

Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

The warm summer weather continued into September, and our tomatoes, peppers, and herbs are flourishing. We look forward to seeing our pumpkins and beans grow into the fall season!

FALL 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TEAM

Cassie Mastronarde is happy to be back with the Lemberg Environmental Education team this Fall! She's a Brandeis senior studying Environmental Studies and Education Studies, and she's so excited to incorporate these interests together, helping kids learn about the world around them. She's looking forward to fostering hands-on learning and exploration in the garden.



Doron is a junior studying Neuroscience and Biology. She loves spending her free time hiking, planting, and baking, especially using ingredients she has picked from the garden. She looks forward to adding color and growth to the Lemberg community! 🌸🌿

LEARNING THIS MONTH

Garden Scavenger Hunt

We started our weekly garden lessons with a scavenger hunt! The Explorers, Adventurers, Voyagers, and Navigators explored the garden, and found many familiar and new things!

Outside, the students received scavenger hunt sheets to share, to guide them as they explored the garden. Bugs, soil, leaves, flowers, vegetables, and tools are all important things found in the garden.

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The Explorers search for bugs by the tree!

Worm Factory Fertilizer

During the garden scavenger hunt, many students enjoyed looking for worms in our worm factory bin. The next week, we took a closer look at these creatures that help our garden grow. We read *An Earthworm's Life* by John Himmelman, and then thought about what an earthworm's life looks like in our garden.

Then, in a hands-on activity, we got to use the *castings* (worm poop) from our worm factory to make fertilizer. Some brave students helped me pick worms up to move them out of their castings in the fertilizer bucket, while others helped by finding worms and pointing them out

to us. Then we mixed the castings with water, and everyone had a blast sprinkling the fertilizer on our garden with watering cans!



Getting a close look at our worm factory!

Planting Lettuce

With cold weather approaching, some plants in the garden are coming to the end of their life cycle. Some garden pots became available, and with only around 8 weeks to go until the ground freezes, we planted something that will grow quickly- lettuce.

First, we read *Seeds* by Vijaya Khisty Bodach, to learn about what seeds are, and how they grow. Then we planted lettuce seeds in 3 different pots, and sprinkled soil and water over them. Now we wait for them to grow!

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Signs of Fall

At the end of September, the weather starts to get colder and rainier, leaves change colors, and summer turns into fall. Some signs of fall are appearing in our garden!

We read *Fall* by Patricia Whitehouse, which describes the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of fall. Then, students explored the garden to see what signs of fall they could find.

Some students heard the crunch of leaves as they walked, while others noticed the leaves on some trees had changed from green to yellow. We smelled the ripening tomatoes, and felt how the weather has gotten colder since summer.

Family Garden Day



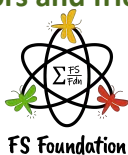
Family Garden Day

Help us get the garden ready for winter!

If you have any questions, reach out to
Cassie at cmastronarde@brandeis.edu



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



Our family garden day to prepare for winter will be Saturday, November 2nd from **9:30 - 11:30**. **If you'd like to come by and pick some herbs and tomatoes ... do it before the first frost!**

We look forward to working with families together to prep our beautiful garden space for the 2025 season! Help us clean up our fairy garden too.

All the best!

The Environmental Team