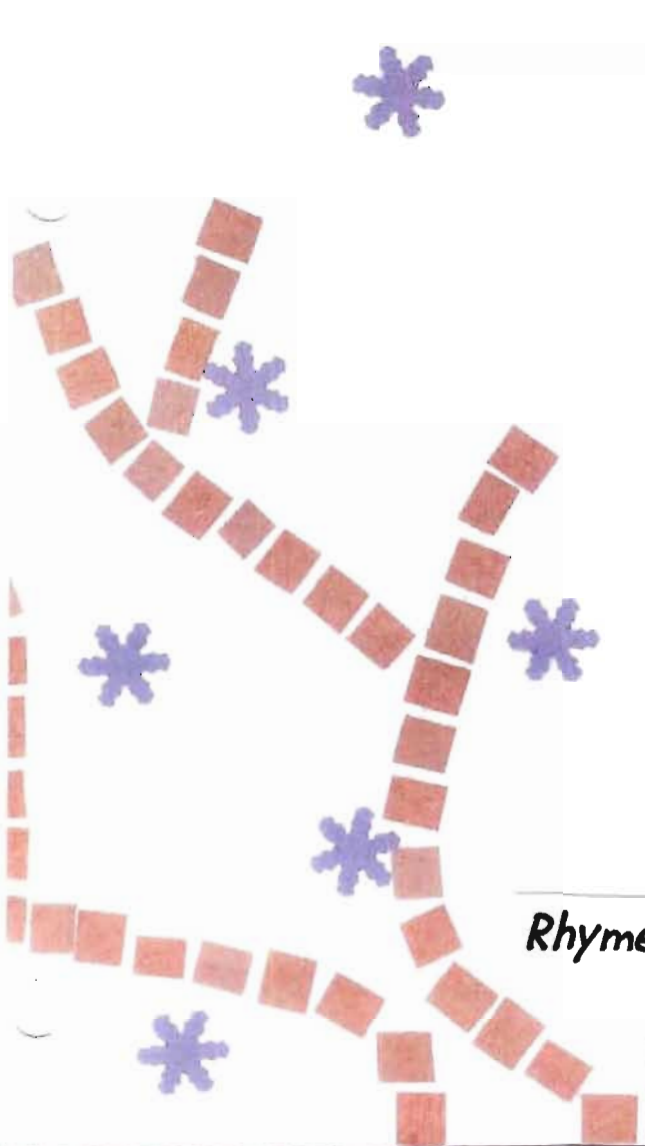




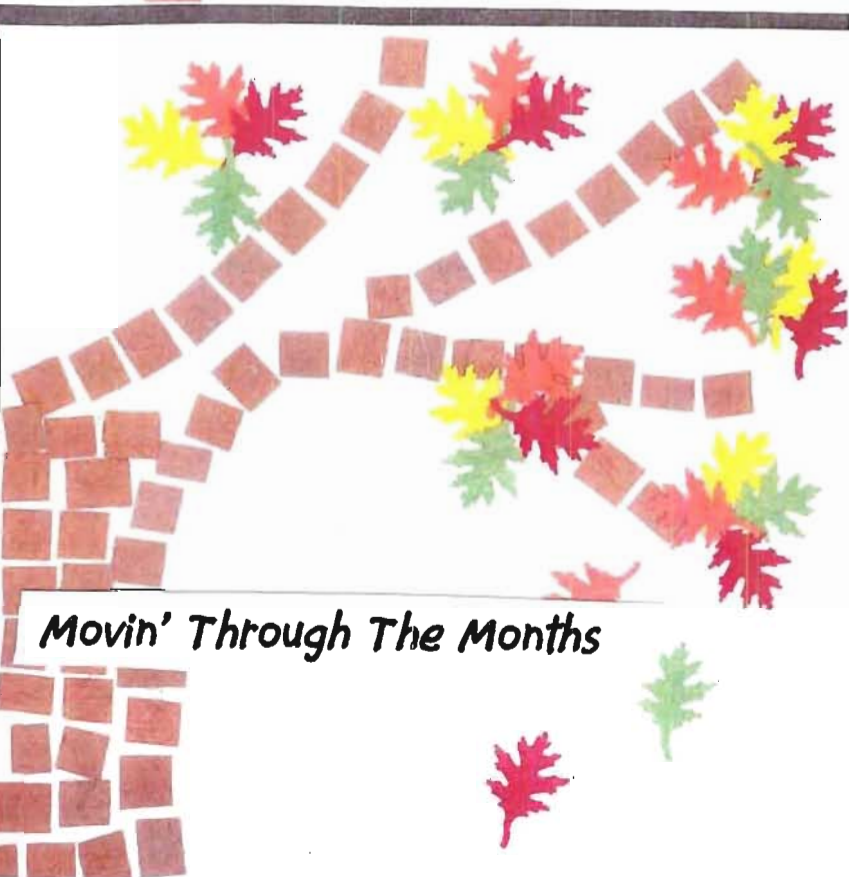
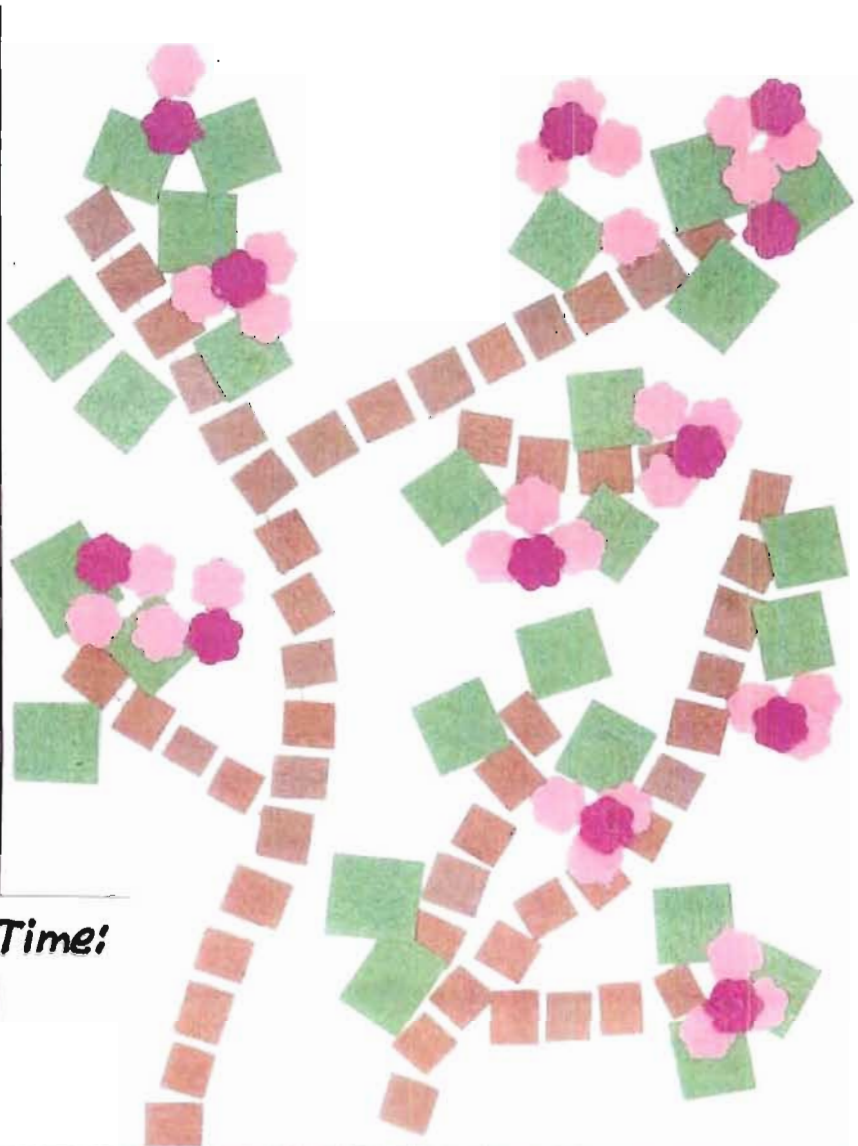
Background of the story...

