

Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Harvesting

With the beginning of the school year and settling into new routines, it has been great to get back into the garden and explore. We read books about how seeds grow into the plants that we eat. Remembering how we planted seeds earlier in the spring and summer, we then went around the garden looking to see how those seeds had flourished. Even as the weather gradually starts to cool, there are plenty of flowers in bloom, and the children are taking full advantage of the harvesting season.



Pathfinder friends showing off their harvest



Navigators digging for potatoes

Our garden has been full to the brim with ripe fruits and vegetables. The children have become so familiar with the garden that they know exactly where to go for their favorite foods such as carrots, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, and even pumpkins.



Voyagers giggling over green onions

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We have been excited to see how each of the crops turned out, whether they are purple carrots, twisted roots on potato plants, or long leafy greens that feel ticklish on our hands!



Opening milkweed pods

We have also had the opportunity to harvest some seed pods. The milkweed plants in the wildflower garden have reached the time of year where they produce pods full of seeds and feathery floss that helps the seeds float in the wind. Taking a peek inside was a great activity, even on rainy days when our lessons were indoors.

Toddlers in the Garden

We have had a great time bringing some of the toddler classrooms up to the garden: the Hummingbirds, Explorers, and Adventurers have all done an incredible job at exploring each corner of the garden, finding plenty of snacks along the way. The garden has provided us with opportunities to explore the different tastes, smells, and textures of herbs and vegetables.



Our table was always used to make a full spread.

We spent a lot of time walking around to discover which plants could be picked. After harvesting, we would bring the veggies back to the table to observe them more closely, and have a taste of what we found.

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Gem corn and mini pumpkins got us in the autumnal spirit.

Especially when the corn and pumpkins were ripe, we brought these veggies into our classrooms to play with and decorate. They offered a perfect opportunity to discuss seasons changing as we look towards autumn. However, we were still able to hold on to the last pieces of summer by harvesting delicious watermelons!



Looking at the beautiful patterns inside the watermelons we grew

Family Garden Workday

It was amazing to have families back in the garden to participate in a Gardening Workday. Volunteers helped to weed out and tidy up our Three Sisters Garden of corn, beans, and squash. They also helped to haul many wheelbarrows of weeds and compost to make space for new planting. Now that we have access to this compost, we can use this rich material to plant more greens for the cold season. Volunteers also helped us make space for new plantings in our raised beds by harvesting our enormous leeks and green onions.

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It's a very large leek!

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers for your invaluable help in maintaining this space! If you would like to participate in the next Workday, it will be on October 16th! Feel free to contact Sylvia (skohnlevitt@brandeis.edu), the Environmental Education Associate Director, if you have any questions.



Two Lemberg parents filling our compost bins

STANLEY SCHOOL UPDATES

With school back in session, and an abundance of vegetables filling the garden, Mrs. Cox has brought several classes out to the garden where the students found out what happened to the small plants they planted in the spring. After discovering a few surprises (including some enormous loofahs!), the children helped us with the harvest.



These radishes went from tiny seeds to ready to harvest in just 30 days!



That's not an enormous cucumber... it's a loofah!

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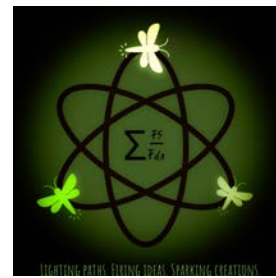
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The children were excited to collect tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, radishes, lettuce, and more, much of which they took home to share with their families. We've also had enough to share with teachers, staff, and some of our produce has been incorporated into lunches in the school cafeteria!



Miss Lisa shows off some of our harvest before turning it into lunch

Thank you to our 2021 donors!



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