

Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



MAY 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!

WELCOMING OUR SUMMER INTERN!

My name is Michael Lewis, and I'm thrilled to be joining Lemberg this summer! I am a rising senior at Brandeis University, majoring in Environmental Studies and Theatre Arts and minoring in Legal Studies and Music. I'm from Raleigh, North Carolina; my interest in the environment was sparked by frequent family trips to Atlantic Beach and the Blue Ridge Mountains. I just returned from a semester abroad in Bath, England, where I engaged with coursework from Playwriting to Environmental History. I've worked extensively in theatre education, and



I'm so excited to be venturing into environmental education this summer with Lemberg!

LEARNING THIS MONTH

Jumping into May

Frogs and bunnies love to jump, but guess what... so do we! We hopped, hopped, hopped into the garden lesson with lots of energy. Before we could spring into the garden, we read *Leap Back Home to Me* by Lauren Thompson. The frog in the book was an expert at leaping, hopping over small clovers and giant trees. We have those in our garden too! Maybe we can bounce that high? To test it, we made a big



obstacle course. We had to use our jumping legs to hop onto the stool, over the lily pad, through the cones, and around the grass to the finish line. We were faster than a cheetah



Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



and hopped better than a kangaroo. After all the leaping, we were very tired and could not wait to hop back home to our families.

Have You Seen Birds?

Have you ever heard chirping early in the morning? Have you ever seen bundles of sticks high up in the trees? What about feathers lying still on the ground? If you have, then you have



seen birds without even seeing a bird! This week, we read *Have You Seen Birds*, by Joanne Oppenheim. There are so many different kinds of birds out in the world. Some live in meadows, others



on farms, and of course, in our garden. Outside, we did a bird search and looked for evidence of birds. We used our ears to hear their songs and our eyes to spot feathers, nests, eggs, and even birds! Now that we know how to find traces of our feathery friends, we will be spotting birds in our garden all the time!



Tree Snacks

Trees provide resources to many different animals. Caterpillars love to nibble on their leaves, and birds make nests high in the branches. But those are not the only ones who

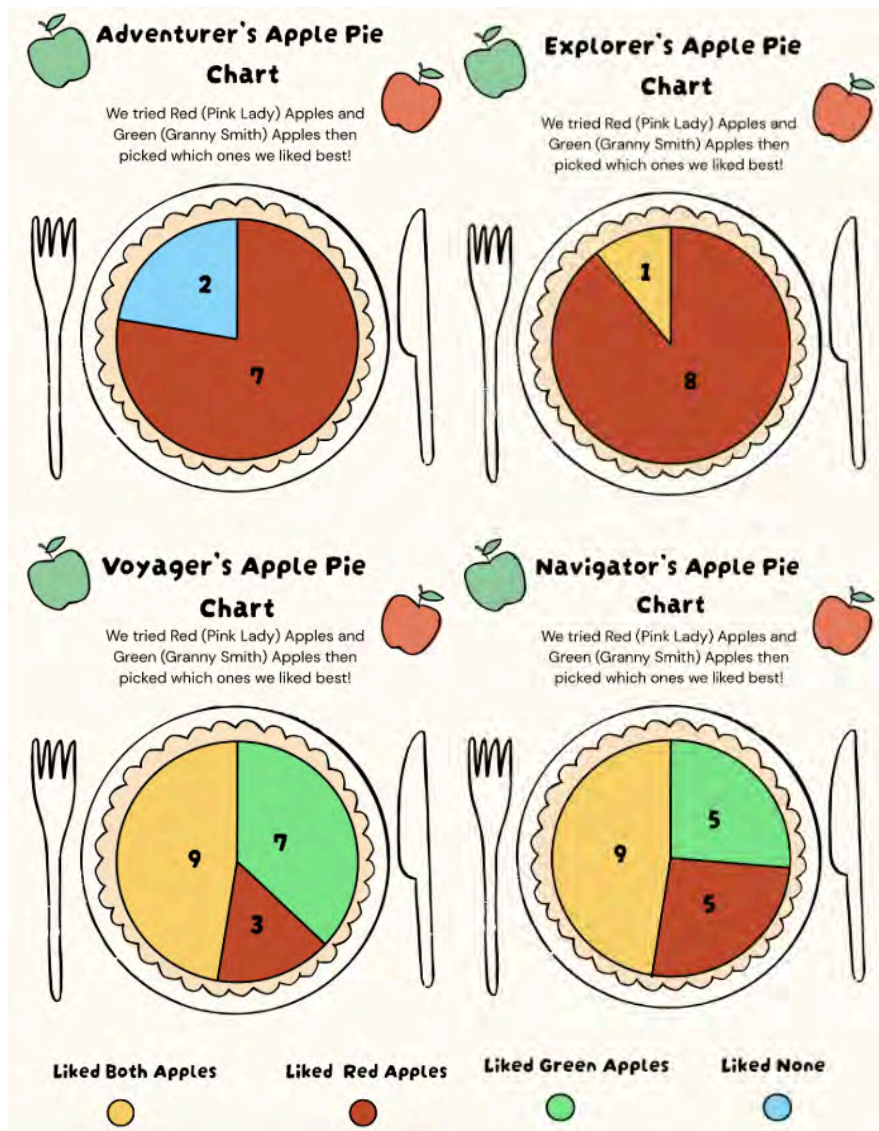
get resources from trees. Humans do too! Trees provide us with food, medicine, and lumber. We read *The Magic and Mystery of Trees* by Jen Green to learn all about what we use from trees. Then we went to the garden to try some yummy tree snacks. We first tried tree fruits; we had a sour green apple and a sweet red apple. We, of



Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

course, needed cinnamon on our apples, which comes from tree bark. Lastly, we had a spoonful of maple syrup, this sugary treat comes from maple sap. After our tummies were full, we made a chart of our favorite apple type. Which one is your favorite?



Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

Transplanting

As May marches towards summer, the time is now to continue planting, replanting, and transplanting!

"Transplanting" is moving a plant that is already beginning



to grow to another location. In this case, it was from our greenhouse to our garden outside. After reading "Plant it! Grow it, Eat it" by Ethan Safran and Emily Skwish, we conquered the garden weeds in the garden beds and transplanted some green beans. We hope that these green beans will thrive amongst the creatures and critters living in our garden. Maybe these beans will grow into a towering beanstalk



where giants reside in the sky! But if not, we're

just as excited to indulge in some delicious green beans!

Butterflies

The Navigators hatched painted lady butterflies. They started as caterpillars, then formed a chrysalis, and finally emerged as butterflies. We went to the fairy garden and said goodbye as they flew away, off to their new adventures!



Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

GARDEN THIS MONTH

This month we had lots to water, from the garlic and chives to the tomatoes and radishes. We planted even more seeds in the garden beds and greenhouse. Peas and beans are ready to crawl up to the sky, as the herbs start to wake from their slumber.



Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

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!**

- Continue jumping with these cool obstacle course ideas [HERE](#)
- Listen for birds and learn their names using this free app [HERE](#)
- Munch on Tree Snacks at home, find them [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) (Make sure you do your research before foraging, or find these snacks at the grocery stores.)
- Learn about the butterflies of Massachusetts [HERE](#)
- Transplanting tips and tricks for home-gardening [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 transplant the greenhouse plants into the ground!

Saturday, June 6th
Rain date, June 7th
10:00 - 12:30 p.m.
Lemberg Children's Center
457 Old S St, Waltham, MA 02453

Please sign up or just stop by!



<https://forms.gio/R3IAmK41h8X6FubK7>

Meet in the Garden!



Thank you to our many wonderful alumni donors and friends!