- ❖ It was fall 2000 and I was in my last year of working on my Elementary Endorsement.
- ❖ I took a job as a teacher's aide at Grandville Elementary and had the pleasure of working with Mr. W and his 2nd graders.
- ❖ I decided to write ***Rhyme Time-Movin' Through the Months*** with them, since we were studying seasons and rhyme and we needed to write something every day.
- ❖ Mr. W. had put me in charge of "writing" when he learned this was a "hot button" of mine.
- ❖ We composed our "poem" on the overhead via brainstorming and a class vote.
- ❖ Then we made a list of whose birthdays came in what months. I assigned 2 students to work on that month's art via their birth month.
- ❖ I chose mosaic construction paper tiles as the medium because we didn't have to be too artistic.
- ❖ They used rubber block letter stamps to paint the months on.
- ❖ We made a list of "objects" or a simple "symbol" we could have represent each month and then narrowed it down to 2 and voted on the one that we would choose to do the mosaic on.
- ❖ Computers had just started to take off in the schools and I wanted to incorporate technology so we did a spread sheet and some graphs using Claris Works involving our birthdays.
- ❖ Make up your own poem, or use ours and tweak it, then make your own class big book! Enjoy!
- ❖ Our students had a great time. You could do this with Y5's all the way through 3rd Grade. ☺





Rhyme Time!



Movin' Through The Months

A 3x3 grid of colored squares. The colors are: Row 1: Red, Red, Red; Row 2: Orange, Orange, Orange; Row 3: Yellow, Yellow, Yellow. The squares are decorated with black geometric shapes: squares and diamonds. Some shapes are arranged in vertical or diagonal lines, while others are scattered. The month labels are placed on the right side of the grid, each within a colored rectangular frame that matches the color of the square it is on. The labels are: January (top right, red frame), March (middle right, orange frame), May (middle right, yellow frame), July (middle right, yellow frame), August (bottom right, green frame), October (bottom right, purple frame), and December (bottom right, purple frame).

January

March

May

July

August

October

December

September

April

June

November

December

January

March

May

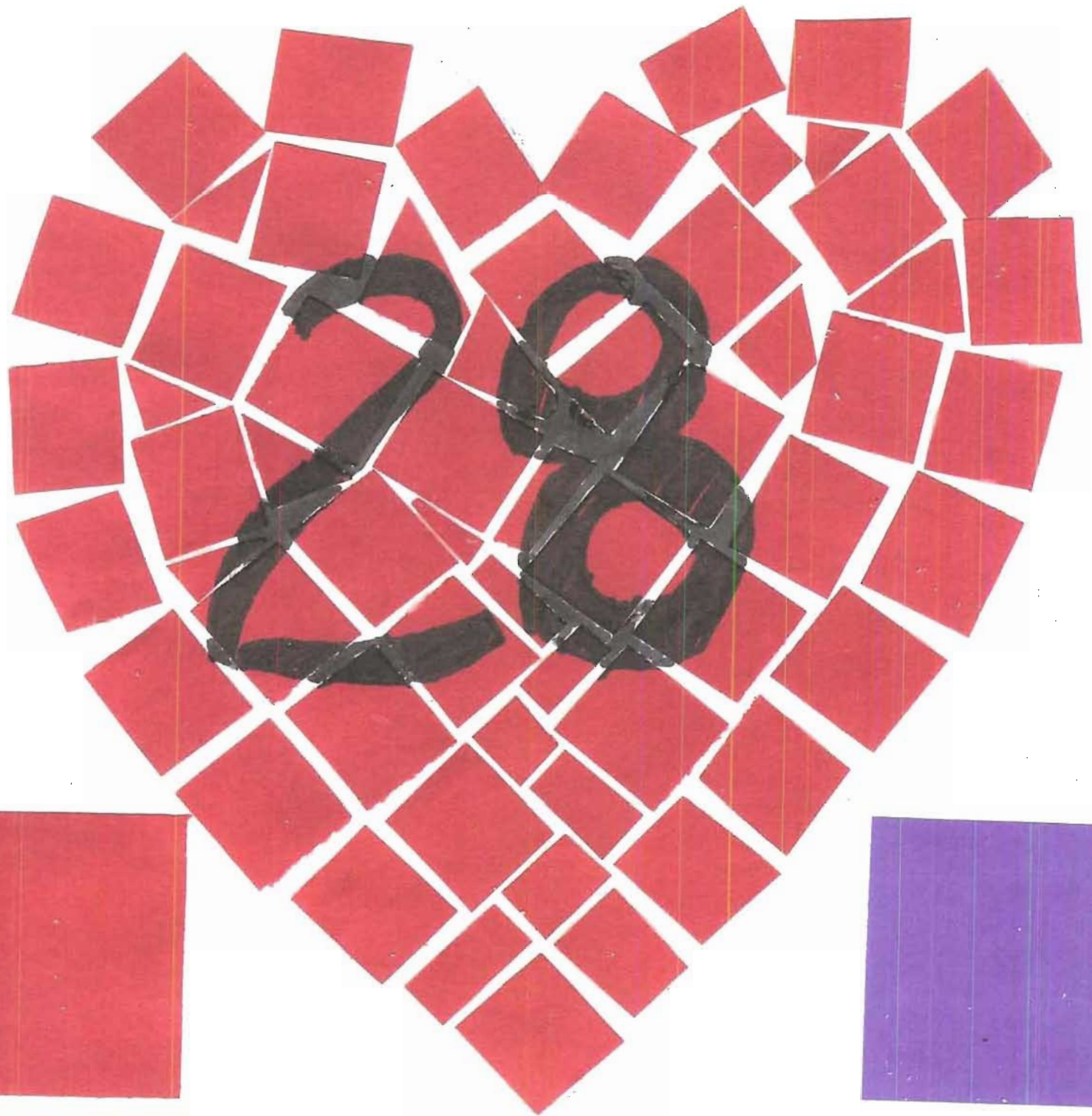
July

August

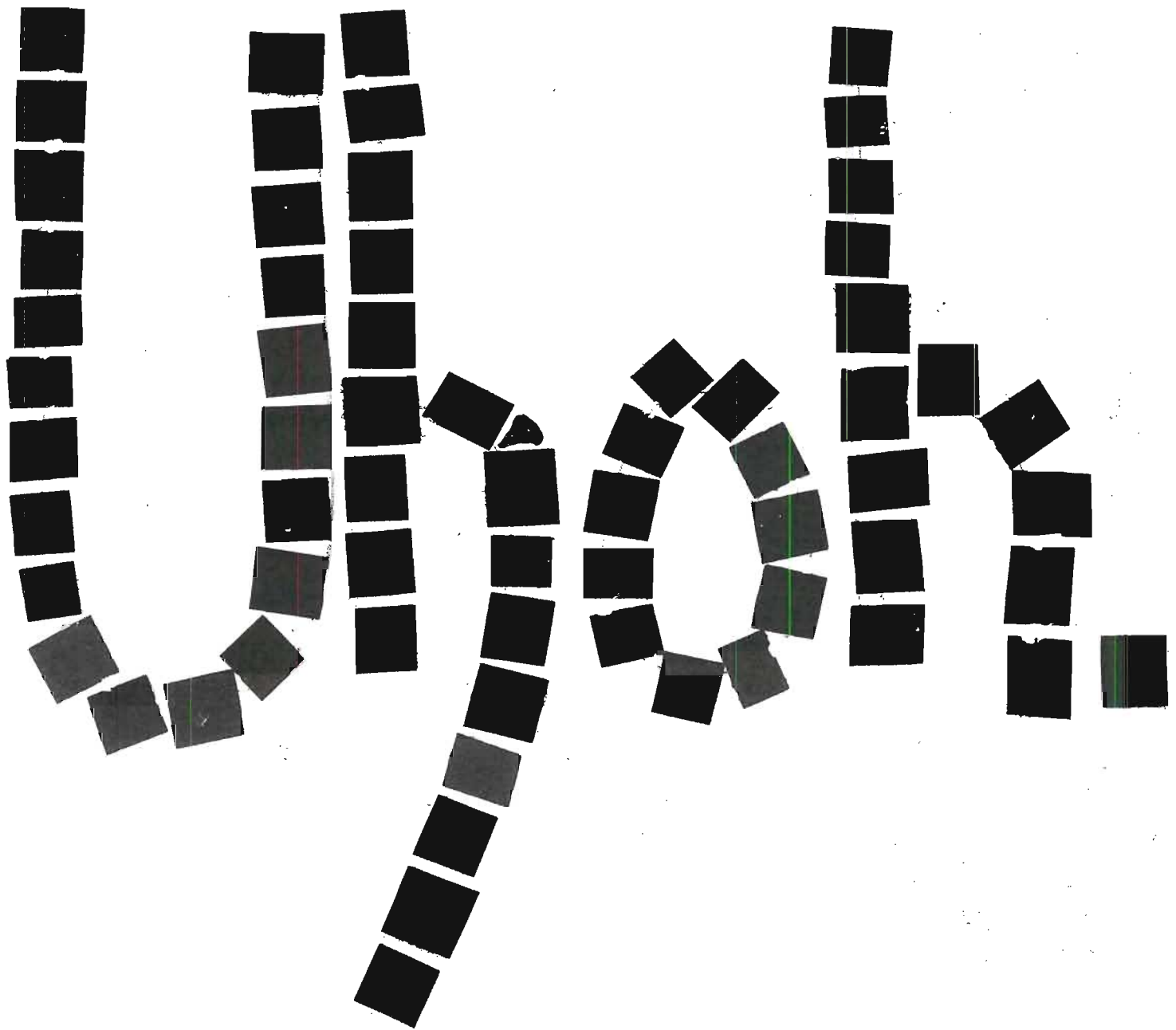
February



30 days has September,
April, June and November.
All the rest have 31
except February, it has 28.



