JUNE IN THE GARDEN

Planting Seedlings

Earlier in the spring the greenhouse was full of tiny seedlings including, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, cherry husks, melons, squash, corn, zucchini, and pumpkins. By June, the seedlings were ready to be planted in the ground. Over the course of a few days we planted so many seedlings in the garden. We check on them each week and are looking forward to the future snacks for us to try!

Watering

As the days get warmer, the plants need more water each day to keep from drying out. We have set up an irrigation system in one of our gardens to help us with this task. The irrigation system is a long black hose with holes along it which allows water to drip into the soil. Since we only have this system in one of our gardens the rest of the garden beds are watered by hand. Watering the beds by hand isn’t so bad, especially on hot days, as it helps to keep both us and the plants cool and happy.

Salad Boxes on the Playground

On the playground, one of the raised beds is flourishing with many different greens including cilantro, spinach and mizuna. Since it has been so much fun to snack on these treats while outside, we planted more salad snacks in the other raised bed: lettuce, arugula and scallions. We can’t wait for these plants to grow and provide more food for us to try.
Harvesting Strawberries

Last week our first strawberries were ready. Kids from all classes came to pick and it was a fun activity as kids enjoy checking among the leaves to find the ripe fruits. In addition to the ones we ate, we found some strawberries already eaten by critters and some had dropped off.

To make sure strawberries are protected, a Voyager parent sewed some window screen together to cover the raised bed. That way strawberries are protected as they ripen.

Worms and Worm Fertilizer

Kids are always interested in searching for worms and exploring their behaviors. As Adventurers visited the garden, they had a chance to open the worm house and feed them. While touching the worms, they came up with so many questions about worms and fertilizer. They can’t stop hanging out around the worm’s corner of the garden and they love picking green leaves to feed the worms.

Thinning Peach Trees

In the last two weeks, peaches are producing baby fruits and when they are one inch big, we thin them to make sure they have space to grow. Kids from Explorers and Adventurers helped with this process. With the environmental teachers, they observed and asked questions, and helped picked up tiny peaches to bring to the compost pile.
**Eating the Salad Harvest**

In just a few weeks after we planted our salad beds, here’s an example of the great snacks we had, including kale, mizuna, lettuce, edible flowers from borage, nasturtium and tatsoi, raspberries, carrots and white globe turnip.

August. If you feel your child would benefit from having a teen-aged buddy in the garden, please let their classroom teacher know.

Creative Connections campers and Chinese visiting students will be joining us for garden activities the weeks of July 22-Aug 2. They’ll have the opportunity to care for the garden, harvest and eat fresh produce, and identify vegetables, flowers, compost critters, insects and fungi. A special, new project will be to building a solar oven. We look forward to welcoming all our school-age campers from near and far.

**WHAT’S NEXT**

**School-age Campers at Lemberg**

In July, we have several collaborations planned:

Running Brook Camp at Chapel Hill/Chauncy Hall School will be bringing a group of middle-school students in a leadership program to be buddies and mentors for our pre-schoolers as they learn about gardening, composting and food preparation together. This program is entering its third year, and has been a huge hit with the Lemberg kids. There will be four sessions, two in mid-July, and two in early August. If you feel your child would benefit from having a teen-aged buddy in the garden, please let their classroom teacher know.

Last year’s buddy program with Running Brook

We are also hoping to plant a wildflower meadow with a Waltham-based group called Meadowscaping for Biodiversity. They employ teenagers from Waltham and surrounding towns to install wildflower meadows and teach about pollinators and biodiversity.
GARDEN WORK DAYS

Warm weather and lots of rain are terrific for our gardens, but the weeds like these conditions just as much as our vegetables and flowers. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who showed up this month and tackled the weeds!

A LITTLE SHADE

Our outdoor classroom space was upgraded thanks to Lemberg’s weekend handyman, Sorin, who replaced our old canopy with a more permanent wooden shade structure. This shady spot is an essential learning spot and hub of outdoor activities all summer long. Thank you, Sorin!

Weeding, weeding, and more weeding

UPCOMING GARDENING DAY:

Saturday, July 13, 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

New garden shade structure and canopy