

Firefly Scientists' Garden



Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center

MARCH IN THE GARDEN

Spring is on the horizon! As days get longer and temperatures warmer, our garden is thankful that the cool frost of winter is finally starting to melt away. You know what that means...it's almost time for our beautiful garden to start growing again! We spent March taking in this newly freshened air, prepping for spring, and learning all sorts of things about our lovely planet in the meantime.

Save the Date for our next Family Garden Day!



April 26th 9:30am-11:30am

FAMILY GARDEN DAY

Meet us in the Lemberg garden as we make pea fort structures and plant some little seedlings into the ground. The rain date is the following week on May 3rd.

Please RSVP here:
<https://forms.gle/9WxYjvEFrqvKT4Lm6>



SCAN ME

We Love the Garden to the Moon and Back

To kickstart the lovely month of March, we decided to learn about something a little out of this world. Using *The Moon Seems to Change* by Franklyn M. Branley, we started to think about our beautiful friend just across the way—our moon. The Moon is incredibly important in experiencing our seasons and keeping our Earth the lovely place to live that it is...but why can't we always see it? To understand this, we talked all about the Moon's many phases, how it waxes and wanes, and even what kinds of animals like to come out when the moon is bright and full. Then, we got to color in our very own Moons to show appreciation for this wonderful rock that keeps our Earth company. At home before we go to sleep we can hold our Moon phase guides up to the window to determine what phase the Moon is in and predict what phase we will see tomorrow night!



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A Light Show in the Sky

It's that time of year where something really special happens in our sky...and you just might get to see it if you're in the right place at the right time. You may have even seen it here in Waltham this past fall! As we know, our Earth is covered by an invisible blanket of air—the *atmosphere*. When solar winds travel all the way from our friend, the Sun, to meet our atmosphere, something amazing happens. The air seems to light up in a dazzling display of colors that dance in the night sky. We read *The Lights That Dance* by Yuval Zommer to learn about these beautiful lights, known as the aurora borealis (or Northern/Southern lights). On each page we saw how animals and humans alike marvel at the incredible light show...and then, we got to make our very own auroras using oil pastels! Greens, pinks, purples, and blues—this light show is truly a one of a kind sight. Be on the lookout for aurora showings near you!



Signs of Spring!

To celebrate the first week of spring, we were visited by a very special guest—The Very Hungry Caterpillar!



Slowly but surely the birds are starting to sing, bugs are crawling, rain is falling, and flowers are blooming. To learn more about what makes spring different from the other seasons, our friend, Very Hungry Caterpillar read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's First Spring*, by Eric Carle. We learned about the rain that washes away the winter season, the flowers that bloom, and animals that come out when all the rain is done. We sang like Duck, Bumblebee, and Toad,

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and even talked about some things that we might grow in the garden this season! Then, we went on a scavenger hunt in our garden for all of these lovely signs of spring. We even got to ask Very

Hungry Caterpillar some questions...why would a caterpillar need to eat so much? How is Spring different from other seasons? At the end of this warm spring, The Very Hungry Caterpillar will turn into a very beautiful butterfly. We just might learn about that next!



Moving Mountain Mystery

How can an ocean animal's fossil be found at the top of the tallest mountain in the world? For this lesson, we learned just that—we read *How Mountains Are Made* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld to figure out this mystery. Turns out, mountains are formed by moving plates that make up the Earth's crust...as they move, even ocean floors can get lifted up into tall peaks. For this story, we thought it'd be fitting to include lots of movement to really understand the everchanging land on Earth. As we hiked a mountain with the kids in the story, we acted out what it would be like to BE mountains, MAKE mountains, and even become the fossils sinking into the ocean that will, in time, make their way to the top of the next mountain. We

moved like wind and rain that break mountains down, and we took a big deep breath as we admired the view at the top of our hike up Mt. Imagination. We even pretended to be mountain climbers on a pile of garden mulch!



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March Family Garden Day

Thank you so much to all the families and friends who joined us for our Family Garden Day this month! While it is still too cold to start tending for seeds in the greenhouse, we decided to get a head start by planting some seeds indoors! We planted carrots, peas, eggplants, kale, and sunflowers all while munching on some warm cookies of course! Our garden team is so grateful for the support and enthusiasm of our Lemberg families. Check out the flyer at the top of this newsletter for more information about our upcoming Family Garden Day on April 26th - we hope to see you there!



Saving a Lemberg Tree!

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One of the best parts about our environmental education is getting to apply what we have learned into the real world. The garden team was approached by Jordan, a student in the Voyager classroom, about a tree in the playground that had a broken branch. Together we brainstormed some ways that we could help the tree feel better. Ultimately, we came to the conclusion that if we snipped off the broken branch, the tree would be able to use more energy to grow big and strong rather than putting all of its energy into fixing the broken part. With love and empathy, we here at Lemberg have the power to heal the world, one tree at a time.

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!**

- Aurora borealis forecast [HERE](#)
- More on the recent Stand Up for Science movement [HERE](#)
- Moon phase calendar [HERE](#)
- Want to try the spring scavenger hunt at home? Signs of Spring sheet [HERE](#)
- Looking for a mountain (or hill) to hike? Find trails [HERE](#)



Thank you to our many wonderful alumni donors and friends!