

# Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



## OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

Fall is here, bringing some chilly days and some warm days to the garden. The lingering warmth from summer has let our tomatoes continue growing, and everyone loves snacking on them! It's exciting to see new colors in the garden, as leaves start to change and fall to the ground. The plants are slowly ramping down for winter, but there will be new things to discover.

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

My name is Madeleine Reck (Maddie) and I am so excited to be joining the garden team again! I worked as a garden intern during the summer of 2023 and have stayed at Lemberg as a TA since then. I am a senior at Brandeis University with a double major in



Environmental Studies and Education Studies, and a minor in Climate Justice, Science, and Policy. I grew up in the Boston area and spent a lot of time exploring the wildlife of Cape Cod, which led me to become a huge marine biology and gardening nerd. I have worked as a counselor at the Mass Audubon Natural History Day Camp in Chatham and have been parts of various environmental education programs at Brandeis. My goal this year is to connect Lemberg students with the biodiversity that they see in their daily lives and guide them to think about ways that we can better take care of our Earth! If you'd like to get in touch with me, my email address is [madeleinereck@brandeis.edu](mailto:madeleinereck@brandeis.edu).



My name is Ayla Shimoni and I am a first year at Brandeis University- I'm so excited to join the environmental team at Lemberg!! I am majoring in Environmental and Education Studies, and love to spend as much time as I can outdoors when I'm not studying. I started loving environmental education

after working at Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Nature Camp this summer, where I realized I could combine my two favorite things (nature and kids / teaching!) and I also work at Drumlin Farm on Saturdays. I'm also in the Brandeis Mountain Club, so I've been really expanding my outdoor interests and knowledge between that and classes. I hope to make that knowledge fun and accessible for the little ones, and get to explore and learn with them!

## LEARNING THIS MONTH

### Signs of Fall

Early in October, the season started to change, bringing new sights, smells, and sounds to the garden. Outside, we read *Fall* by Patricia Whitehouse, which introduced different sensory



experiences fall brings. We saw the green leaves changing to yellow, orange, and red. We heard the breeze whispering through the trees in the garden. We felt the

fallen leaves crunching under our feet and in

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our hands. We smelled the dampness of the soil. We tasted the ripening tomatoes.

## Planting Radish Seeds

As some plants start to pass at the end of summer, space opens up in our garden beds. The growing season isn't over quite yet, but we needed seeds that would grow quick enough: Radishes. We're looking forward to harvesting them in early November!

## Exploring Trees and Leaves

Trees are super important to our planet, and a part of our garden. As the weather gets colder, we noticed something different about our trees: their leaves are changing colors! To explore this, we read *I Am a Leaf* by Jean Marzollo, and learned about the important job leaves have - to make food for trees. We also learned about *chlorophyll*- the chemical that makes leaves green. When the leaves stop making food for trees in the fall, the chlorophyll goes away, and the leaves change color. We looked at different



leaf shapes from different kinds of trees in our garden- The big, hand shaped maple leaves, the round, spiky birch leaves, and the long, skinny leaves from our honey locust tree. We made leaf prints from the different kinds of leaves, and everyone's craft turned out super colorful and unique, just like the leaves!

## Log Hotels



In the last week of October, we visited the Log Hotel- the logs

in our fairy garden are home to lots of different critters. We read *Log Hotel* by Anne Schreiber, which follows a log through the process of *decaying*, and all the plants and animals that it becomes home to. We looked at the decaying logs in the fairy garden, and saw the holes and tunnels made by decomposers. We felt how soft and crumbly some of the wood was. Then, we looked for different critters living in, on, and under the logs- we found centipedes, ants, slugs, some roly-polys, and a baby snail!



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## October's Harvest

Although this is our last month of harvesting for the season, we were still able to grow plenty of yummy treats. We picked many tomatoes, peppers, peas and eggplants, as well as some garlic chives, kale, basil, mint, and thyme. We also had lots of helpers watering the plants and caring for them through the fall.



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## Family Garden Day

Thank you to our lovely volunteers for making the time to get the garden ready for the winter! We are so appreciative for your continued support for the Environmental Education Program at Lemberg. With your help, we were able to finish harvesting our peas, tomatoes, mint, lemon balm, and basil! We also got the garden beds ready for winter by removing and composting plants that wouldn't grow through the winter, and trimmed the grapevines growing along the fence.



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**Thank you to our many wonderful alumni  
donors and friends!**



All the best!

*The Lemberg Environmental Team*