



**Kid Country**  
CHILD CARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

NUMBER 1 VOLUME 17

JANUARY 2018



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

- 10th -- Olivia E.
- 12th -- Evelyn N.
- 14th -- Jay H.
- 14th -- Wesley D.
- 24th -- Claire K.
- 28th -- Miss Fran



## Thank You for Your Support

**H**APPY 2018! Another year has come and gone (way to quickly), and we now get to start fresh with another new page and see what this new year has in store for each of us!

Of course, the major event happening at Kid Country in January is our annual Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser! We have always had good luck with this fundraiser, and many of you look forward to this every year! Order forms will be going home with orders due no later than Monday, January 22. Pick up day for all orders will be on Wednesday, January 31 – just in time for the super bowl! I have two major projects that I hope to accomplish in 2018, which the fundraiser will support.

First, I'd like to get the kitchen exhausted properly to reduce the heat that builds up in there on a daily basis. Even on our coldest days, the kitchen heats up to over 90 degrees and far worse on our hot days! We plan to install an exhaust fan to help get all that heat out of the building! Second, the infant/toddler playground needs some help. The "bottom" half needs the turf to be pulled up and replaced, along with levelling it off and adding more sand under the new turf. New turf, materials and labor to complete just the playground job is close to \$6,000.

Kid Country earns \$6 for every pizza kit you sell. We currently have 110 families attending Kid Country. If every family sold 13 items, that would give us a profit of \$8,580! This would help us get both projects completed! I know that some families don't want to sell items, and that's okay too. If you would prefer to just make a straight donation without the hassle of selling and delivering items, a \$75 donation is about the same as selling 13 items. Of course, any support of this fundraiser is greatly appreciated!

Looking back to last month, I want to say thank you to all of you for attending our Holiday Show in December! We had the largest crowd ever and the children did such an awesome job! I cannot tell you how much we appreciate you supporting our program and getting everyone to come out and cheer on our children! Thank you!

As this new page and chapter of the New Year begins, I want to wish each and every one of you a year full of health and happiness! Thank you again for continuing to support Kid Country! Happy New Year!

*Donna*

# YELLOW DUCKS

The Yellow Ducks dove into the holiday spirit of December with several activities engaging all of their motor skills to heighten their experiences. To kick off the holiday season, the ducks free colored with all different colored markers!

Miss Krista cut out stocking shapes for the Christmas banner for the annual holiday program. After she cut them out, she placed the different colored socks on the table for the ducks to choose which sock they wanted and which colored markers they wanted to color with. This activity supports Kid Country's Creative Curriculum because the children are to create the coloring as they see fit and without any restrictions. In addition, the teachers observed different developments and milestones that were occurring as they were coloring. One aspect that the teachers paid close attention to was



how the children were holding the markers. The teachers observe which hand they choose to use, if

they switch hands, how they hold the markers and so on. The teachers observe these skills to note how their fine motor skills are developing, which leads to their writing skills.

The Yellow Ducks also celebrated the Christmas holiday by having a pajama day and hot cocoa day with Miss Donna! Miss Donna decided to go from room to room and read different Christmas stories to the children while enjoying a nice "hot" cup of cocoa (otherwise known as chocolate milk)! To finish off the festivities for December, the Yellow Ducks participated in their holiday party. They enjoyed a special snack of cool whip, grapes and red and green goldfish. When snack was over, the children were

gathered on the carpet to participate in the unwrapping of gifts! The ducks enjoyed revealing what gifts were under the wrapping paper. To conclude the party, Miss Krista helped the ducks make special ginger bread ornaments. Overall, the month of December was another month full of activities and learning and we can't wait to see what the New Year has in store for us! Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Nyjha

# PURPLE PARROTS

This is the season to be jolly! The mild weather didn't stop the Purple Parrots from diving right into the Christmas spirit! We started the month off by introducing the idea of Christmas and what it's all about.

Several books about winter and Saint Nicholas were added to the classroom and the children just couldn't get enough! For days, we looked at the colorful pages and discussed what we saw. This was a great way for the teachers to encourage communication and socialization skills. We explored all kinds of new vocabulary through the stories, some of our favorite words were Santa, stocking, reindeer, ho ho ho, sleigh, bow, and of course presents!

