GETTING INTO THE GARDEN

We had some gorgeous weather this month, and took advantage of it whenever we could. We got outside and filled our garden with seeds and sprouts to enjoy this season.

Starting Small

The planting season is a great excuse to get messy. At the beginning of the month we planted a box of marigold and nasturtium seeds to put in our greenhouse. When it gets warmer we can move them to beds in the garden, so keep an eye out for bright orange, yellow, and red flowers.

Vegetable Stamping

To finish up our natural plant dye project started last month, we took the final dyed fabric, and stamped it using vegetables. Okra, mushrooms, apples, and radishes had interesting cross-sections to look at and represent with paint, and beets offered fun color and shapes. Now we have lots of beautiful fabric squares made by the preschool students that we can hang in the garden all summer long.

Catching Rabbits with Carrots

This month we got a special request from an Explorer to plant carrot seeds in the garden in the hopes that we might catch a rabbit!
Naturally we got right to work with some members of the Explorer classroom stirring up the soil, planting the seeds, covering them up, and watering. We are already seeing so many rabbits hopping around the garden!

Sun and Flowers and Seedlings, Oh My!

There’s lots of new life outside to explore and we’ve had so much fun observing wildflowers blooming in the garden, seeds sprouting in the greenhouse, and bugs crawling in the warm soil. Soon the garden and playground will be full of new life, and some of it we can even eat!

Written by the Environmental Education Team
CREATIVE CONNECTIONS CAMP (CCC)

The Creative Connections Camp was back this month and the campers helped us do so much work in the garden!

Seed Tapes

Using biodegradable “tape” (toilet paper) and paste made from flour and water, campers created their very own seed tapes that make planting a breeze. There were lots of seeds to choose from, such as carrots, tatsoi, arugula, lettuce, parsley, and basil. The following day campers helped us plant the seed tapes in our apple tree garden, fertilize them with compost, and water them.

Hard at Work

The next day in the garden, campers got a lot done! They moved logs from the long garden, planted flowers along the fence, transplanted peas into the playground box, and planted squash and melon seeds. We hope some of them pay the garden a visit this summer so they can see the results of all their hard work!
WHAT’S NEXT

As summer approaches, we will continue planting in the garden, collaborations with teens leadership programs, and hopefully make some yummy snacks like kale chips from our garden produce soon. We’re also making some major upgrades to our raised garden beds.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to our wonderful intern, Claudia! She is graduating and going off to do great things in Alaska! Thank you, Claudia! Anna will take the summer off and join us again in the fall. Meanwhile, we’re looking forward to getting to know our two summer interns, Maggie and John, both graduate students who will join us in May.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARENT AND GRANDPARENT VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who joined us for our garden work day in early April. With so many helping hands, the weeding and clean-up on our agenda were finished in no time!

JOIN US IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 to 11:30 am

Weather permitting, earn parent hours helping with garden and playground projects. Email Beth with questions or to RSVP: belowe@brandeis.edu

It’s wonderful to have three generations together in the garden.