February



Uh oh!

That's not true!

It's Leap Year now, that rhyme won't do.

I know, let's add a line...

except in Leap Year there's 29.

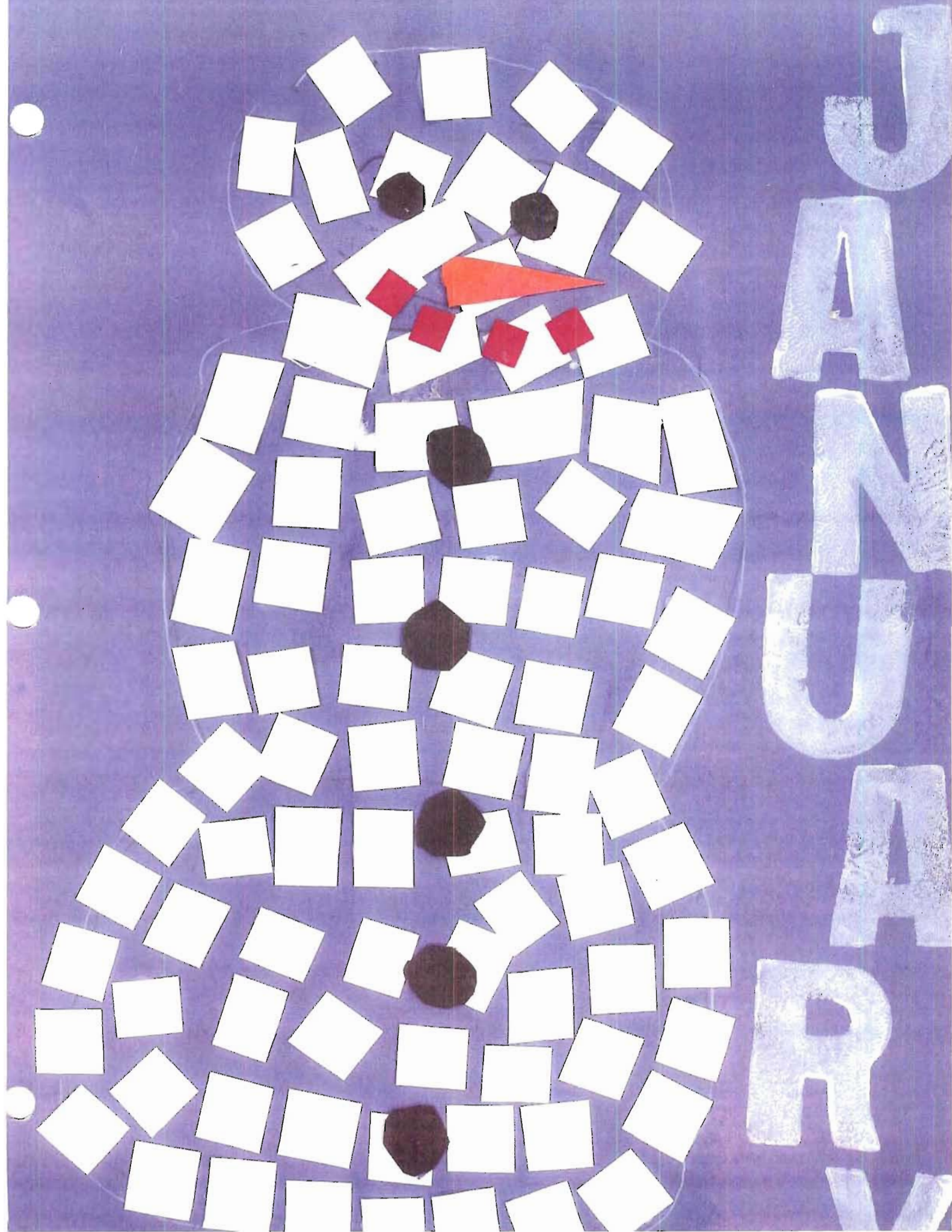
Every four years,

there's a year that leaps.

Knowing this, won't give you the creeps.



We will learn our months today
We will learn them in a special way.
As 2nd graders we like to rhyme,
it helps us remember everytime!



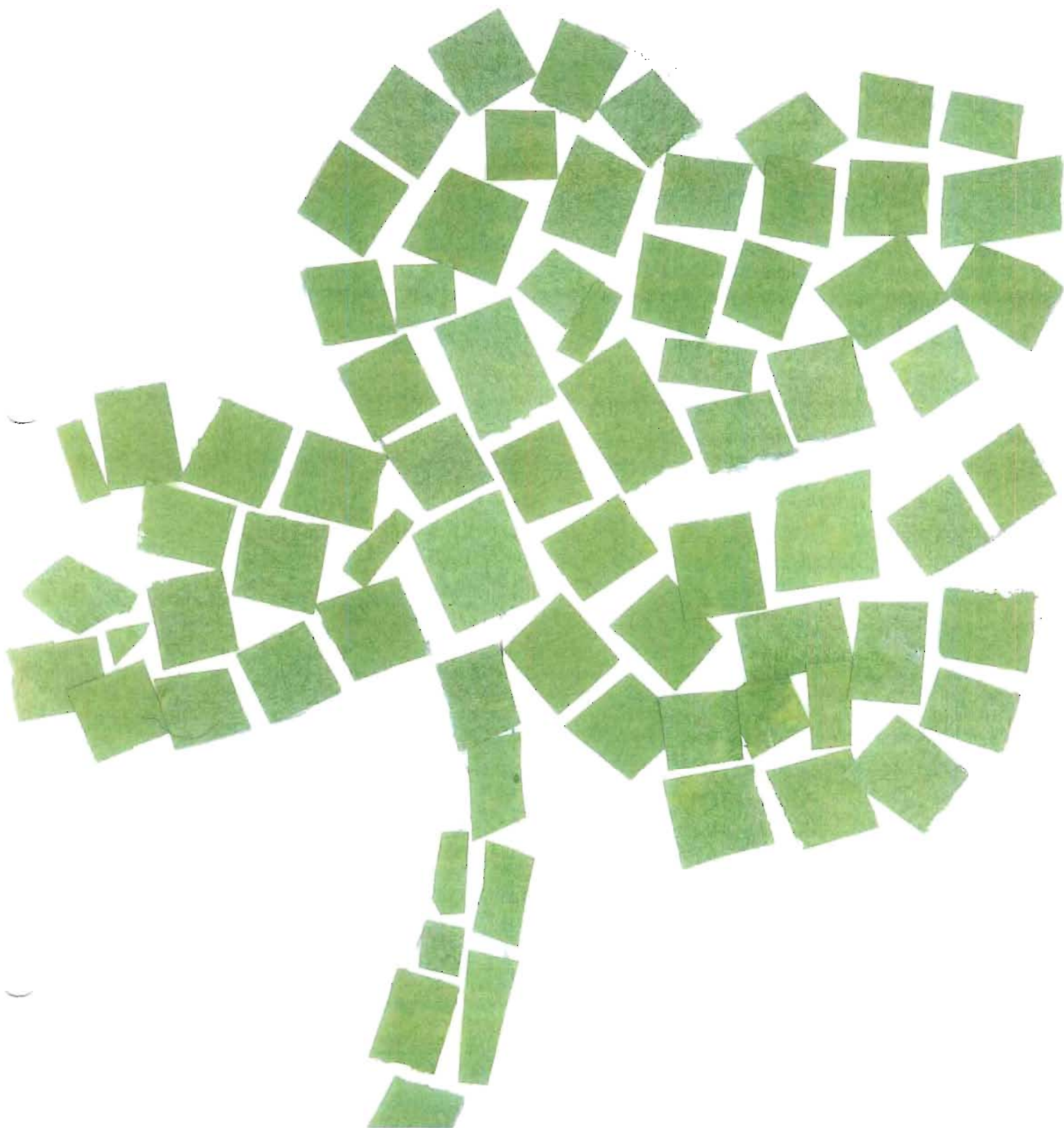
In January it's cold
and the wind blows, when it snows.
So let's go!
Let's play in the snow.
We roll some snow, and watch our
snowman grow!

