

# Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



## NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

The garden is sleepy, and ready to rest for the winter. The growing season is over, and our garden beds were prepared for winter with the help of our amazing parents during family garden day. There's a chill in the air, and we're excited for the changes winter will bring to the garden.

## LEARNING THIS MONTH

### Bats

In the beginning of November, we focused our learning on an unexpected garden helper: Bats. We read a book about bats to each of the classes, and discussed the different kinds of bats. With the Adventurers and Explorers, we acted out being bats, pretending to fly around the garden, eat bugs and drink nectar, and find a nice place to sleep upside down. With the Voyagers, we made bats out of popsicle sticks and construction paper, and played with our bats out in the garden.



## Migration and Adaptation



When it gets cold outside, people do a lot of different things to stay warm. Putting on jackets, hats, and gloves, going inside

warm buildings, huddling around fires in the fireplace, and resting under blankets. But what do animals do when it gets cold? To answer this question, we read *Winter Survival* by L. R. Hanson, which describes how and why animals do different things to survive winter. Some *hibernate* and sleep all winter, some *migrate* and move somewhere warmer, some huddle together, and some *adapt* and grow a thick fur coat. After reading the story and discussing different strategies that animals use during winter, we went outside and played a



Migration game. We migrated to warmer parts of the garden as monarch butterflies, and swam to the bottom of the lake as fish. We collected nuts for the winter as squirrels, and huddled in our dens as mice. We even hibernated as bears.

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## Putting the Garden to Bed

When cold weather arrives, most plants are finished growing, or get killed by frost. The first thing we did to prepare for winter was remove all the plants, but we still needed to get the garden beds nice and cozy for winter. We do this by adding layers of compost and hay, to keep the soil warm and moist, and prevent weeds from growing. We read *Compost Stew* by Mary McKenna Siddals, then spread our very own compost stew on the beds. After that, we added our second "blanket" - a layer of hay.



## Goodbye From Cassie

Cassie has had an amazing time working with the garden team for the past 4 months! In the spring, she will be moving on to student teaching 3rd grade. The garden will be in good hands with Maddie and Ayla!



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