

Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

INTRODUCING OUR GARDEN INTERNS

Micah Heilbron, a junior at Brandeis, is very excited to begin working as an Environmental Education Intern. Micah is majoring in Education Studies and Near Eastern & Judaic Studies, and loves yoga and anything outdoors. She has been working at Lemberg for a year now, both upstairs with the Navigators and downstairs with the Explorers. After a summer of working on a flower farm as well as being a camp counselor for a kibbutz program (an Israeli farming commune), she is ready to get kids in the soil and learn with them about mother earth!



Micah this past summer on the farm with her favorite flower: Foxgloves.

Sarah Eckstein Indik, a junior at Brandeis, is overjoyed to be returning to Lemberg for another season in the garden. She is an Environmental Studies and Studio Art major; she loves working outdoors and spending time with children, having farmed with a local produce initiative, served as an invasive species manager, worked as a camp counselor, and gardened for neighbors. Sarah is thrilled to spend time outside with the kids and foster a deep, loving connection to nature. She looks forward to sharing lessons with the classrooms.



Freshly harvested gem corn cobs make Sarah beam.

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SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN



Summer's abundance has trickled over into September, and the garden is flourishing with color and produce.

Making Fresh Pesto

Our Navigator, Pathfinder, and Voyager friends started their school year off with a tasty first lesson in the garden - identifying fruits and vegetables and making yummy pesto as a dip!



Listening to the story

Before venturing out into the garden's bounty, our classrooms gathered around and listened to *A Fruit is Suitcase for Seeds*, a story about how fruits (and fruits we call vegetables) hold the seeds of a plant. We discussed what plants need to grow and how the seeds come in different sizes and shapes.



A fruit is really a suitcase for seeds!

Once outside, we carefully harvested basil from the numerous plants in the garden, noting how it smells, feels, and looks. We talked about how the basil plant has small white flowers that turn into seeds.

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"Here!"

We took turns adding ingredients into the food processor. Basil with oil and salt makes a delicious little green dip! With patience, everyone had the opportunity to push the blend button. Before we knew it, the pesto was ready to enjoy!



Taking turns to sprinkle salt

But, first, we had to locate some ripe vegetables for our chips.

Looking for fruits that had seeds inside, we harvested many green peppers and beautiful zucchini. Delicious!



Yum!

Bug Hotels

This month, we also learned about habitats! After reading *Welcome Home, Bear*, a story exploring many different habitats - from deserts to tundras to rainforests, we brainstormed what creatures use the garden space as their home.



The bear doesn't like the cold; his home is the forest!

After mentioning bunnies and birds, we realized that many different insects call Lemberg Firefly

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Garden their home. Looking around the garden, we found many bugs hidden in plain sight - sitting on a plant, crawling in the dirt, or flying through the air.



A bug cozying up to a pepper

We discussed what bugs need to feel comfortable, and together we created bug hotels in the Fairy garden. Gathering sticks, leaves, and rocks, we filled toilet paper rolls to make proper hotel rooms.



"What are you putting inside?"

Our Navigator, Pathfinder, and Voyager friends created many cozy rooms for bugs to settle

down, helping to foster habitats for beneficial insects in our garden space.



Our finished row of bug hotels.

Toddlers In The Garden

It is always wonderful to see how children of all ages engage with the garden. Tasting herbs like lemon balm and mint is always one of the first things we do to show friends how fun and yummy the space can be.



It can be hard to chew when you're busy smiling!

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Trying herbs together

We have also tasted lots of fruit together. The watermelons growing in the garden were so exciting that we had to open them up! The picked melon had not yet turned red, but even a green watermelon was a tasty and refreshing treat. We all thought it tasted a bit like a cucumber.



Tasting our watermelon



Enjoying a mouse melon

Family Garden Days

At the beginning of September, we had a great time working together with families to harvest from our garden, feeding both ourselves and our wiggly worm friends! These worms are hard at work making our food and garden scraps into gardeners' gold, worm castings!



Some food for our worms...

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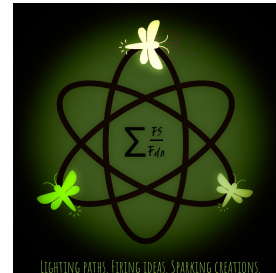
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Thank you to our 2022 donors!



And some food for us!

We are so grateful for the extra hands, and for having a chance to enjoy a morning in the garden together. **Our next garden day will be on October 8th from 9:30 to 11:30 am.** Please reach out to Sylvia if you have any questions at skohnlevitt@lebergcc.org



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