

# Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



## MARCH IN THE GARDEN

As the days are getting longer and warmer, the garden is waking up from its winter nap. Which means spring is finally here! It is time to grab some shovels, watering cans, and gloves to start sowing the seeds for the season to come. As we plant, the birds are making nests, the flowers are blooming tall, and the garden fairies are returning home. Lots of life is waking up for spring!

## LEARNING THIS MONTH

### Our Solar System

There is still snow on the ground, but not to fear, space is here! We launched off on a space adventure inside our space station of Lemberg. Reading *Our Stars* by Anne Rockwell, we learned all about the planets in our solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Uh oh, this book was written before Pluto was not a planet. What even is a planet? There are 3 rules to be a planet: it must orbit a star, it needs to be round, and its path needs to be cleared. As for Pluto, its path has not been cleared. After



the book, we stood up in a circle. We were planets and a sun. Circling the sun as we twirled on the rug, we added our fists in the sky to be our moons and made a circle with our arms to be our rings. We had so much galactic fun, but the space party was not over. We tossed comet snowballs (because comets are made of ice) into the cardboard solar system to end our lesson.

### Change Starts With Us

As the weather gets warmer, the garden needs more helpers. Help to keep it clean, to water and tend to the plants, and to make sure the animals and plants stay safe. That is how we can help the garden, but can we help the Earth? Yes, of course we can!



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We read *Change Starts With Us* by Sophie Beer to learn all about what we can do to help the Earth! One amazing thing anyone can do to be a helper of the earth is to recycle. We practiced recycling and throwing out trash, learning what can be recycled and what needs to be thrown in the trash. We then brainstormed more ways to



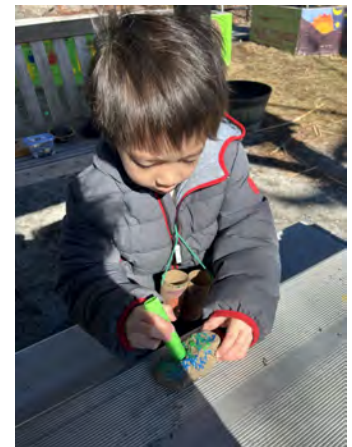
help the garden, like stepping around plants and cleaning up our toys. It was too chilly to plant, but we made a list of our favorite fruits and vegetables for when spring does come!

## The Garden Rocks (and Crystals)

The garden might not have plants yet, but it has plenty of rocks. We read *A Rock Is Lively* by Dianna Hutts Aston to learn about how rocks form, what they can be used for, and how different they all are! Rocks are different from crystals; rocks are mixed and have a messy structure, while crystals are organized and symmetrical. Some rocks have



imprints that tell us what was on Earth long ago. We used air-dry clay to make our own rocky impression. Outside, we had lots of fun sorting the crystals by matching colors. Then, to finish off the lesson, we painted big rocks to decorate the garden space. These rocks will make a perfect fairy hideout, great for our garden fairies!



## Signs of Spring

The weather might still be cold, but spring is finally in full bloom. March 20th 2026, marks the official first day of spring! With winter behind us, we can notice lots of changes in the

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garden. We read *When Spring Comes* by Kevin Henkes to learn what we expect to see change from winter to spring. Outside, we got our garden binoculars, clipboards, and markers to



explore the garden with our senses. We spotted birds with our eyes. Smelled the stinky garlic plants with our nose. Heard the splashes of puddles with our ears. Felt the soft grass with our hands. And lastly tasted the yummy garlic chives with our mouths. There was a lot to discover in the first week of spring!



## Sowing Seeds

The garlic cloves have sprouted, the flowers are blooming, and the garlic chives are getting taller. It is time to plant seeds and get ready for the spring season. First, to understand what seeds need to grow, we read *I Am A Seed* by Albert David Sutton. Seeds need water, sun, and soil. To remember, we did a seed dance, holding our hands up high for the sun, sprinkling our hands down for rain and water, and tapping on the floor for soil. With our newfound knowledge, we got ready to plant our flowers. We took turns scooping up dirt, sprinkling the seeds into the pit, and watering it. Then the pots went to the greenhouse to get the sun it needs. Soon, the wildflowers we planted will bloom for the bees and pollinators to enjoy.



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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!**

- Explore the solar system [HERE](#)
- Learn more about how you can recycle [HERE](#)
- Discover rocks and crystals in Massachusetts [HERE](#)
- Find out about Spring [HERE](#)
- Plant your own seeds at home, learn how [HERE](#)
- Find our environmental education book [HERE](#)
- Donate to our program [HERE](#)

Join us for an exciting  
**FAMILY GARDEN DAY**

We look forward to getting to know the Lemberg families as we prepare the garden for the spring season!

**Saturday, April 18th**  
**9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**  
Lemberg Children's Center  
457 Old S St, Waltham, MA 02453

Please sign up or just stop by!

<https://forms.gle/R3lAmk4Th8X6Fubk7>

Meet in the Garden!



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