FEBRUARY

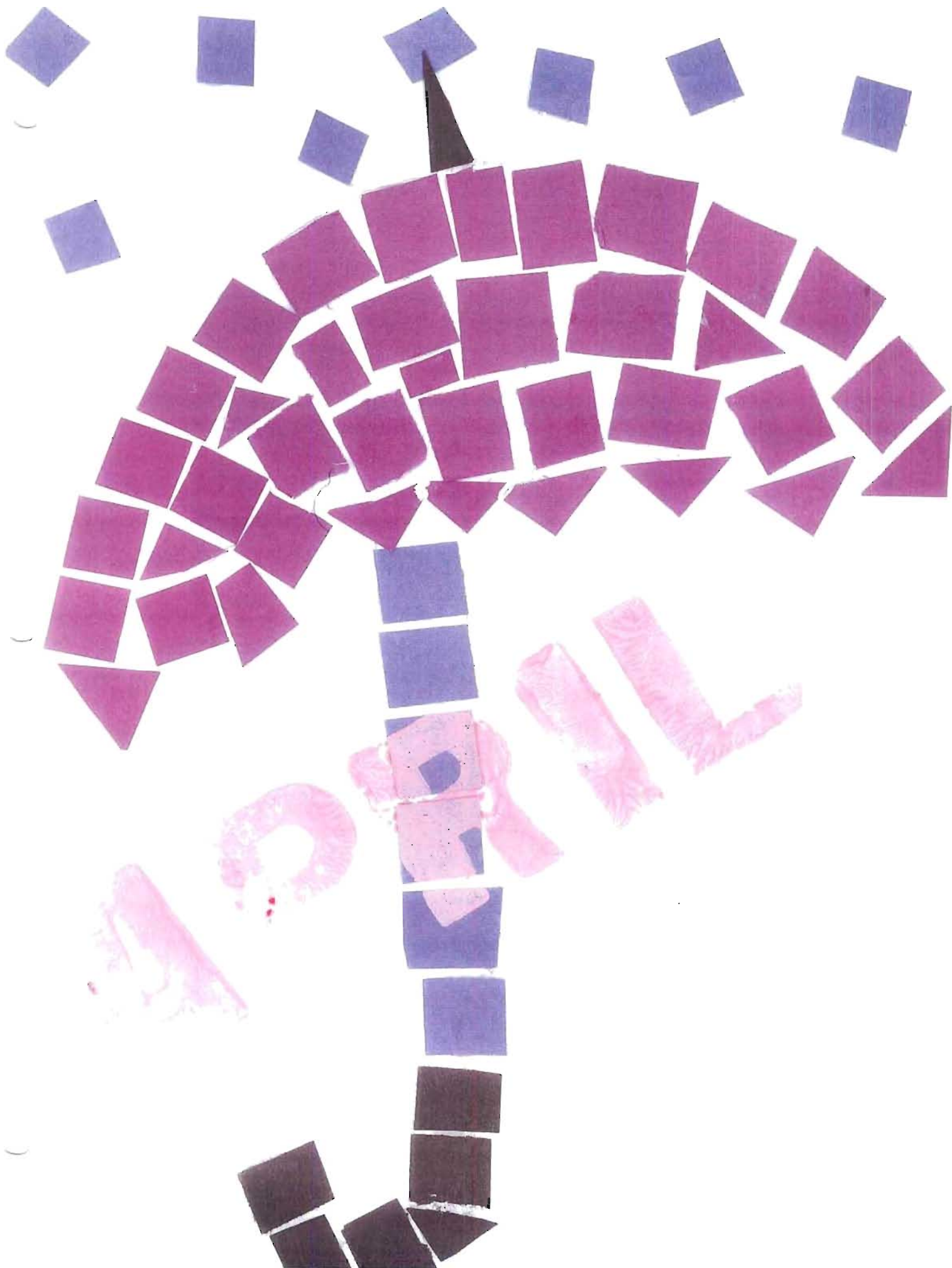
A large heart shape is formed by a dense arrangement of small, red, rectangular pieces, resembling a mosaic or a collage. The heart is centered on a white background. Overlaid on the heart is the word "FEBRUARY" in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The letters are slightly irregular and have a textured appearance, as if they are cut out of paper or cardboard. The word is positioned horizontally, with the "F" on the left and the "Y" on the right, spanning most of the width of the heart.

In February we make Valentines
as a way to say...
You're my friend, and you're OK!
We're wishing you a fantastic
Valentine's Day!

MARCH



March, is the first month of spring
a time when the birds start to sing.
It's also a time for flying kites.
They go up in the sky,
reaching great heights.



April showers bring May flowers,
but that's not all you see...
puddles, rainbows, baby animals,
and even a bumble bee.



Hey! It's May!

We want to play!

So rain, rain go away!

Let the sun shine bright today.