Not only were books added to the room but we each brought in a special ornament to share! We were so excited to bring a little part of home to school. As we sat together after snack we discussed the differences that we saw. Some ornaments had family photos, some had coloring, some were Christmas characters, and others were shaped like Christmas trees!

The fun didn't stop there though, we learned some fun new songs as well! The sound of "We Wish You A



Monday, 1/1	<b>CLOSED</b> Happy New Year!
Tuesday, 1/2	Little Caesar's Fundraiser begins!
Wednesday, 1/3	Haircuts
Monday, 1/8	Blue Gills program resumes
Monday, 1/15	Public schools closed/ No Blue Gills program
Monday, 1/22	Little Caesar's Orders Due
Thursday, 1/25	Parent Snack Time
Wednesday, 1/31	Little Caesar's Order Pick Up

Merry Christmas," and "Jingle Bells" filled the air as children played throughout the day! Hand in hand with singing, the toddlers absolutely LOVED dancing to Christmas music, what a fun way to add a little gross motor to their day! Many of the children swayed back and forth while others jumped up and down, or clapped their hands!

Finally as the big day drew near we celebrated with a PJ day where Ms. Donna read several stories with us and joined us for a special snack of cookies and milk. It truly is "The Most Wonderful Time of The Year" here at Kid Country and while we were very eager for Christmas to be here, we will be sad to see it go! We are, however, also excited to see what the New Year will bring us! Happy New Year!

Miss Kim, Miss Pam, Miss Kathy, Miss Marisa and Miss Danni



# GREEN FROGS

This month the Frogs focused on the Christmas holiday. Throughout the month of December, the Frogs had many discussions with their teachers and peers about popular Christmas symbols, and how we each celebrate the holiday in our own homes. The Frogs really enjoyed talking and reading about reindeer.

We were very interested to see pictures of real-life reindeer and learn about how their antlers and hooves help them to survive in their cold habitat. The Frogs made two different reindeer crafts to display on our walls. We also had many great conversations about our Christmas trees. We talked about how we each trim our own trees at home and the similarities and differences we may have. The Frogs also worked together to make a large classroom Christmas tree under which we put the presents that our families helped us decorate!

We utilized several different games and activities to improve our fine and gross motor skills. Ms. Courtney worked with the Frogs to play the "Reindeer Feeding" game which required them to feed their plastic reindeer a designated number of pipe cleaner pieces. The Frogs also made many sparkly and festive projects which required them to use their pincher grips to grasp small materials such as sequins and glitter. Since the weather outside is frightful, we have been trying to incorporate gross motor games and activities into our indoor play. The Frogs had several opportunities this month to play with the parachute and participate in hallway obstacle courses. The Frogs also love to dance and prance around the classroom like reindeer whenever they have the chance!

We had a very exciting Christmas week!

Miss Donna came in on pajama day to read us a special Christmas story and delivered us a very festive snack of milk and cookies. We also had our classroom Christmas party this week and the Frogs had a great time participating in many different activities throughout the morning! We had several games such as jingle bell toss, hit the target snowball fight, and a candy cane hunt. We also played many games together as a large

## Blue Gills

It is the most wonderful time of the year! Just ask any of our very excited Blue Gills. The gleam in their eyes and the thrill in their voices when they talk about Santa Claus' arrival is nothing but magical. We have been counting the days until Christmas by counting backwards on the bulletin board. Every day we took a number off and



then counted how many days we had left. We even reinforced the days of the week

by naming them as we counted down!

Gingerbread men are always fun to study. We read all types of stories about gingerbread men, boys, girls, babies and pirates. We also compared their similarities and differences. Each story was unique, but had some similarities. Circle time brought some gingerbread fun as we patterned them and played the missing gingerbread game. In this game we closed our eyes and had to guess which color house the Gingerbread Man was hiding under. Sometimes we would guess right away and other times we had to look under almost every house. What a great game!

Some other gingerbread activities we engaged in were counting them, creating our own out of paper and drawing them. We also had fun making our own

group including pass the ornament, and parachute bow toss. The Frogs enjoyed a special Christmas treat as they were able to decorate their own sugar cookie and enjoy it as a snack!

