and younger sister visited for her birthday. Miyako’s mom performed the puppet play, “The Turnip” in Japanese, and her dad translated into English.

Beau’s mom came to celebrate Beau’s birthday with a cool Popsicle snack.

Campbell and her friends spend time together in the Dramatic Play Center.

Campbell’s dad plays guitar and sings with the friends in celebration of Campbell’s birthday.
Birthday Celebrations and Special Visitors

Sammy’s mom and Grandpa visit the Afternoon Green Room friends.

Jacob and his mom read a story to his friends at Circle Time in celebration of Jacob’s birthday.

Asher’s mom and dad joined the Green Room friends for Asher’s Frozen Yogurt with Rainbow Sprinkles birthday snack.

Joe Stavish from Tree Pittsburgh did a fabulous presentation about trees for the friends. He read the story, “This Tree Counts”, talked about parts of trees and planting trees, and shared some great artifacts. Joe says: “Seeds need sunlight, soil, water and space to grow.”

Fun Facts:
- Pennsylvania has 102 different kinds of native trees.
- “Pittsburgh has more acres of park per capita - and more trees per square mile - than any other major U.S. city.” (Chatham Univ. website)