

Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

As the leaves crunch under our shoes and the crisp air fills our noses, we've had a busy month here in the Lemberg garden. This month alone we have harvested pumpkins, peppers, radishes, turnips, beets, beans, tomatillos, eggplants, tomatoes, squash, and herbs! We're lucky to have gotten such a plentiful harvest this October before the plants start slowing down for the winter. We still have a lot of work ahead as we prepare the garden for the colder months ahead!

Join us for our next Family Garden Day!

RSVP link:

<https://forms.gle/TgeQxAa5NEKxymXEA>



LEARNING THIS MONTH

We're Going on a Leaf Hunt!



With autumn comes a lot of changes to the garden. Our plants start to produce less fruits and vegetables, and the air starts to get chilly. The cool breeze and dryness in the soil makes it challenging for leaves to keep their green color. As the trees and plants prepare for the winter, we get to watch as leaves paint the sky with bright colors and dance to the ground as they fall. To prepare for our garden lesson, we read *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt*, by Steve Metzger, which tells the story of friends exploring the world around them as they look for autumn leaves. We then rolled up our sleeves and got to work as we went on a leaf hunt of our own! Putting our scientist skills to the test, we categorized the leaves we found by their color and size. We were blown away by how many shapes and colors we can spot in the fall! Some fall leaves even have more than one color, which made for some challenging decision making as to how we should categorize them. Just like the

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friends in the story, we went on a leaf hunt and had ourselves a wonderful day!



Welcome to the Log Hotel!

Have you ever wondered where bugs go as it gets colder outside? To the log hotel! This week, we got to be both detectives *and* scientists. When we read *Log Hotel*, by Anne Schreiber, we learned that bugs and insects chew tunnels through fallen trees. We got very curious about how as bugs eat through logs, the log gets softer and softer until it becomes soil. We also discussed how without bugs, flowers wouldn't get pollinated to grow into fruits and

vegetables. With a guide of insects/bugs in hand to make scientific observations and excitement for being detectives, we went into the fairy garden to find bugs. Together we practiced being gentle observers of the critters in the log hotels by using calm hands and giving them space. As we got ready to go inside, we said a big "thank you" to the bugs for working hard to turn logs into soil for our garden and for giving us yummy food to eat!



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Gourd-geous Pumpkins!

All summer long we've watched as our pumpkin vines have crawled, their flowers have bloomed and been pollinated, and our pumpkins have turned from green to orange. Since planting our pumpkin seeds in May, we finally got to harvest them this month! To expand upon our knowledge about where seeds come from and how a fruit acts as a suitcase for seeds, we read *The Pumpkin Book*, by Gail Gibbons. The story was a great reminder of the life cycle of a pumpkin plant. In the month of October, we have incorporated pumpkins into much of our learning. From making silly pumpkin crafts to scooping out pumpkin seeds and roast them in the oven for an afternoon snack, fall might just be our favorite season! Don't worry, we made sure to save some of the seeds so that we can plant new pumpkins in the spring. We're excited to keep learning and growing with the pumpkins next summer!



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OCTOBER FAMILY GARDEN DAY

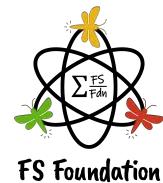
Thank you to the community of families who came together for our October Family Garden Day on October 18th! With your help, we were able to fix up our compost system, transplant herbs to grow inside for the winter, plant garlic cloves, sprinkle wildflower seeds to sprout in the spring, and collected seeds from one of our pumpkins! This could only be accomplished with the enthusiasm of our friends and families... and maybe a munchkin or two! See the top of this newsletter to RSVP for our next Family Garden Day on November 15th!



Want to Learn More?

We learned about all sorts of exciting things this month! If you want to continue learning and getting involved, **check out these sources below!**

- The link to our log hotel bug guide is [HERE](#)
- Check out [this recipe](#) to roast your own pumpkin seeds!
- Learn how to preserve your own pumpkin seeds [HERE](#)
- Find our environmental education book [HERE](#)



**Thank you to our many wonderful alumni
donors and friends!**