We are now looking forward to a fun 2018!

Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Courtney and Miss Wendy

homemade gingerbread play dough. After we mixed the ingredients in a large bowl, Ms. Rhonda kneaded it for us. When the play dough was ready, we were able to play with it and make gingerbread men using gingerbread cookie cutters and buttons and beads. Boy did it make our room smell so good!

We are now looking ahead to the New Year! Our new study will be Emotions and promises to be just as exciting!

Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Jenna, and Ms. Wendy

## Blue Dolphins

Can you believe we are already into the New Year? During December, the Blue Dolphins were busy at work creating and decorating a banner for the Kid Country Christmas program as well as spreading their own holiday cheer with homemade crafts and cards for the Lurie's Children Hospital.

The Dolphins spent the past month in anticipation of the arrival of the holidays, Santa Claus, gift shopping and enjoying some down time! They are always buzzing with creative and new ideas to share with one another. As always, we continue to work with the Blue Dolphins in displaying appropriate social behaviors, respect, caring and responsibility.

We wish each of you a new year filled with health and happiness!

Miss Donna K., Miss Rhonda, Miss Jenna and Mr. Connor

# ORANGE OWLS

As the year came to a close the Owls had many things to celebrate! After much practicing and preparation, the Owls were singing sensations during our Christmas program! In front of their family and friends they belted out some of their favorite Christmas tunes with a bit of a country twist. The audience was especially thrilled when the Owls, Gills and Frogs sang the grand country finale. It was a major hit, with all the children singing them for weeks after.

We then took the holidays into a different light as we discussed the holidays through our senses. We began with introducing our senses, discussing how important our senses are, and why we need more than one sense at once. Tying them into the holidays was incredibly fun for the Owls. Making peppermint scented slime, five senses gingerbread men, and various scented paints -- there was never a dull moment for any of our sense!

Among the various celebrations throughout the month, our top two were cookies with Miss Donna and our Holiday party! Miss Donna has us more than intrigued with her new holiday stories about giving to others all the way to Santa



coming to Chicago! Then to close out the week as well as the month we played many games and had a delectable snack for our Holiday party! Our Christmas tree snack and snowball fight made our week!

We are looking forward to a fun and

# RED ROBINS

This month was full festive mode in the Red Robin classroom. We expanded our holiday cheer to the fullest by completing holiday inspired projects, having Christmas dance parties, and finding our classroom elves, Jack and Jill. The children have been talking about Santa and all the toys they would like under their tree and the yummy treats they make at home.

The Red Robins classroom loves to hear about the family traditions of the children throughout the year but especially during the holiday season. Traditions are an important aspect of exposure to

diversity and developing/ maintaining an open thinking process. Diversity is very influential in the early childhood field and bringing a child's own diversity to light with pride is not only encouraging to each child but connects home and school. Over the course of the month we have heard about visiting Santa, religious components, baking, and even favorite holiday songs. Each child is encouraged to talk about their favorite happenings of this season at their own comfort level.

In addition, the Red Robins have been busy creating holiday projects such as their very own "Christmas sweater" and snow globes. The children achieved multiple developmental domains

exciting New Year here at Kid Country! Miss Bailey, Miss Rachel, Miss Melissa and Miss Madison

during the creativity of designing their own sweater. Ms. Leslie provided a large variety of textures and colored materials for the children to decorate their sweaters as they wished. It was fun to see some of their personalities shine through on their sweaters with the different colors and materials on display. Also, the children made snow globes using cotton balls, evergreen trees and glue. In support of Creative Curriculum, the children talked about snow globes with the teacher prior to the project and were introduced to pictures of snow globes. However, it was up to the children to freely place the pieces of their snow globes to reflect their interpretation of a snow globe. The freedom to think and perceive an object at their own will encourages and develops problem solving and concluding skills that



will be continually used in their lives. Overall, the Red Robins began the month of December with the full holiday spirit and then finished strong with their holiday party. The classroom was filled with giggles, a special treat, a fun photo booth, and a gift for their parents. This time of year is a great time to reflect on the wonderful season

we have had in the Red Robin classroom as we look forward to the New Year! Miss Emily, Miss Holly, and Miss Leslie