

# Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

## SUMMER INTERN UPDATES

Lee Kaufman has returned to be a garden intern over the summer. He missed his time away from our friends at Lemberg and was excited to get to play with kids in the garden again. He will be leading much of the garden education programming with the younger students, as Elyse and Sylvia work with the highschoolers in our upcoming Lemberg Environmental Action Force program.



*Lee and the Pathfinders*

## JUNE IN THE GARDEN

### Vegetable Planting and Harvesting

June has been another busy month! Corn, beans, lettuce, radishes, and marigolds have all been planted by the children.



*Planting corn seedlings*

Children learned how to plant seedlings as well as seeds, how to water them, and watched them closely as they grew. They helped weed around the plants and fertilized them with castings from our worm bin so that the vegetables could grow even more!



*Checking the worm bin for castings to make our fertilizer*

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*Fertilizing the Three Sisters' Garden*

To make room for all the new planting, we harvested plenty of things: cilantro and dill, lettuce, arugula, and kale, as well as peas and borage flowers!



*Enjoying freshly harvested lettuce*

## Planting Marigolds

Our Pathfinders had their graduation ceremony mid-June, as most of them will be moving on to elementary school this coming fall. It will be hard to say goodbye but we're so excited for them!



*Pathfinders transplanting marigolds*

As part of their graduation party the Pathfinders asked to plant flowers. So, we got marigolds that they could plant in the beds around our garden bench. Just as our marigolds will bloom this summer, so will the Pathfinders as they move onto the next adventure in their life!

## Scavenger Hunt

This month the kids explored the garden with a scavenger hunt! In groups, they scoured the garden, searching for items on their list. They had to find things like "leaves that are bigger than my hand," "something that tastes good,"



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and many other things. As they hunted, garden interns and teachers helped give clues to figure out where some harder items might be found.



*"We found something that smells good!"*

## Bug Hunt

Following our scavenger hunt theme, we also hunted around the garden in search of bugs. Sometimes bugs can be scary but our friends persevered! We read a book about bugs in the garden, got equipped with bug identification sheets, and we were off to the races!



*Finding bugs under logs*

At first it was hard to figure out where to find bugs, because they're so good at hiding, but we quickly figured out that they like dark, moist places. We searched under logs and rocks and found plenty of critters: ants, earwigs, and different kinds of larvae. We also learned how to identify insects vs. other types of bugs, such as arachnids and crustaceans (pill bugs).

## GARDEN UPDATES

Now that our U-shaped raised bed is planted we started accessorizing it. The Pathfinders added marigolds to the beds and the garden interns installed an arch for the kiwi vines to grow across. Pretty soon we'll have a shaded bench for kids and teachers to sit on with a great view of the garden.



*Our kiwi arches installed in the new raised bed*

We also have built a new herb bed in the garden and have begun to fill it so that the children can have a variety of herbs to smell, taste, and touch while they are in the garden.

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*The new herb bed*

## LEAF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This summer, we are starting a new Youth Development Program, the Lemberg Environmental Action Force (LEAF). Our 9 high school interns have been selected by Waltham Partnership for Youth, and will be working on environmental stewardship projects in July and August, with guidance from Janet, Sylvia, and Elyse. The LEAF interns will help maintain the gardens at Lemberg and the Stanley Elementary School, install native pollinator gardens on the Brandeis campus, remove invasive species along the Charles River Watershed and create original artwork on our raised beds. We are so excited to welcome them this summer! A huge thanks to the FS Foundation, who funded this vital youth training opportunity for budding environmentalists.

## STANLEY SCHOOL UPDATES

During the last few weeks of the school year, several classes worked in the Stanley Elementary learning garden, helping us to fill the new raised bed with compost, then planting tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans, sunflowers, and more!



*Stanley Elementary's newest raised bed*

On Friday, June 25th, Stanley Elementary School had its first Family Garden Day. The learning garden was opened up and students explored the new garden with their parents!

The students got to explore the garden with the help of a scavenger hunt. They chose from two different sets of clues and searched the garden for the items on their list, checking them off or drawing pictures.

After completing the scavenger hunt, kids harvested food from the garden. Each student



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tried the black raspberries and went home with a bag of mint and lemon balm.

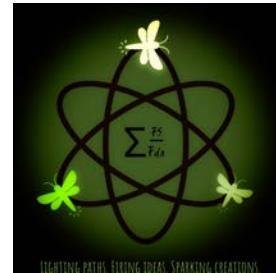


*Teacher Betsy Singer demonstrates weeding*

Lastly, families got the chance to volunteer in the garden. Parents and students were a great help clearing away weeds and cutting down invasive plants that had grown abundant. We've only had one family day but the garden is already looking so much clearer!

Thank you to all the families for your hard work and we hope to see you again!

**Thank you to our 2021 donors!**



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