

# Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



## APRIL IN THE GARDEN

The garden is full of colors and life. Flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing, and the plants are getting taller! We will need to be patient as the seeds we sowed last month sprout. In the meantime, we have been keeping up with weeding the garden beds and watering the seeds. However, Mother Nature has been helping with all the rain!

## LEARNING THIS MONTH

### Blooming Flowers & Buzzing Bees

Colors flood the garden: White, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Flowers have finally bloomed,



some small and close to the ground, others big and reach towards the sky. There are even flowers blooming on the trees. When we look closely, we can see the bees and

insects pollinating them. For this week's lesson, we read *Maisy Loves Bees* by Lucy Cousins. Flowers are how bees get food and stay happy. When a bee pollinates a flower, the flower turns into a fruit, becoming our food too! We made sure to give the flowers lots of space and jump over them. We were able to make our own bouquets with tiny blue and yellow flowers. It was so fun to run around the garden, watching bees, collecting flowers, and appreciating their smells.

### Compost Stew

Just like us, plants need food! Plants get their food from the soil, which is full of nutrients. A way we can help make soil rich with nutrients is by having a compost. Luckily for us, we already



have one in the garden. We read a book, *Compost Stew* by Mary McKenna Siddals. This book showed us all the different things we can compost. In order for compost to

turn into soil, we also need to mix the compost

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around and flip it like a pancake! We were able to add nutrients to the piles by picking weeds to give to the compost. Then, during family day, we flipped the compost, revealing all the dirt beneath. When summer comes, we can give that soil to all the plants in the garden!

## Roots Under Our Boots

We have learned so much about flowers and leaves, but what goes on underneath the dirt? Roots! All plants have roots that hide under the ground. To learn more about this part of the



plant, we read *What Do Roots Do?* by Kathleen Kudlinski. Roots keep the plant stable in the ground. It also spreads far to reach all the nutrients and water. Roots are like the plants' straws; they soak up the water and bring it all the way to their leaves. To remember all that the

roots can do, we sang a song and danced to the tunes. It went like this...

*Roots, Stems, Leaves, and Flowers...*

*Needs sun and soil and a little rain showers...*

*We start with a seed...*

*Put it in the ground...*

*That's where the roots will be found...*

(Inspired by Firefly Family Theatre's Parts of a Flower song, linked below)

## Changing Trees

With spring here, we are observing more and more changes to the garden. The once-empty tree branches are now filled with flowers and leaves. This week, we learned all about the trees in our garden by reading *The Magic and*



*Mystery of Trees* by Jen Green. We learned about what trees are, their parts, the different types, and how they look different in the different seasons. In spring, the trees are starting to grow back their leaves and bloom



with flowers. To make our own trees to take home, we had to glue leaves to an empty tree. We made sure to leave the trees that are growing alone and instead used leaves from an invasive plant, garlic mustard, to decorate our trees. Pulling out

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garlic mustard will help the trees by ensuring they get the water they need to continue growing this season.

## Family Garden Day!

The garden gates were open during the weekend! Families helped prepare the garden for the planting season by weeding, watering, and planting seeds. We even had time to decorate rocks and munch on yummy snacks. Thank you to everyone who helped, and we hope to see you again!



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## GARDEN THIS MONTH

The weather has finally melted the snow away! Underneath the melted snow sprouts of garlic, flowers, and garlic chives grow. We helped plant more flowers by sprinkling seeds and planting seed balls into the soil. We found the garden fairy wand, so we decorated the garden and made a fairy house for them to explore. The bugs are back, so we brought out our garden binoculars and bug viewers to observe closely. The garden is back in action, and we are excited for the season to come!



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### Want to Learn More?

We learned about all sorts of exciting things this month! If you want to continue learning and getting involved, **check out these sources below!**

- Make your own flower crafts [HERE](#)
- Learn how to compost at home [HERE](#)
- Listen to the song that inspired our root lyrics and dance [HERE](#)
- Identify the trees in your backyard [HERE](#)
- Plant your own seeds at home, learn how [HERE](#)
  
- Find our environmental education book [HERE](#)
- Donate to our program [HERE](#)



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

## Family Garden Day

**June 6 10:00 - 12:30**

**RSVP email: [piperculp@brandeis.edu](mailto:piperculp@brandeis.edu)**

**(rain date Sunday, June 7 10a - 12:30)**