J

L

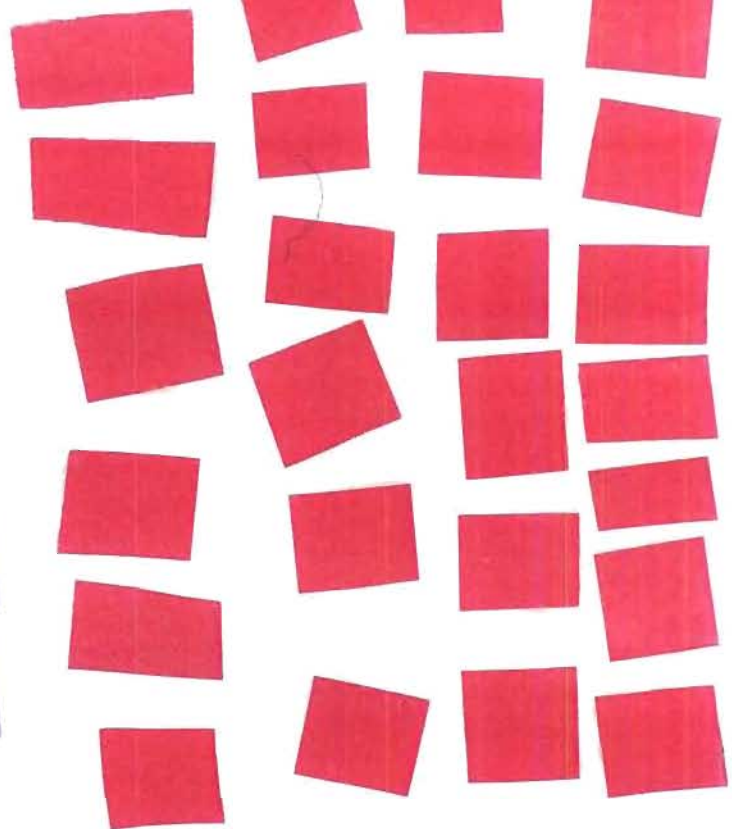
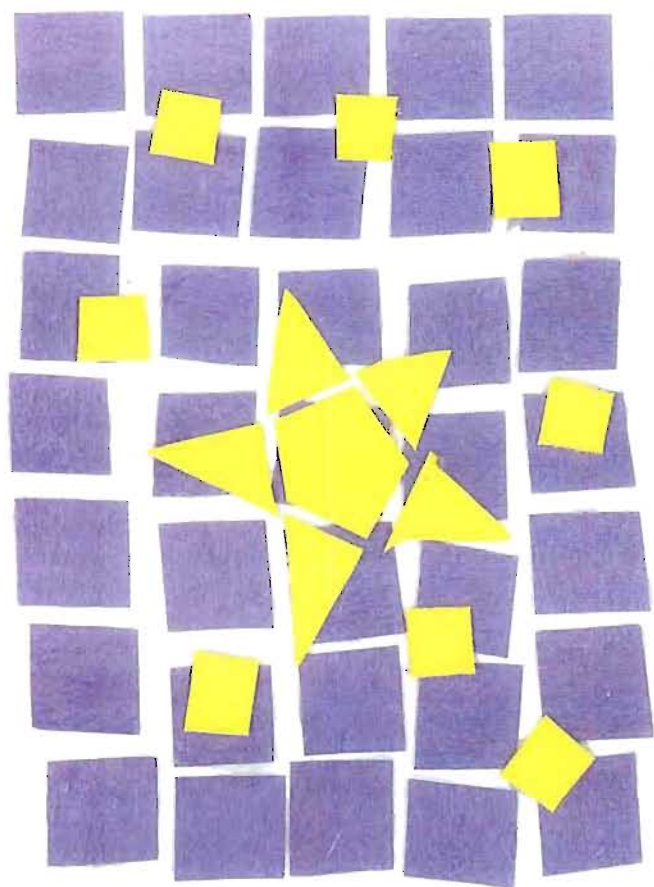
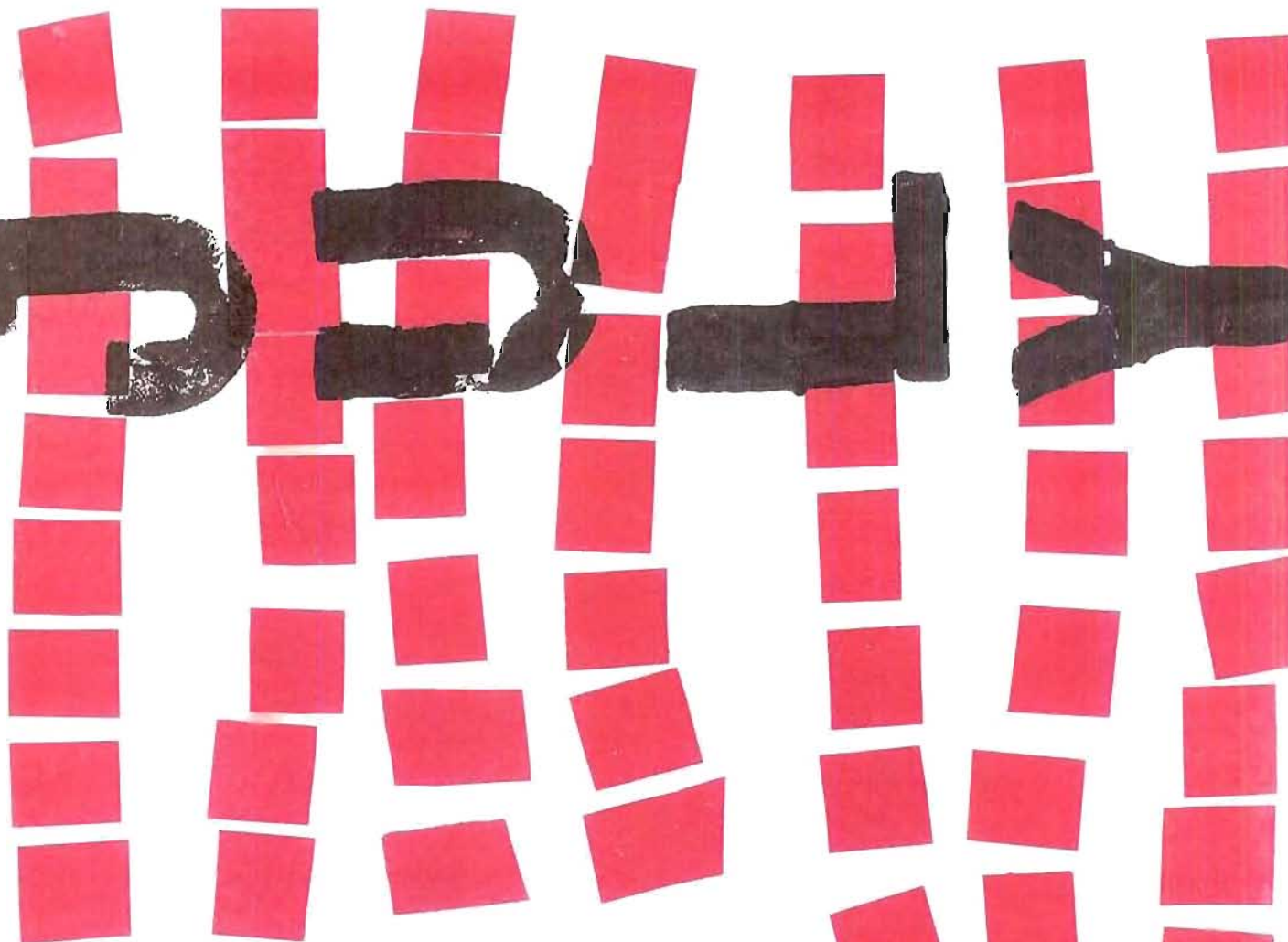
N

E

In June it's summer
but that's not a bummer,
for instead of school
we go to the pool.

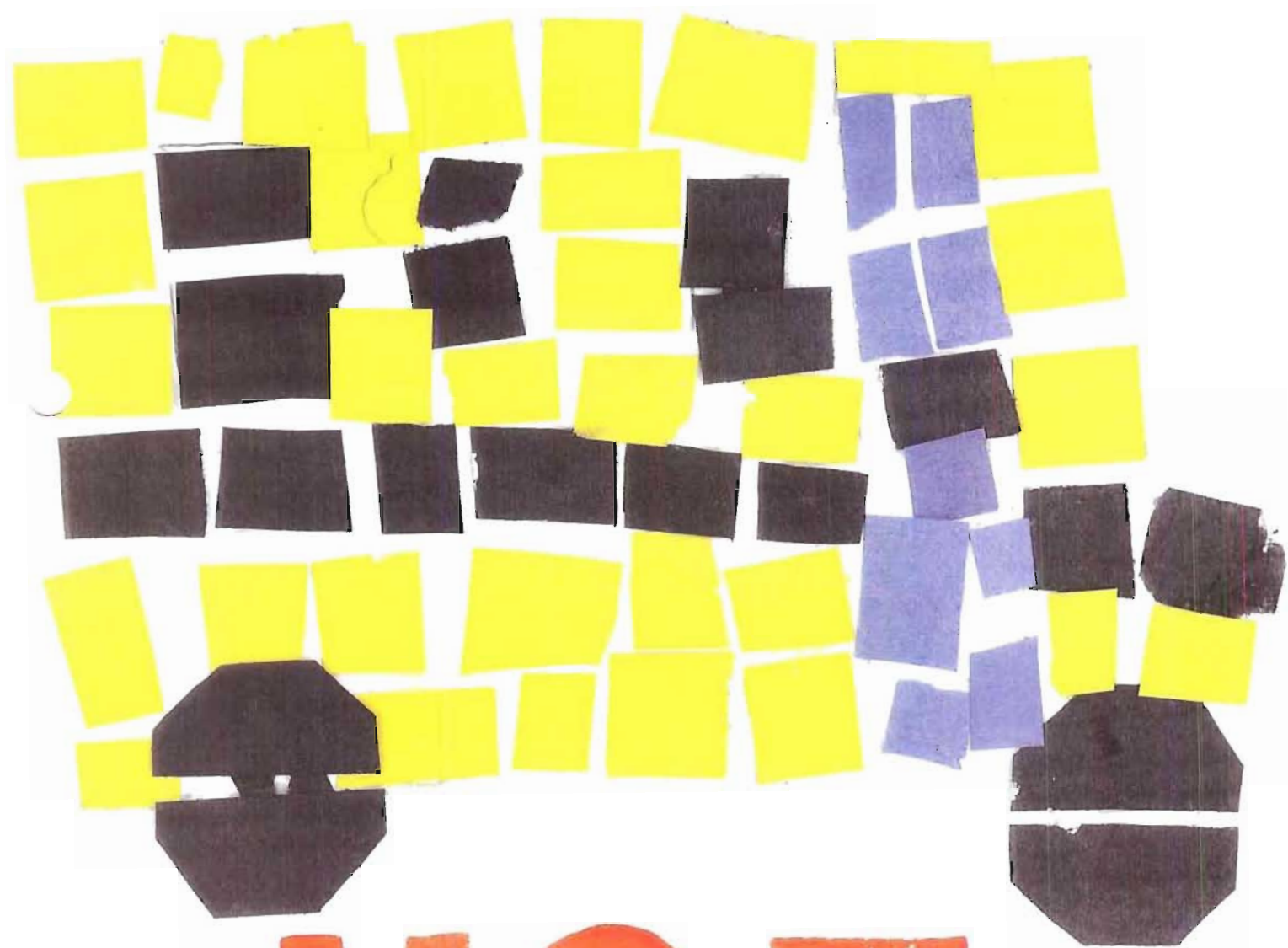
We have lots and lots of fun
in the shining summer sun!

