

# EdMatters

## Shepherd Elementary Students Explore Science Through Fall-Inspired Activity



Using their breath to mimic gusts of wind, the young scientists measured how far their leaves traveled, making real-world connections between movement, force, and distance.

The activity not only created excitement but also helped students link science concepts with measurement skills in a memorable way. By incorporating fall themes into the lesson, Mrs. Platt made learning both engaging and relatable.

First grade students in Mrs. Platt's class at Shepherd Elementary test the power of wind with paper leaves in a fun fall science experiment.

Fall leaves weren't just falling outside last week—they were also blowing across the classroom floor at Shepherd Elementary School. Mrs. Platt's first grade students took part in a seasonal science experiment that

explored the wonders of autumn to hands-on learning.

Armed with straws and paper leaves, students explored how wind can move objects.

As the season changes across Iredell County, these first graders are learning that the breeze outside their classroom window is more than just a sign of autumn—it's a powerful force that connects nature to science.

## Scooping Up Science at WHES



Students in second grade at Woodland Heights Elementary School experienced hands-on learning with a treat on Wednesday, October 2, 2025.

The classrooms were working on their unit on States of Matter by discussing solids, liquids, and gases. To demonstrate the changes in matter, each student used a resealable plastic bag with some cream, sugar, and vanilla inside a larger bag with ice and salt. After placing the smaller bag inside the larger bag, students then began vigorously shaking and kneading the bags to ensure the distribution of the ice and salt mixture.



Students were able to watch the transformation of the liquid mixture changing states of matter into something solid as they worked hard to bring those molecules closer together. The added benefit—an ice cream treat to enjoy while learning about science.

## Colors of Our Culture: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage at TCES



countries. Families can visit displays, enjoy hands-on crafts, and students will even get to "trick-or-treat" at the tables, making the experience fun

Beginning in September and continuing through mid-October, Third Creek Elementary has been proudly celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month under the theme, "Colors of Our Culture." The school's hallways are alive with vibrant decorations showcasing the rich traditions, languages, and artistry of Hispanic communities.

Each morning, students hear special announcements highlighting fun facts, historical moments, and stories that honor Hispanic heritage. Teachers are also using a shared PowerPoint resource to bring these lessons into the classroom, ensuring that every grade has meaningful opportunities to learn and connect.

A highlight of this year's celebration is the recognition of the 12 Hispanic countries represented by Third Creek students and their families. Each country adds its own traditions and pride, creating a colorful mosaics that reflects the school's diversity.

Festivities include a parade of native clothing, where students proudly display traditional attire from their heritage, allowing the school community to see and celebrate culture firsthand.

In addition, a Family Night Celebration will feature tables representing each of the 12

and engaging for all ages.

Through these activities, Third Creek Elementary is not only honoring Hispanic heritage but also celebrating the diversity and unity that define its school community. The "Colors of Our Culture" theme reflects more than decorations—it represents the vibrant spirit of the students, families, and staff who bring these cultures to life.



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