Warm Summer Days in the Garden
The sporadic rain in combination with long sunny days means the garden is thriving! We invite you to join us this month for “Families in the Garden” to explore this year's garden with your child/ren!

- **Yellow** Door has been studying Missouri animals and endangered animals. This has them especially interested in the Monarch Butterfly, which is attracted to our milkweed. The children are helping brainstorm how to continue to protect the Monarchs.
- **Blue** Door is preparing to harvest quite the crop of radishes! They have had tremendous success growing their own in their Blue Door plot. They have also been exploring their senses with the flowers and bringing flowers back into the classroom.
- **Green** Door has been discussing beneficial and harmful insects. Two harmful insects they found in the garden are the yellow aphids on the milkweed and the Japanese Beetle on the grape vine. They are also discussing garden maintenance and how much work it takes to produce an edible treat.
- **Red** Door has welcomed a lot of new children to their class, so the children have been talking a lot about where to walk in the garden, how to properly water the plants, and what to look for as a tomato ripens on the vine.

**Visits to the People’s Garden with Mr. Jim**
Each classroom has a designated day to visit Mr. Jim in the People’s Garden. Jim is our partner from the USDA right here on campus. He engages each classroom at their developmental level in planting and harvesting. This is a favorite time for many of our children and teachers. Ask your teacher about their garden day to learn more!

**Mark your calendar!**
Fridays in the Garden
June 16th, 23rd, and 30th
4:00-5:30pm
Activities and ice water provided!

**Defining the Garden Space**
Each season our garden team tries to choose one main thematic focus in addition to adding new physical elements to the space. This season our theme and motivation for growing will be to donate to our local food pantry. Our new elements in the garden include a new flag pole with stone surround and a brand new compost bin. The flag pole will allow us to display our name and affiliation to those who walk by and our compost bin will open up new learning opportunities for our children.
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Snapshots of CDL children enjoying the garden both inside and outside their classrooms.