Sharing the Garden with Critters

The children have been able to investigate evidence of quite a few unwelcome critters this season. They have observed bunnies, Japanese Beetles, Squash bugs, aphids, and more. We have also been able to talk more about beneficial (superhero) bugs like honey bees and ladybugs, too!

- **Yellow** Door has been learning about climate and native Missouri plants. The children worked hard on creating their own maps of the Learning Garden (see pictures) and identified where our plants originated from around the nation and world!
- **Blue** Door hosted their own family garden event complete with music and books (and shade!). Toddlers have also been measuring our growing corn with string. It’s now taller than they are!
- **Green** Door has really been enjoying the purple grapes and blackberries growing in the garden. On a recent visit, they assisted with sign-making and discussed beginning letter sounds in the garden.
- **Red** Door has discussed composting and taken an interest in our new compost bin. The children have been mindful of what natural breakfast, lunch, and snack waste can be added to the compost and take trips multiple times a week to add to the bin.

Sharing with our Neighbors: CDL Donation Update

This summer the emphasis has been on donating to our local Food Pantry. Over the CDL closure, we were able to donate another 17lbs of tomatoes, bringing our season total to **35 pounds** of garden fresh produce!

Visit the Garden!

CDL families are invited to visit the garden at any time. We will also periodically invite families to visit for specific activities. Watch for invites to join us!

Farm-to-Table at the CDL

The CDL is lucky to have a very talented chef, Chef Shelly, who is excited and eager to use fresh produce from our garden. So far this season she has cooked beet greens, sweet corn and added garden-grown grapes and blackberries to fruit salad. Not to mention, she is always using fresh garden herbs - thyme, basil, and garlic! Yum! The freshness of farm-to-table is happening right here at the CDL!
Warm Summer Days in the Garden
Snapshots of CDL children enjoying the garden. Check us out spelling with veggies, finding letters, creating maps, searching for asparagus bugs, and finding some tasty treats!