

# Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

## RE-INTRODUCING OUR GARDEN TEAM!

Sarah Eckstein Indik is so happy to return to the Lemberg Garden for her third year. Taking on a new role, she will be serving as the Environmental Education Coordinator. It brings her endless joy to learn alongside the students at Lemberg. Sarah is a senior at Brandeis University majoring in Environmental Studies and Studio Art, and she is excited to incorporate these interests into the lessons this year. After a summer that included farming in California, Sarah is thrilled to get kids outside and help them foster a deep, loving connection to nature.



*Sarah loves a freshly picked bouquet!*

Daniel Block is so excited to return to the Lemberg Children's Garden for his second semester! He is a junior at Brandeis majoring in Environmental and American Studies. He spent the summer working on a research farm in rural Illinois and loves to support children as they build meaningful relationships with the planet!



*Daniel loves getting his hands in the dirt!*

Charlene Duong is thrilled to be joining the Environmental Education team this fall! She is a recent graduate of Brandeis and is a Toddler/Preschool Teaching Fellow. She spent this summer overseeing the Lemberg Environmental Action Force (LEAF) program, which engages Waltham High School students in environmental conservation projects around Waltham. She is looking forward to connecting young children with the natural world as future environmental stewards.

---

# Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

---



*Charlene loves getting outside!*



*We are so excited to be outside!*

## SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

September is a time of abundance and harvest. Many of our summer crops are ripening, and we can see the beginnings of our fall crops popping up. September also brings the early tastes and scents of autumn... with the flavors of butternut squash, the taste of tart apples, and the sensation of a chilly morning's crisp air. We are filled with joy to be back outside and in the classrooms, teaching lessons and engaging with the outdoors.

## LEARNING THIS MONTH:

### Apple Stamps

We welcomed the preschool classrooms back in the classroom with an exploration of fruits and seeds. Discussing the different shapes and sizes, the variety of "suitcases" or fruits that hold seeds, and the many ways seeds travel, we realized that there is no one way a seed looks or feels. After reading and chatting, we searched around the garden for all the different ways that we could find seeds - whether they be a part of a dandelion, pepper, or squash. We compared and contrasted the differences between the "suitcases" before tasting. We asked questions like "why might some suitcases look different? Why might some be bigger than others?"

# Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



*I love my apple!*

Once tasting some of our findings, like cucumbers and tomatoes, we sought out our ripe apples. As we cut them open to investigate the seeds, we noticed how a horizontal cut shows a star. With paint and paper, we conducted an experiment to see if the star would work as a stamp.



*We got to taste some apple in the process!*

Even though it was hard to see the star in our final creations, we learned that fresh apples taste delicious AND can help us make beautiful art.



*Apple stamping is a lot of fun!*

## Discovering Trees

As summer prepared to close, we paid extra attention to the various different species around us and how they shift with the seasons. In the fall, we know that leaves fall from trees, but what exactly *IS* a tree? With our bodies, we acted out the parts of a tree - roots, trunk, bark, branch, different shapes of leaves or needles, fruit. We discussed the differences between trees and other plants in the garden. We

# Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

noticed that trees are tall, woody, and strong, but other plants, like cucumbers, are not.



*"Branches!"*

We then wandered around the garden conducting a scavenger hunt, searching for leaves, needles, pine cones, birds and insects in trees, fruit trees, and more!



*"What did you find?"*

It was so fun to go to the garden with the eyes of a detective, looking for the clues that trees leave us. Through our investigation, we realized that there are many types of trees and that they are essential to all the other creatures around them. Thank you, trees!



*"I love you!"*

## Little Green Monsters

We are little green monsters here at Lemberg! What does that mean? It means we care for the earth - reducing, reusing, and recycling!

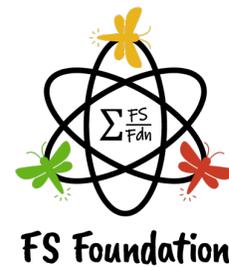
Together, we read *I Can Save the Earth!* and learned the importance of caring for the earth. We discussed actions that harm our environment and all the other creatures we share it with; we learned about pollution, littering, blackouts, and overuse. We, then, came up with various ways we can be caretakers of the earth like trading our old toys with others



(getting new-to-us toys), picking up litter, recycling, composting, and getting outside!

Thank you to our many wonderful alumni donors and friends!

### Family Garden Day



Our first Family Garden Day of the new school year will be on **October 21st**. Together, we will finish painting our raised beds, and help revitalize and replant in the fairy garden! Please reach out to Sarah if you have any questions at [secksteinindik@brandeis.edu](mailto:secksteinindik@brandeis.edu).