

Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

Vegetable Planting and Harvesting

Despite the recent heat wave our garden continued to blossom and bear fruit! Zucchini, grapes, corn, beans, beets, carrots, and mizuna kept growing. Perfect for harvesting. We even had a cucumber that grew successfully despite the best efforts of fungus. We also found some huge tomatoes!



"That tomato's the size of your hand!"

Using the skills they learned last month, the kids were able to apply their mastery of harvesting. They filled bags with fruits and leafy greens. Many were able to identify what they were picking all on their own!



What can I eat in this bed?

Our grapes and blackberries are finally ready! Every morning, even if they didn't have garden time, every friend who was interested was able to enjoy fresh fruit before snacktime. One friend even found the only strawberry that successfully grew at this time of year!

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"I found blackberries!"

Eat A Rainbow

After last month's rain we went hunting for rainbows...made of fruits and vegetables. After helping to match pictures of fruits and vegetables to their colors on a large rainbow poster, our friends tried to make their own rainbow by searching the garden for fruits or vegetables matching each color of the rainbow. Even though black isn't in the rainbow we still included blackberries.



Friends help Lee make a rainbow with velcro fruits

While searching to make our own rainbow, we also learned about the importance of healthy healthy. One of the best ways to do this is by eating a colorful plate. The more colors on your plate the more nutritious your meal will be and the healthier we'll all grow!



Sometimes the food doesn't last long enough to become a rainbow.

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Harvesting

For the summer's last garden activity we had a surprise for our friends. Each friend got paired up with one of the high school LEAF participants. As a team, our buddy pairs had free reign of the garden and got to harvest whatever was ready.



We love making new friends

While meeting new people can be scary at first, especially when they're so big, the kids had a great time with their new friends! They got to explore the garden and have someone else to

conveniently hold what they picked. Each kid went home with a bag filled with fruits and vegetables.



"Can you hold this?"

As one last surprise we got to dig up potatoes that were ready. One of the gardeners pushed over the potato cage and we watched all the dirt fall out, with potatoes hiding in the hay. With the help of our LEAF friends, we combed through the dirt and hay and got to bring potatoes home too!

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Picking potatoes out of the dirt



Hard to get fresher than a carrot right from the dirt

LEAF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

As the summer winds down, so has our high school internship! All nine participants have been incredibly valuable members of our team, helping to maintain our gardens and provide fresh fruits and vegetables for our families, and helping to support the local ecosystem by planting native species and removing invasives. We will remember their hard work through the beautiful artwork they left us on our raised beds, and we wish them all luck in their upcoming school year!



One of the many new paintings on our raised beds

STANLEY SCHOOL UPDATES

The Stanley Elementary garden has been looking lush these days. The abundant green leaves in our new raised bed hide an abundance of produce.

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The raised bed we planted in June is filled with sunflowers and produce now.

This month we hosted two additional family garden days during which we encouraged children to make observation drawings and create art by searching for different shapes and colors of leaves and laminating their arrangements.

Families helped us with more weeding, pruning, invasive plant removal, and the creation of a new bed area. We planted radish seeds along the edge of the new bed. Radishes have a short growing season so we hope that some will be ripe by late fall. Families also harvested tomatoes, peppers and more to bring home and enjoy.



Creating a new garden bed

Before the first day of school, some of the Stanley teachers harvested additional veggies, including tomatoes that will be used on salads in the school cafeteria!



Some of our harvest

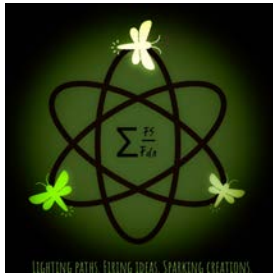
Thank you to all the families for your hard work!

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