

Firefly Scientists' Garden

Environmental Education at The Lemberg Children's Center



SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

We are overjoyed that everyone is back at Lemberg for the start of the 2025-2026 academic year! Whether you're returning from last year or you are a new student, we're happy that the Lemberg garden is a place that you can call home. September has been a busy month as we've continued to water plants, harvest tasty crops, mix up our compost, and begin to observe changes in the garden as summer rolls into autumn. It has been wonderful to see all of our hard work from the summer pay off with a garden full of bright colors, beautiful sounds, and flavorful fruits. If you'd like to get involved, we have the details for our upcoming Family Garden Day below!



LEARNING THIS MONTH

Rooting For Veggies!



We love to watch as our fruits and vegetables grow from crawling vines and tall bushes. But what about the vegetables that grow underground? This week, we learned all about the roles roots play in keeping plants alive! Did you

know that roots are like straws that drink up water from the ground that reaches all the way into their green leaves? Some roots are kind or hairy looking, and some roots we can eat! While observing some root vegetables, we read *The Turnip*, by Jan Brett. The animals in the story struggled page after page to get a massive turnip out of the ground. We ran over to our root vegetable beds and showed off our muscles while we harvested our colorful carrots, radishes, turnips, and beets. We even got to snack on our delicious crops. After taking our opinions to a vote, the general consensus for the



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best treat was a tie between turnips and carrots - but don't worry, we're still *rooting* for all the fruits and veggies here in the garden!

Scarecrow Sculptors

As summer rolls into fall and our pollinated flowers begin to fruit, we aren't the only ones who want to enjoy our delicious crops. Sometimes we come out to the garden only to find that a few of our crops went missing! After reading, *Dappled Apples*, by Jan Carr, we knew what we needed to do before the birds and bunnies got to munching - create our very own garden scarecrows! Adding bright colors and some whimsy, we quickly got to decorating the shirt and scarf of our classroom's scarecrow. Using a garden pot for a head, garden gloves for hands, and a silly hat for fun, we took turns bringing each element of our scarecrow together. From now on, even when we're learning inside, we know that our scarecrows will help protect our garden crops!



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Fall-ing For Autumn

Crunch, munch, boo! Fall has arrived! This week, we used our five senses to complete a scavenger hunt for signs of fall. We found marigold flowers to smell, orange pumpkins and gourds to see, heard birds chirping and leaves crunching beneath our feet, felt different types of vegetables, and tasted some carrots and herbs. We're excited to continue observing the leaves as they change color and feel cool breezes dance around our garden. With all of the bright colors and warm flavors of the season, it's hard not to fall for autumn!



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A Fruit is a Suitcase for a Seed

We know that seeds turn into plants when we give it lots of sunlight, soil, water, and love, but where do seeds come from? To investigate this mystery, we came together to read, *A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds*, by Jean Richards. We learned that seeds don't just magically appear in a seed packet, but that they come from the fruits and vegetables that they grow! Putting our detective skills to use, we cut up a cucumber and some beans to remove each seed from its protective coating. We left the seeds soak in water overnight to separate from their gelatinous coating before rinsing them off and setting them out to dry. Now we have an endless supply of cucumber and bean seeds to plant in the spring!



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GARDENING THIS MONTH

Our work in the garden has been busy this month! With a harvest full of pumpkins, eggplants, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, radishes, turnips, beats, carrots, mouse melons, watermelons, zucchini, bell peppers, arugula, and herbs, we have had a lot of snacking and cooking to do!



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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!**

- Amazing guide to growing your own root vegetables [HERE](#)
- Learn how to save your own seeds [HERE](#)
- Find our environmental education book [HERE](#)



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