DEAR



July we wave the red, white and blue.
It's vacation time for me and you.
There are many things that we can do,
like take a trip to the zoo!

AUG



UST

In August we start back to school,
we learn about the Golden Rule.
We also learn to read and write.
Sometimes there's homework
to do at night.

SEPTEMBER



B
E
A



In September,
the leaves change color and start to fall.
We think it's the prettiest month of all.
Red, orange, yellow, and green
are all the colors that can be seen.



O

CTOBER

October brings costumes,
pumpkins and trick-or-treaters too,
ghosts and goblins that might scare you!
Don't be frightened it's just pretend.
Halloween soon will come to an end.

N

O

V

E

M

B
E
R



In November the turkey is getting fat
at school we are studying Thanksgiving
and wearing a Pilgrim hat.

DEC

E

M

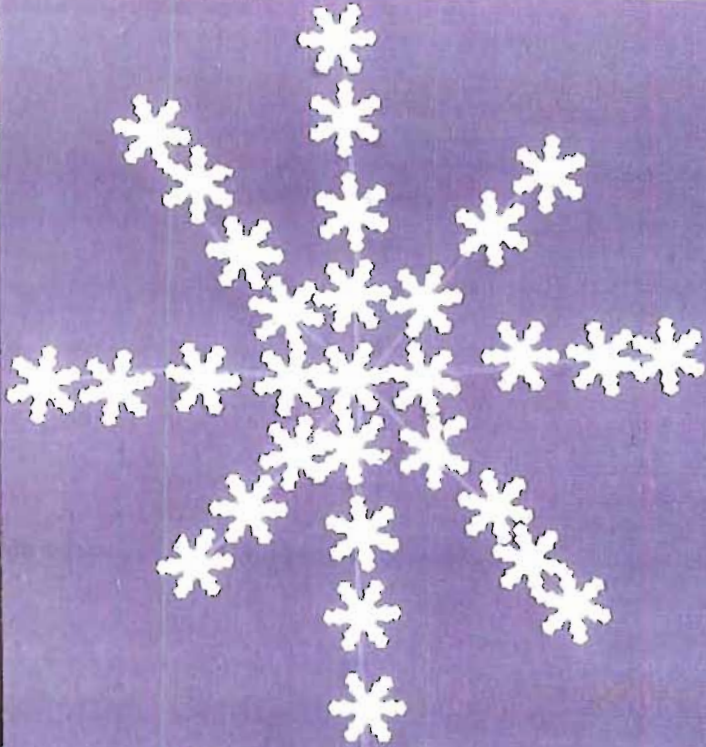
B

E

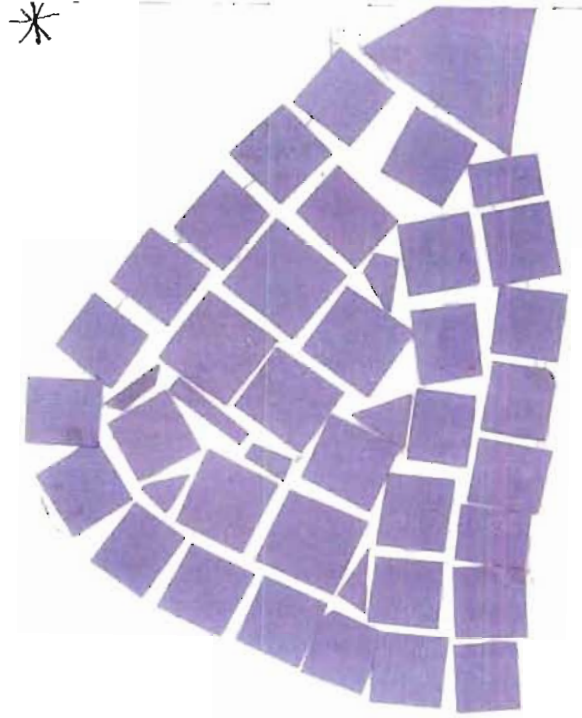
R



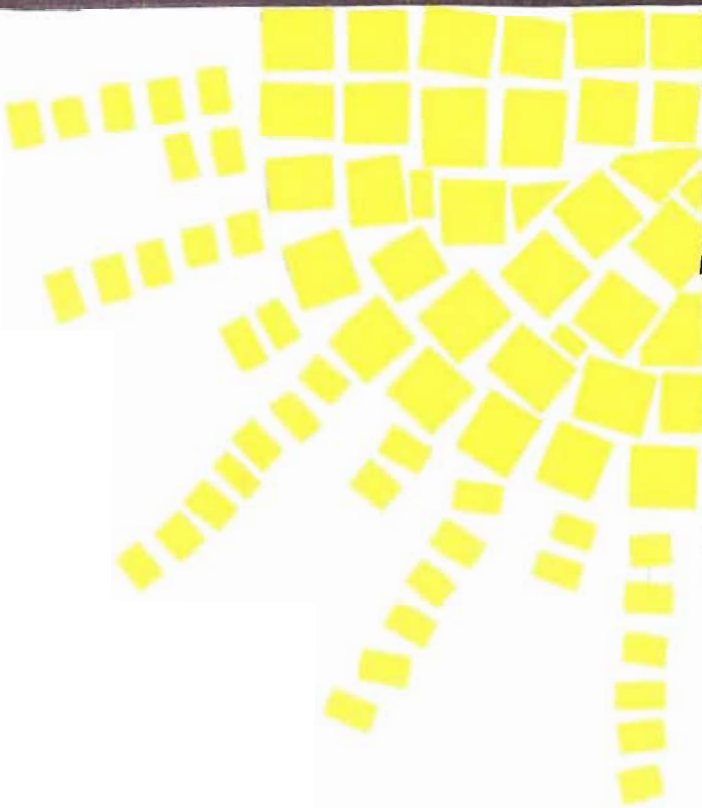
In December it's getting colder,
winter's finally here!
It's a very special,
sparkling time of year,
with shadows of Santa
pulling jingling reindeer!
It's also a time for trimming the tree,
making it as pretty as it can be.



WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL

Winter, spring, summer, fall,
these are the 4 seasons
we like them all.

We said them once.
You say them twice,
then you'll know them;
won't that be nice!



