

Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

We all know that “April showers bring May flowers”, but April also means the real start of the garden season here in Waltham! We are still planting and prepping in the greenhouse, but now we have begun to plant outside, directly in the beds. April brings some of the first peaks of future abundant harvests; sprouts and flowers are all around, trees are leafing out, and Spring's sweet scent flows through the air.

LEARNING THIS MONTH

Garden Songs



A class sits on a blanket, watching Amelia play guitar

This month we spent some time learning a song about the parts of a plant with our intern Amelia. The kids came up with their own dance to represent the lyrics that highlighted how roots, stems, leaves, and flowers grow. It was so fun to watch how closely the children listened to Amelia's music, and how excited they were to connect both music and nature!

Transplanting Seedlings

The time to transplant has come. Our tiny seedlings, which we planted a few weeks ago, have grown strong enough in the greenhouse to be moved into our raised beds!



It was fun to help Daniel with the trowel.

We discussed how these plants are babies, and they need to be tended to with care; just like with younger children, we have to be gentle. In the Apple Tree Garden, we each had the opportunity to plant either a kale or Rainbow chard seedling. Using the trowel, with the help of Daniel, we dug a small hole and placed the seedling inside. Then, we were able to give them a nice drink. It's wonderful to see how happy the plants have become now that they have more room to grow! Yummy greens await us.

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We used our bodies to show the shape of leaves!

Planting Potatoes

It's time for one of Daniel's favorite garden activities, planting potatoes! With the different classes, we read about the importance of roots and all that goes on underneath the soil, including the growth of some of the tastiest vegetables like carrots, radishes, and potatoes. Our tummies rumbled as we shared about our favorite potato foods - french fries, potato chips, mashed potatoes... YUM! We learned how potatoes grow differently from a lot of the plants that we know. They grow from tubers that are connected to roots underground.



Daniel talks to us about roots.

Then, in the long garden, we layered soil, seed potatoes, and hay to create the perfect home for our potatoes to sprout, noticing the pattern.



We are so excited to see them as the season progresses.

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"Hey, hay!"

Toddlers in the Garden



Searching for sprouts

The toddlers have been so excited to explore the garden this spring, taking a close eye to all of the new budding plants and climbing through branches and over the raised beds. It is such a joy to see them have fun in the space!



Leading a teacher through the garden

FAMILY GARDEN DAYS



We worked together to break down the old beds

Thank you so much to all the lovely, helping hands we had for our first family garden day on April 22nd! We worked together to take apart our old raised beds, and then we constructed our new ones. There were lots of opportunities to check for bugs in the dirt, which was so exciting! Families also helped us "wake up" the garden by raking up the mulch that kept our

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garden warm during the winter months, and planted new strawberry plants to have yummy treats ready by June.



The new beds look beautiful!

Our next Family Garden Day will be on May 20th. Together, we will begin to paint our new raised beds, as well as bring some more plants outside to enjoy the warm weather! Please reach out to Sylvia if you have any questions at skohnlevitt@lemborgcc.org



Thank you so much, everyone!

Upcoming Transitions

April also comes with some bittersweet news. I (Sylvia) have accepted a new position as a teacher at a Nature Preschool in Framingham, and my last day at Lemberg will be June 16th. I have absolutely loved teaching and working in the garden at Lemberg, and am so thankful to everyone here: teachers, interns, parents, and students alike. I have adored getting to know all of the children, and will miss them deeply. Closer to the end of the school year, I will talk to them all so that they are prepared to see me around less.

At the same time, I am also so happy and excited to say that Cassady Adams, a teacher in the Hummingbird classroom, will be taking over the garden lessons, and we have already started planning for exciting new things in the garden for preschoolers and toddlers alike!

Introducing Cassady!



Hello, Cassady!

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Hi, I'm Cassidy, and I'm so excited to be taking over Sylvia's position as Environmental Education Coordinator! I have been working at Lemberg for 2 years, and am currently a teacher in the Hummingbird classroom. I have always had a passion for the outdoors and am happiest when sharing my love for nature with children. I can't wait to take over garden lessons with the preschoolers, and I hope to expand our environmental education program into the toddler classrooms as well. Beginning in June, I will be the point person to contact for questions and ideas regarding environmental education and the Lemberg Firefly Scientists' Garden. Feel free to contact me at cassadyadams@lebergcc.org.

Thank you to our many wonderful alumni donors and friends!

