

Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



JUNE IN THE GARDEN

As the sun shines through the Lemberg garden and pollen fills the air, we are excited to welcome the new season of Summer! Soon, our greenhouse will be empty as we continue to transplant seedlings into the garden beds. With summer comes hotter weather, so we ensure that each plant receives the love and care it needs to thrive.

LEARNING THIS MONTH

It's a BEE-autiful Day to Pollinate!

As you may remember from May, we got the chance to "chaos garden," by tossing mystery flower seeds into a garden bed. We are finally starting to see some of those mystery flowers sprout! But what do flowers need to grow? Well, we discovered the answer to this question by learning about the hero of all gardens: the pollinators. We began by reading *Maisy Loves Bees*, by Lucy Cousins, to better understand the important role bees play in our garden. Piper even brought in some real bees for us to



observe up close! Inspired by the beautiful bees, we got to act as pollinators ourselves. Holding doodles of bees, we ran between the garden teachers who held flowers, spreading the pollen between them. Then, we moved on to pollinating the real flowers we could find in the garden. A lovely chorus of "buzzes" and "pollinate" filled the garden as we embraced the power of pollination!



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Keeping Our Corals Clean

We're lucky to have garden teachers with a wide range of knowledge and experiences. Our very own Islay brought her passions for scuba diving and tropical



marine research into the Lemberg garden to grow our understanding of the natural world. While reading *Good Night Coral Reef*, by Adam Gamble and Mark Jasper, we acted out the diverse types of corals and fish that were pictured in the story. From mimicking antlers with our hands like elkhorn coral or making munching sounds like parrotfish, the students loved directly connecting to what we were reading. We got white marshmallows to

represent bleached coral reefs. We took paint and markers to add back the vibrant colors of coral reefs, making the reefs healthy again. Once the color came back to the marshmallow reef, so did the paper fish, which we glued to the reef model. From turtles, to rays, to sharks, we got to select from a wide variety of animals to add to our happy reef ecosystem. Through our hands-on "coral restoration," we got to see how colorful reefs mean the presence of more animal friends...while munching on a few of the leftover marshmallows!



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Brilliant Bird Binoculars

Before the start of each garden lesson, we put on our “garden binoculars” by shaping our hands into circles and gazing through them. We look around at the things we notice in the garden. From the changing leaves and the daily weather to greeting the friends we see in the garden, we observe it all. This week, we applied our long-practiced observation skills to study birds! While reading *Have You Seen Birds?* by Barbara Reid, we learned about the different habitats, feeding styles, and colorful bird species that live across our lovely earth. Then, like real scientists, we each got a pair of our very own “garden binoculars” and a field guide as we ran around the garden looking for birds and signs of their presence! We spotted many robins, a cardinal, and a few blue jays! From eaten cherries, to nests, to songs in the air, there was plenty of evidence of bird life around us. We then got to decorate our binoculars to



make observation tools of our own. We can't wait to use our “garden binoculars” for the weeks to come as we watch the garden change throughout the summer.



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Signs of Summer

As the weather gets hotter, our garden continues to grow into the Summer season. What changes will we see in the garden? Using our five senses, smell, sight, taste, touch, and hearing, we explored the outdoors and observed the seasonal changes around us. While reading *Over in the Meadow* by Jill McDonald and Susan Reed, we learned about the different things summer brings to the garden. After, we explored the garden like detectives on a mission to find things to engage our senses. We smelled the stinky garlic chives and the fresh mint leaves. Our noses loved the wonderful aroma of the garden. Looking around we saw many green things, characteristic of the summer season, like grape leaves growing on the fences, trees blowing in the wind, and our

very own plants growing tall in the garden beds. We ate yummy plants, like spicy garlic chives and very sour cherries from the tree. We liked to explore the garden through our sense of touch. From the soft grass to the dirt pile, we felt the different textures of the garden. Sounds were all around us to listen to: trains choo choo-ing, birds chirping, and friends laughing. Summer is starting, and we are here to witness its signs!



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GARDENING THIS MONTH

June has kicked things up a notch here in the garden! Whether it's transplanting young plants from the greenhouse, sowing new seeds, or giving plants lots of water, we're loving every moment of it.



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Garden Fun in the Sun!

Don't worry, when we're not gardening, we're still having plenty of fun in the garden space! We dance under the misty waterplay hose as the sun shines bright, and we look for rainbows. On cooler mornings, we play duck-duck-goose and soccer, using the garden bench as a goal. We make sure to take lots of breaks to drink water and snack on some garlic chives and radishes!



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July Family Garden Day!



RSVP [HERE](#)

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!**

- Learn more about pollinators in Massachusetts [HERE](#)
 - Better understand coral reef ecosystems and their threats [HERE](#)
 - Get involved with different scientific bird projects [HERE](#)
 - Explore nature with your five senses [HERE](#)
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- Find our environmental education book [HERE](#)
 - Donate to our program [HERE](#)



Thank you to our many wonderful alumni donors and friends!