A MOSAIC MURAL



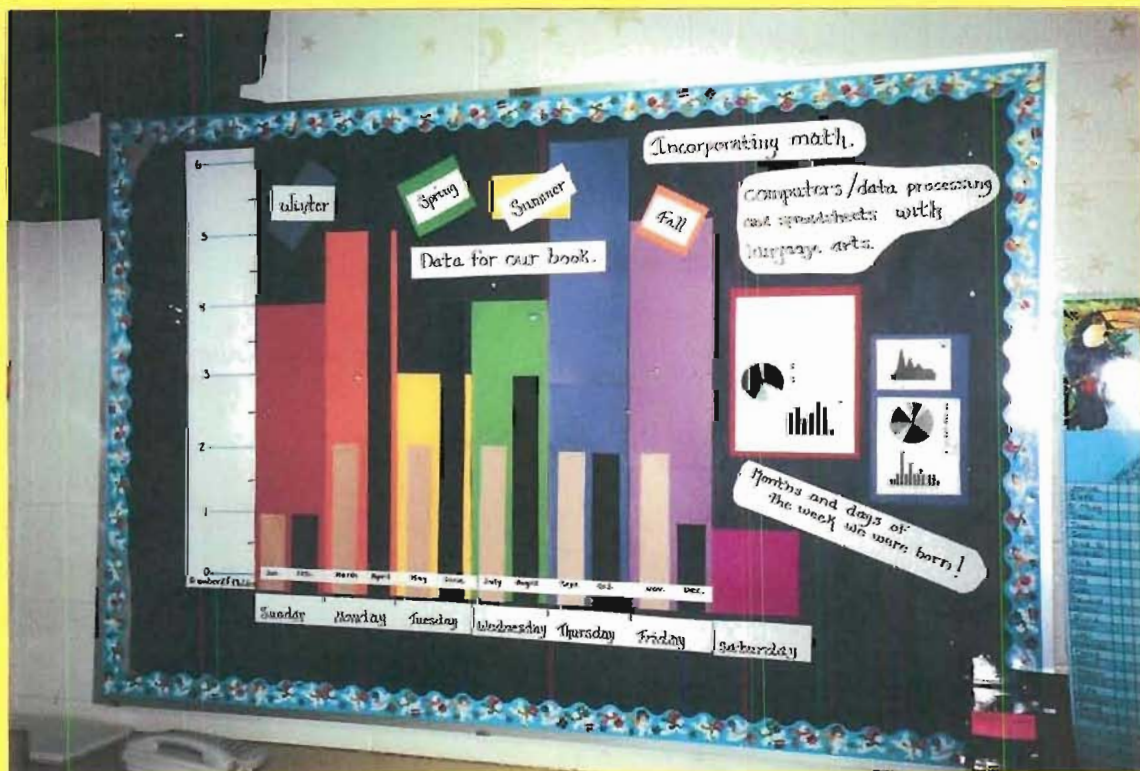
WAND THROUGH THE MONTHS

SEPTEMBER	Illustration of a basket of fruit
AUGUST	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
JULY	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
JUNE	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
MAY	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
APRIL	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
MARCH	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
FEBRUARY	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
JANUARY	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
DECEMBER	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
NOVEMBER	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree
OCTOBER	Illustration of a person sitting under a tree



We did a monthly mosaic for our art,
and a bulletin board
that looks like a chart.

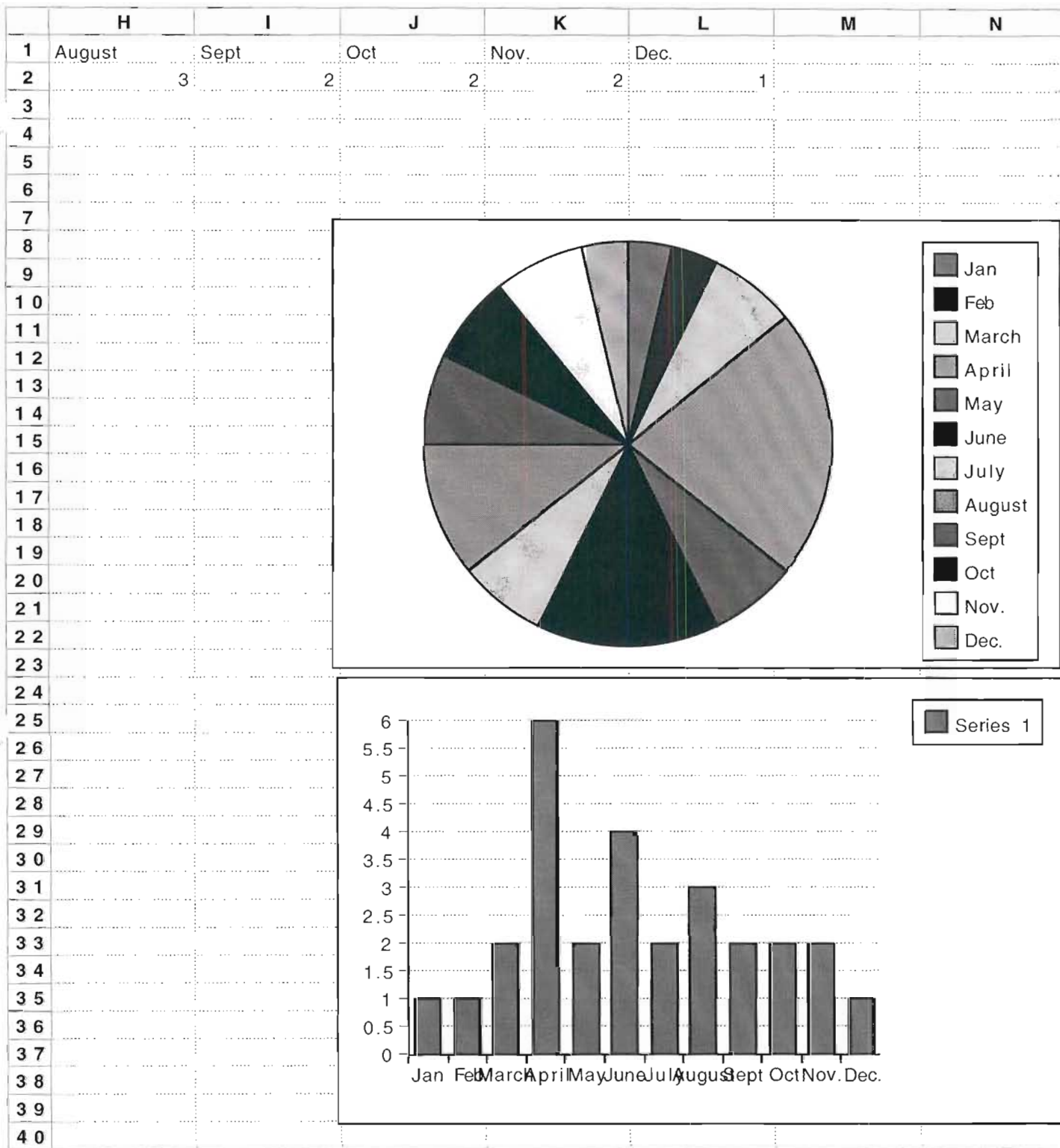
You can hang it on the wall
to show what you've learned,
to people in the hall.



We did some extra things for you,
other projects you can do!

We made graphs on the computer
from a spread sheet.

The results are awesome and really neat!



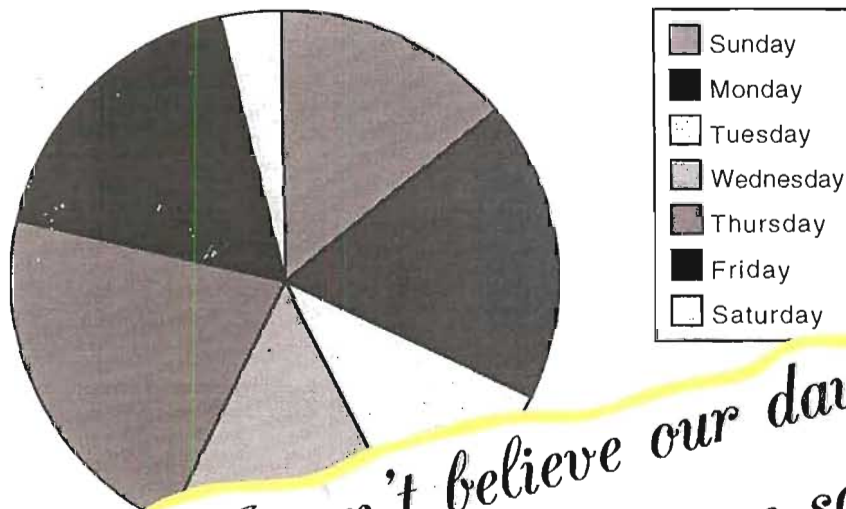
Hi Parents!

Thanks for the help with the days of the week and the month that your child was born in. We did our graphs in computer lab today. Please ask your child to explain the results!

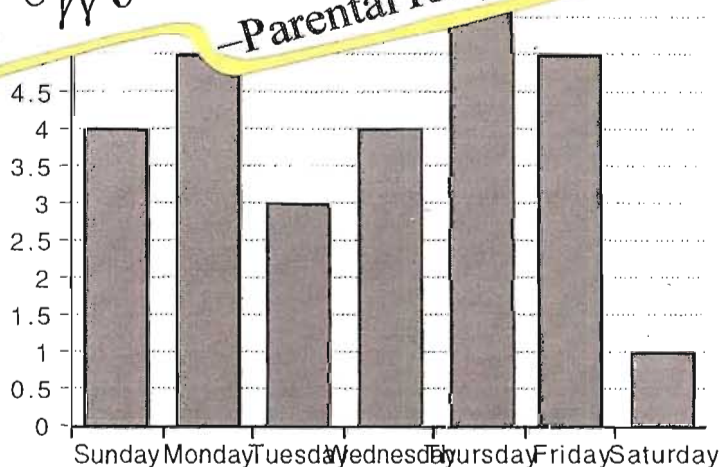
Thanks. Have a nice night.

