

*Dear Family,*

**In my class today** we did an experiment with leaves.

**Did You Know?**

- The leaves of certain types of trees change color and fall off during the fall. There are many different colors in plant leaves. When you look at a leaf, you see the result of all the colors mixing together. In the spring and summer, trees use chlorophyll to make food from sunlight. Chlorophyll gives leaves their green color. As summer progresses into fall, there is less sunlight, so the growing process slows down and the trees stop making chlorophyll. Without chlorophyll, leaves lose their green color, and the other colors that are present in the leaves (red, orange, and yellow) become visible.
- The experiment we performed dissolved the different colors in the leaves and allowed them to be absorbed by the coffee filter. The alcohol worked to dissolve the colors, and the heat from the water was the energy that helped the alcohol to work. The red, orange, and yellow colors in leaves break down more slowly than the green does. The fibers in the coffee filter trapped the colors as they spread up the strip of paper. The process allowed the different colors to be absorbed at different rates and caused the colors to separate.

**Ask Your Child:**

- Tell me where you got the leaves for your experiment.
- What did you do with the leaves?
- Describe what happened during the experiment.
- Did the leaves stay green or did they lose their color?

**Activities To Do With Your Child:**

- There are so many varieties of trees and bushes in each neighborhood and state. Go for a walk around your neighborhood or in a nearby park. Collect a variety of leaves from the trees and bushes that you see.
- Sit down with your child and spread out your collection. Look at all of the leaves. You can talk about their shape, color, and size. You can talk about how some look alike and some look very different from each other.
- Have your child choose a few of the leaves that you collected and send them to school. We will add them to our collection!

**Vocabulary Words To Use With Your Child:** fall, tree, leaf, leaves, chlorophyll, Sun