

Cabbagetown Naturalist News

January 2019

The children of the Cats and Ladybugs classes and I have been continuing our study of color theory through the preparation and use of natural dyes, to color cotton muslin fabric.



The process of creating dyes with collected natural materials and food scraps reclaimed from our lunch preparation, aligns with the study of color that we began in the fall when the leaves began to turn. It promotes an understanding of the natural world as a resource for creating useful materials in an environmentally friendly way. This work also speaks to the value of collaborations between the Cats and Ladybugs children. The older children have experience with the dyeing process and excitedly share their knowledge with the younger children.



The ladybugs children and I, alongside strong leadership from Ms. Makenna, have begun the process of creating an auction project together. We will be sculpting insects using collections of natural materials.





The children of the frogs class are continuing to give attention to the creation of homes for the bugs that live within our community. Their interest in shelter for small creatures, inspired by their empathy, has led to the creation of homes for other small creatures, such as snails, mice, and worms. The children are beginning to sculpt models of these creatures as yet another offering to the ecosystem within our park that they are striving to support.



We are also continuing our art and nature walks when weather permits, revisiting our park, searching for signs of winter, and using the language of photography to continue our catalogue of the botanical changes in Cabbagetown Park over time. The children are continuing to discover new intersections between the infrastructure and urbanization of our city and the natural world. I believe giving attention to the juxtaposition between the two, provides the children with a unique opportunity to realize the impermanence of the natural world, hopefully inspiring a sense of responsibility within the children to protect and support our natural ecosystem.



Happy New Year! -Ina