Mr. W. and Mrs. F.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	3	4	6	5	1



"I can't believe our daughter is doing a spreadsheet! We are so pleased!"
-Parental Response was terrific!



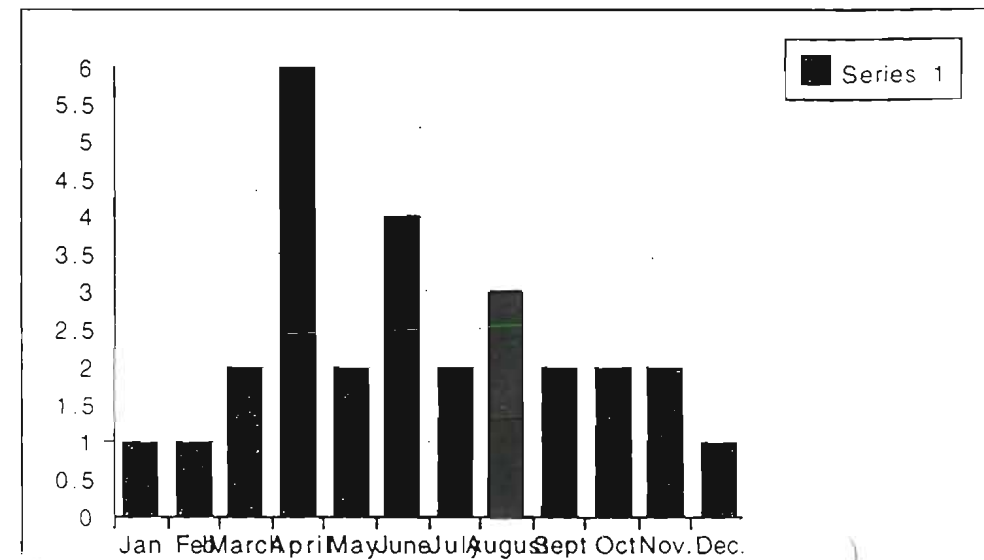
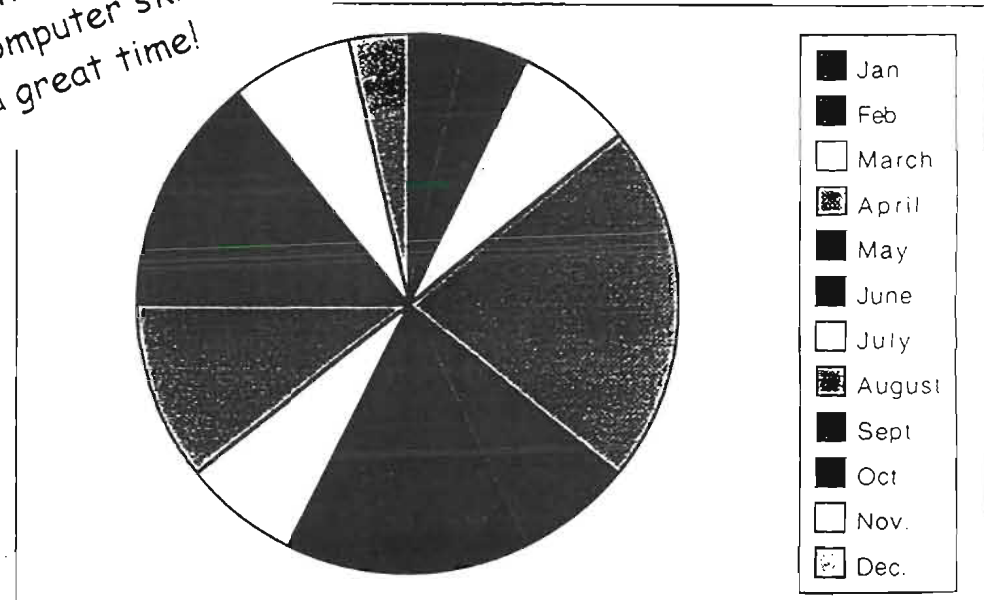
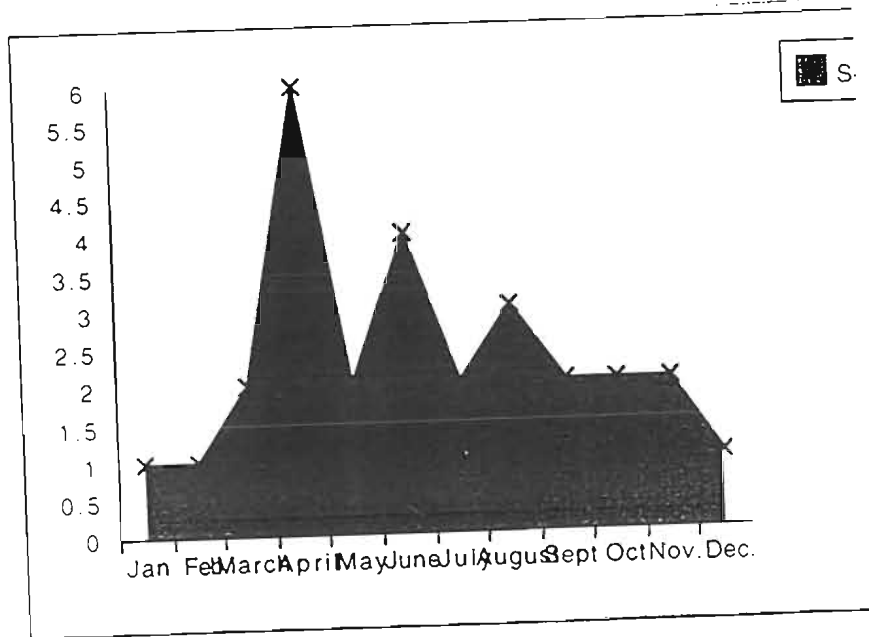


Hi!

Here's the rest of our data, as we continue with our book!

Last week in computer lab we entered information into a spreadsheet about the days of the week the children were born in. To reinforce this skill, today we entered data about the months we were born in. From the spreadsheet we then can click "options" and then "create graph". Here are our new ones! We even experimented with other types of graphs. This is a terrific way to integrate math and computer skills into our writing! The students did just super and we had a great time!

Mr. W and Mrs. F



A mini-lesson:

Time frame: 30-45 minutes.

Directions on how to make computer-generated graphs from a spread sheet.

1. Write the months of the year across the board.
2. Starting with January, by a show of hands write down the number of children who were born in each month.
3. Review the months of the year
4. Have a discussion about the data. i.e., what month had the most/least number of children born in it etc. ?
5. In the computer lab, under Claris Works click spread sheet. (We used an overhead so the children could easily follow along.)
6. Click on the 1st column, 1st square so that it becomes highlighted.
7. Type in the abbreviation for the month
8. Click enter. The second box should then be

highlighted.

9. Type in the number of children born in that month, and click enter.

10. Move the cursor to the 2nd column, first box and type in Feb. Then enter, and then the number of children born in Feb. and so on until you have filled in all of the months.

11. Drag the cursor across all of the data to highlight it.

12. Click on options, click on create graph, click on the graph of your choice. (We chose bar and pie.) Click OK Graph should appear on your spread sheet. Allow the children time to experiment with the other choices.

13. Print up one copy and then Xerox for later distribution to the children. They can then share this wonderful learning experience with their parents.

To reinforce these skills we also did the days of the week. A note was sent home asking the day of the week their child was born.

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Stephanie Jones
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Cody Kremers
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Olivia Nguyen
Tyler Piatt
Jesssica Prince
Amanda Race
Corey Rose
Christian Rossi
Megan Royer
Nick Schievink
Mike Squires
Brandon Tran
David Williams
Hayley Willyard

January

David

February

Jenny

March

Megan
Amanda

April

Trevor
Nick S.
Cody
Steph
Nick G.
Blake

May

Allie
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June

Brandon
Mike
Chris
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August

Josh

Hayley

Mr. W.

September

Precious
Alex

October

Rebecca
Jesi

November

Isaac
Tyler

December

Olivia