

Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

JUNE IN THE GARDEN

June has arrived and we are ready for warmer weather! Most plants have begun their yearly growth in the garden as outdoor activities become more frequent. This month will see the transition into the summer schedule, with some new students filtering in and out. We are so excited to continue expanding the garden and exploring new lessons!

LEARNING THIS MONTH

How to Plant a Seed!

During the first lesson of the new month, we dove into the wonders of planting seeds! To begin, we read "I'm a Seed" by Jean Marzollow and learned about the distinctions between different types of seeds. The book allowed the children to observe differences between seeds and the plants they grew while making predictions on what the plants will be! We talked about the three things that seeds need to grow; water, soil, and sunlight!



Danny reads "I'm a Seed" to the Navigators

We then were able to decorate pots with markers and crayons. When we were happy with how our pots looked, we ran over to Mulch Mountain where Alicia helped us shovel dirt into our pots. Maddie then helped to sprinkle chia seeds on top of our soil and Danny gently watered them. We let the plants sit in the greenhouse and grow for a while... and then the kids were overjoyed to take their plants home at the end of June!

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Photosynthesis Jeopardy

Given our past lessons about pollination and planting seeds, we thought it would be a wonderful transition to learn about how plants actually grow. In the second lesson of the month, Danny, Maddie, and Alicia gave the children an age-appropriate summary of photosynthesis, the process in which tiny factories within the plants, known as chloroplasts, combine sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water in order to create food for the plant!



Danny and Maddie show a diagram of photosynthesis.

Water Cycle Cloud Adventure

For this lesson, we got to learn all about the water cycle! We read *Do Fish Drink?* by (uhh who), and used different motions to show the different stages of the water cycle. For evaporation, we wiggled our fingers up toward the sky. For the condensing of clouds, we wrapped our arms over our heads in the shape of a circle. To show precipitation we wiggled our fingers all the way up from the sky to the ground.



Kids constructing their clouds!

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The kids loved showing off their clouds!

After we became familiar with evaporation, condensation, and precipitation, we got to make our very own clouds! We painted glue onto blue and white paper cups and stuck cotton balls on the edge of the cups. That way, it looks like the clouds are raining, just like in the water cycle! We were so excited to water the plants around the garden with our clouds!

During this lesson, kids also got to bring home their chia plants that had spent the past two weeks growing!



Toddler Activities

Chia Planting

Similar to the preschool classes, the Hummingbird class also partook in planting seeds! Cassidy worked with them in the classroom to set up their pots to allow for their chia seeds to grow. They all had so much fun and can't wait for their plants to be ready to take home!!



Hummingbirds filling their pots with soil!

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The Toddler Garden



Toddlers helping plant in the new herb bed!

We reconstructed an area of the toddler playground to create an herb bed. Toddlers can touch, pick, and taste the herbs as well as dig in the open space in the middle. The Hummingbirds and Explorers helped Cassidy plant the herbs. We can't wait to see how much the herbs grow and soon, the toddlers will be able to harvest them!

FAREWELL SYLVIA, CHEERS TO CASSADY!!

As June passes, we wish Sylvia a bittersweet farewell but we're excited to see where her new job takes her! Sylvia has worked at Lemberg for two years and is taking her knowledge of gardening over to a nature preschool in Framingham. In her two years at Lemberg, she has not only overseen the garden lessons, thus working to educate the preschoolers about the environment but has also worked in the Explorer room.

Although we are so sad to say goodbye to Sylvia, we are beyond excited to have the wonderful Cassidy take on her new leadership role in the garden. Cassidy currently works in the Hummingbird classroom, helping raise toddlers who will soon be old enough to experience the very garden lessons she will be overseeing!

MEET ALICIA!

We are so excited to welcome Alicia Myung to the garden team! She will be volunteering to help in the garden this summer!

My name is Alicia Myung and I'm a rising senior at Brandeis University studying environmental studies and sociology. I'm super excited to be joining Lemberg's environmental education team for the summer of 2023! Through environmental education, I aim to foster connections between childhood development and environmental consciousness. In past environmental education positions, I have organized lessons aiming to highlight the importance of environmental justice and a

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sense of belonging within nature. Fun fact, I already work at Lemberg as a TA in the Hummingbird room. Feel free to reach out anytime through my email: aliciamyung@brandeis.edu.

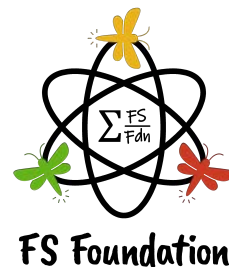


Mrs. Cox brought her power drill!

Stanley Elementary Update

Over at the Stanley Elementary learning garden, we wrapped up the school year with 3 after-school family garden days. Children and parents worked together to weed the garden beds, plant more veggies such as tomatoes and squash, and assemble two raised beds from materials that were donated by the Waltham Black Future fund.

Thank you to our many wonderful alumni donors and friends!



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Extra Photos!

