Garden November 2026

In the Garden

We will be putting garden beds to sleep this month, covering them with blankets of leaves. There will also be some crimson clover in some of the beds. The clover will add a little color & can be sewn back into the soil as "green manure" next spring. Like beans & peas, it is a nitrogen fixer, helping other plants to grow. Our two cold-frame greenhouses have been planted with kale, chard, lettuce, kohlrabi & parsley, as well as calendula & nasturtium. Next to the deck in the annex yard is a row of Alaska pea plants flanked by kale, lettuce & kohlrabi. These plants don't have the benefit of the greenhouse warmth & protection, but we're hopeful that they will grow & give us more fresh veggies to munch on. As this month begins we are still enjoying a few flowers in bloom (cosmos, dahlia, calendula, borage & zinnia).

In the classroom

Nov 3-6 — Leaves

Activities

- View & discuss various leaf specimen
- Leaf rubbing
- Write the names of leaves
- Discuss why leaves change color
- Trace leaf outlines
- Leaf sensory bin (with hidden objects)
- Books to peruse: Let it Fall & The Wild Leaf Ride

Objectives

- Observe & describe differences in various leaves
- Create a leaf rubbing sheet
- Identify leaves as deciduous or coniferous
- State the names of colors
- Write/trace the names of various leaves

Vocabulary

- Leaf/leaves
- Red, yellow, orange, brown, green
- Photosynthesis, chlorophyll
- Deciduous, coniferous
- Autumn



Watering sprouts of veggies for the greenhouses—>

Nov 9-13 — Harvest

Activities

- Discuss what harvest means as well as harvest traditions
- Drink tea from this year's garden blend (as requested by the children!)
- Create a list of foods we enjoy
- Taste greens from the garden
- Complete pumpkin mazes & farm puzzles
- Match pumpkin seeds to numerals
- Review why leaves change color
- Leaf rubbing & tracing; writing leaf names
- Look at children's garden books

Objectives

- Describe what harvest is
- Identify foods that we enjoy
- Negotiate pumpkin mazes
- Match seeds to numerals
- Write/trace the names of various leaves

Vocabulary

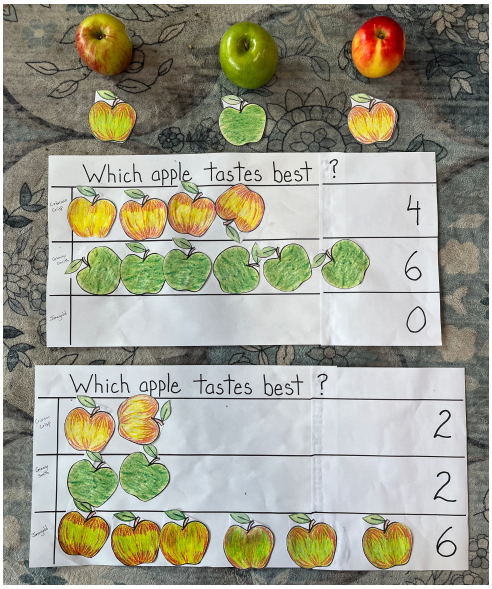
- Harvest
- Thankful
- Photosynthesis, chlorophyll
- Deciduous, coniferous



Investigating potatoes from the garden using a fulcrum scale —>

Some carrots from the toddler garden & graphs from our apple unit





Nov 17-20 — Eat a Rainbow, part I

Activities

- Read I Can Eat a Rainbow
- Discuss foods of different colors & why we eat a rainbow of colors
- Observe & taste foods of various colors
- Match photos of vegetables & fruits to colors on a rainbow
- Food puzzles
- Farm animal magnets on a farm scene
- Leaf sensory bin
- Build with colored blocks

Vocabulary

- Vegetable, fruit
- Rainbow
- Red, orange, yellow, green, blue & purple
- Healthy
- Nutrients



Objectives

- Name foods of various colors
- Taste foods of various colors
- Explain why it is healthy to eat foods of various colors

Nov 23-25 — Gratitude Circle & Songs

During this short holiday week in garden class we'll discuss what gratitude is and share something(s) that each of us is grateful for. We'll have percussion instruments to play while we sing songs the children request, and we will practice a heartbeat rhythm while we sing a Lakota chant.