WINTER IS COMING

Garden Clean-up

As the temperature drops, the garden goes to sleep. The kids helped us get the garden ready for a long nap by reseeding the wildflower garden and building up its wall, clearing the tomatoes from the long garden, and laying down a warm blanket of hay mulch. Although the garden is put to bed, there are still environmental activities outdoors to explore.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Plant Plumbing

Now that we’re indoors more of the time, we have plenty to do that keeps the learning garden and growing cycles in kids’ minds. This month, we have been interested in the different parts of plants and what they do. To investigate, we’ve read books about plant plumbing. We learned about the roots, stems and leaves of plants like celery and beetroot, and how they carry water through the stems to the leaves.

What is a mushroom?

By projecting a digital book on a large monitor in the Rainbow Room, we explored the parts and life cycle of mushrooms with a large group, followed by small group activities. Strangely,
mushrooms aren’t a plant or an animal. Cool, right? Mushrooms don’t even need sunlight to grow and they make babies by touching underground threads together.

All together, reading a book about mushrooms

Cultivating Edible Bean Sprouts Indoors

The Voyagers and Navigators loved growing mung bean sprouts in their classrooms. It takes a lot of attention and patience to remember to rinse them twice a day for a week, but the rewards are a delicious snack.

Bean sprout snacks for all

Garden Alphabet Book

Every year, the children design a garden alphabet book with their favorite fruits and veggies. They cut out pictures from garden catalogues and design the pages, while remembering the plants from our garden and reflecting on their home gardening experiences. Meanwhile, many fine motor skills and language skills are in progress. This project will be ongoing, but look forward to seeing the finished product later this year!

Preparing a mushroom spore print and dissecting the stems, gills and caps.
Worm Care

Now that our worms are living indoors for the winter, we still have to feed them, clean out their house, and make fertilizer for our indoor plants during the winter. This activity never gets old, and provides opportunities to examine worms in different stages of development. It’s especially exciting when we find egg cases and tiny babies.
Learning About Recycling

In preparation for our Green Apple Day, we have been reading several recycling and green school books to the kids. We are hoping to teach and foster healthy habits that kids and parents will apply to their lives at home.

Reading books about recycling and environmental conservation

COMING SOON

Winter Wonderland

The garden team is working hard to design winter-themed activities that will keep kids engaged as the seasons change. Some activities we’re planning include snow scavenger hunts, ice experiments, and learning about snowflakes.

Green Apple Day is around the corner. The whole school will participate in recycling education through fun activities, and we’ll be assessing the school for 5 sustainability measures. You’ll read all about it in December.

PARENT GARDENING DAYS:

For our last parent gardening day of the season, we tidied up the front planters, made arches for the upper playground grape arbor, and worked on plastic covers for our raised beds.

Parent gardening days will return in the spring.

Using a screwdriver to put the arches together

Creating an elegant arrangement in the planters

Written by the Environmental Education Team