

# Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



## AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

This month, we have had the opportunity to pick many delicious vegetables and fruits, including beets, radishes, turnips, peaches, apples, eggplant, and the most delicious of all, blackberries! As we continue to sow seeds in the greenhouse and transplant flowers into the garden soil, our garden plants will keep growing big and strong into the fall.

## LEARNING THIS MONTH

### Making Waves

Oceans are vital to our Earth; they create oxygen, regulate our climate, and provide a home to many marine



creatures! This week, we dove deep into the ocean. We read, *Mister Seahorse* by Eric Carle, which showcased how different sea creatures care for their eggs and use camouflage to hide in the ocean. To be like a sea creature, we hid behind our hands like the fish in the book. We also read, *Ocean! Waves for all*, by Stacy McAnulty, which was packed with ocean facts. After our totally tubular books, we got to "swim" to our two activities. The first was an ocean touch tank. We got to explore the

sandy tank full of toy sea creatures and real shells straight from Cape Cod. With our strong observation skills, we noticed that something was wrong - our ocean was full of plastic trash!



Before we could splash in the tank, we needed to rescue the sea creatures that were trapped in the plastic. Good thing we know how to recycle! Once the ocean was clean again, more sea creatures came to splash around in the healthy waters. We also got to make some beach-inspired artwork! We put glue onto paper, covered it with sand, and then shook off the excess to reveal our works of art. It's always a good day to save the ocean, even all the way from our garden



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## Berry Delicious Tarts

The garden is home to many plants, but we might have just found our favorite! What better way to utilize ripe fruit than to bake them into tarts? We read *Jamberry*, by Bruce Degen, to explore Berryland and learn about

blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries. Using the blackberries from our vines, we became garden chefs this week. We rolled up our sleeves and got to work as we pressed the dough into tart molds, measured and filled our bowl with ingredients, mixed up the contents of our blackberry filling, and scooped the filling into the tarts.

While our tarts baked and our anticipation grew,



we went outside finger painted our very own berry baskets! We also practiced harvesting as we picked ripe peaches from our peach tree. Once the blackberry pies were out of the oven, we eagerly took some

bites. Smiles, happy dances, and big thumbs up filled the room as we proudly munched on our culinary creations. It's great to see how our garden harvests can be used in the kitchen....and in our bellies!





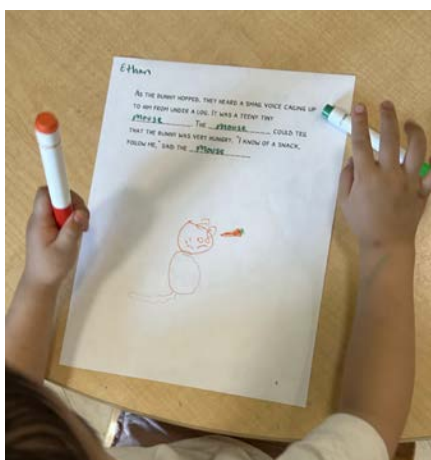
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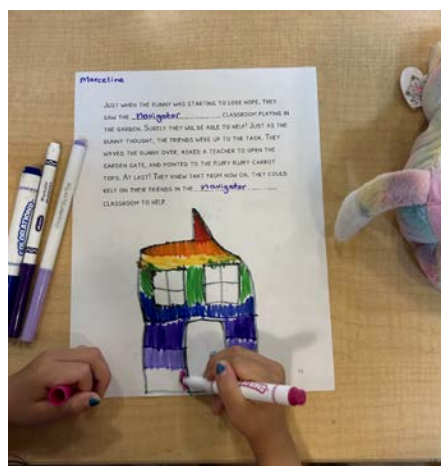
## Authors of Our Garden Story

Uh oh! This week in the garden we have a big problem. Usually, we start our lessons by sitting down to read a book that introduces our garden theme for the day. But, whoopsies, it looks like our garden teachers may have forgotten to choose a story for the week. Silly garden teachers!



Good thing we have a solution! We can be the authors of our very own garden stories. Following a bunny in search of a carrot in the Lemberg Garden, the garden teachers had a story mapped out for us to contribute to. Mad-lib style, we each offered a word to fill in the blank of a page for our story. Then, we got to draw what our page of the story represented. Some drew the ants that helped the bunny on its way, while others drew the garlic chives that were too stinky for the bunny. After being the authors and designers of our group story, we got to gather and read the story together. We

even get to keep the story on the shelves in our classroom. All the pages came together to remind us of all the lessons we have learned in the garden this summer. Do you want a hint to the ending? Each of our stories ended with our classroom helping the bunny find its delicious carrot. So, we are not only Garden Authors, but Garden Helpers too!



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## GARDENING THIS MONTH

August has been the month for harvesting. The garden is full of eggplants, tomatoes, carrots, onions, peaches, blackberries, radishes, green cucumbers, and peppers that we get to pick and enjoy. We continue to transplant squash and flowers so we are met with beautiful colors in the fall. As the seasons start to change so does our garden.





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## Magical Garden Visitors

As helpers, learners, and observers of the garden, we like to keep track of what's going on with the status of our delicious fruits and vegetables. One day, what appeared to be a fairy wand appeared in the tomato bed, just as baby tomatoes were starting to grow out of their pollinated flowers. A few weeks later the fairy wand was in the eggplant bed, just as baby eggplants began to form - except this time, it was different. Surrounding the wand was something sparkly and glittery...could it be..... FAIRY DUST! As we continued to play and investigate this garden mystery, we found the answer to our questions - three fairy houses appeared in the fairy garden! After some discussion, we have a hypothesis: the fairies have come to Lemberg for the fall to help with our harvest. The wand moves from bed to bed with a trail of fairy dust to show us which crops are starting to take shape with the help of some fairy magic. We quickly got to work building new woodland houses in the hopes that more fairies will move to Lemberg and enchant us with garden powers.





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## 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!**

- Explore National Geographic's Ocean Portal [HERE](#)
- Learn more about berries [HERE](#)
- Bake your own blackberry tarts using these recipes: [HERE](#) is the crust recipe, and [HERE](#) is the blackberry filling recipe.
- Learn about tips and tricks for creating a happy home garden, click [HERE](#)
- Find our environmental education book [HERE](#)
- Donate to our program [HERE](#)



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