

# Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

## MAY IN THE GARDEN

### Staff Updates

As Brandeis's academic year came to a close, we said goodbye to our wonderful garden interns, Caroline and Sarah. We are wishing them the best of luck with their studies and travels this summer!



*Hugging Sarah goodbye for the summer!*

In the meantime, we are so excited to introduce our new intern Athos, who will be with us this summer. Athos is a first year at Brandeis studying environmental science and queer theory. Some of their hobbies include improv, songwriting, and cooking!



*Meet Athos!*

### Plant Identifying

With so much to see out in the garden, we started out the month with a lesson to review what "counts" as a plant when we are out in nature. Are the rocks, the soil, or pieces of tree bark plants? Are the big trees in our garden plants, just as the tiny wildflowers are? Once a flower falls off a bush, is it still a plant?



*Studying fallen flower petals together*

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We reviewed the things that only plants have such as roots, stems, leaves, flowers, or fruits. It was so much fun to see the creativity and logic the children have when it comes to interpreting and defining everything around them, especially when it comes to the natural world.



*"I'm a plant, too!"*

When we were done observing together in the garden, we had some time to just run around and enjoy the garden. It is lovely to see how the children come up with their own games and methods of utilizing the space, both independently and collaboratively. They are always so excited to see what new finds are waiting for them between the leaves.



*A quiet moment in the forsythia palace*

## Bug Hunt

In the spirit of exploration, we spent one of our lessons this month looking to see what bugs we could find underneath logs and in quiet corners of the garden. Armed with worksheets that detailed different insects one can find in the garden, we tried to match as many findings as possible to our worksheets.



*Checking our list to see what species of bug we found*

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We found ants, slugs, snails, worms, centipedes, millipedes, roly-polys, and more! As we looked, we discussed the importance of these bugs in breaking down waste in the garden and aerating the soil as they crawl through it.



*Working together to turn over a log*

## Planting Tomatoes and Peppers

The students did an excellent job planting tomatoes, tomatillos, peppers, and eggplant. Carefully wielding their trowels, they dug deep holes in the garden and tucked the plants into their holes.



*Filling our bed with tomato plants*

The plants were then watered, and now we eagerly wait to watch the fruit grow. We were even able to use the castings from our worm bin to make some fertilizer, and are excited to see how this promotes growth!

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*Working with Athos to plant peppers*

## Toddlers in the Garden

The Explorers helped us plant marigolds in one of our raised beds this month! The flowers are not only beautiful to look at, they can act as an all-natural insect repellent against pests, while also attracting the bugs that benefit our garden.



*Planting Marigolds together*



*Showing off our watering cans!*

Along with the Adventurers, the Explorers were also a huge help to us when it came to watering the garden. They helped carry the hose around the garden and filled up watering cans to keep everything moist as it grows.

## Family Garden Day

On May 14, several families joined us to participate in the family garden day. This month we moved A LOT of mint plants that were growing in the wrong place. We also cleaned up the planters in front of the building, and weeded the gardens.

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*It was wonderful to have help from some Lemberg Alumni*

A huge thank you to the families that donated a Saturday morning to help with these projects. We appreciate it so much!

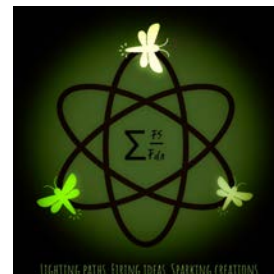


*Taking a break from all that digging*

More news to come on when our summer garden days will be! If you would like to participate or have any questions, feel free to

contact Sylvia ([skohnlevitt@brandeis.edu](mailto:skohnlevitt@brandeis.edu)), the Environmental Education Associate Director.

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