



Kid Country
 CHILDCARE

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CROSSINGS

NUMBER 4 VOLUME 17

APRIL 2018

TEACH
 encourage
 instruct
 MENTOR
 PRAISE
 INFLUENCE
 GUIDE
 INSPIRE

WOYC 2018

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st -- Skylar G.
- 2nd -- Niko G.
- 5th -- Miss Danni
- 8th -- Ryan A.
- 10th -- Ava D.
- 12th -- Joey R.
- 14th -- Megan B.
- 19th -- Abigail S.
- 22nd -- Aubrey H.
- 27th -- Michelle H.
- 27th -- Alexis G.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Miss Krista



Silent Auction & Celebration

April has arrived! We are looking forward to Spring arriving (for real, lol) and our Week of the Young Child celebration. The week of April 16 is packed with all sorts of activities to honor the young children in our lives!

On Masterpiece Monday, the children will be decorating the hallway bulletin boards with classroom masterpieces and enjoying Crazy Hair Day! On Tell Me About it Tuesday, we will be encouraging all the children to bring in their favorite books and spend the day reading their selections while hanging out in our jammies! Then on Work Together Wednesday, the children in the Blue Gills, Orange Owls and Green Frogs classrooms will be assisting the younger children as they complete our multiple classroom obstacle course! Everyone will be wearing their work out gear as we get our heart rates up!

Thankful Thursday is a favorite of mine! The children will be creating cards for our local community personnel. Once completed, we will deliver these handmade cards to our local police, fire, paramedics, and village workers. We will also be rocking out our Ties & Tutus and hosting our ice cream social (see more details below) on Thursday as well!

On Family Friday, we are inviting YOU the families to enjoy breakfast with us! We ask that you spend breakfast time in your child's class, help the children serve themselves and enjoy some good morning conversation.

When you are ready to leave, you are welcome to grab donuts and coffee to go on us! We will also be asking for family members to volunteer to read in our classrooms on Friday. To round out Friday, we will be having a spirit day! Dress your child in his/her classroom colors and show your Kid Country pride!

The most exciting part of our Week of the Young Child celebration is our Silent Auction! Last year was the first year we tried this, and it was a huge success. Miss Bailey has gathered several items that our teachers and children will be painting to create some very nice pieces of keepsake furniture. I am super excited to see what she has in store for us this year! These items will be displayed in our hallway and available for the silent auction all week, with the final bids being accepted at 5:30p on Thursday, April 19 during our Ice Cream Social. The Ice Cream Social will start at 4p on that Thursday, and we encourage everyone to stop in the Blue room after picking up your children for the day. We will have ice cream for everyone to enjoy, along with all the auction items on display for those final bids! This is also a great time to socialize with other families and teachers as well!

Children are our future and we are honored to provide yours with their first experience with education, and we hope that we instill a love of learning in every child that enters our doors!

Donna

Blue Dolphins PURPLE PARROTS

Spring has sprung and the Blue Dolphins have been trying to make a point to embrace some of the nice weather and longer days as much as we can. After a long day at school, the Blue Dolphins have had some chances to venture outside and release some energy. We have participated in our usual kickball, football, soccer and basketball play. We reviewed our playground rules and, hopefully, within the next coming weeks we will be able to continue to get in some more outdoor time and play other team games as well.

On those days we cannot get outside, we have been quite busy inside playing games such as Minute to Win It, Cinderella, Hangman, Musical Chairs, 21 Questions, Story Starters, What Do You Think, Four Corners and word match games. The Blue Dolphins have all worked together and have very much encouraged one another while playing. We love to see such positive behaviors from the Blue Dolphins!

Please remember to dress your child according to this unpredictable spring weather. We are looking forward to a busy spring with lots of outdoor play! Miss Donna, Miss Rhonda, Miss Wendy and Miss Jenna



March flew by for the Purple Parrots! This month we took our sign language to the next level by learning two new signs. We learned to communicate the word "happy" by rotating two hands made into blades out in front of us (similar to the motion of "The Wheels on the Bus"). We also introduced the word "yes." To sign the word yes, you simply hold a fist next to your ear and knock it in the same motion as if you were nodding your head. Sign language has been a great way to encourage the children to communicate and discover a hint of diversity in the classroom. Take some time at home and enjoy watching your child learn something new!

We also took some time



this month to learn all about transportation. We explored the way that tractors move in the mud and mimicked how air planes use their wings to soar through the sky! What a fun way to exercise both fine and gross motor skills! Through the month new vocabulary filled the room as well. We heard

words like tire, wing, and even propeller! The toddlers have loved learning all about choo-choos and air planes but cannot wait to start diving into a study all about flowers, and bugs as we cannot wait for SPRING! Miss Kim, Miss Pam, Miss Kathy, Miss Marisa and Miss Danni

Blue Gills

During the month of March, the Blue Gills had a slithering good time with their Reptile Study. We learned a song that taught them that reptiles are not slimy but are dry and scaly. Paying close attention to our new knowledge of the characteristics of living things, we also learned that reptiles usually shed their skin too. Each of us then got the opportunity to feel a real lizard and snake skin that had previously been shed.

We not only learned about the feel of reptiles, but also that some reptiles have patterns on their skin that is very important to knowing if they are a danger to us or not. We used these facts to create a huge snake in our classroom by each of us painting a section of a snake that did not have dangerous characteristics. This activity helped us advance our patterning skills and had us engaged for days. The children were able to

show their own flexibility and inventiveness thinking with each section they made.

Next, the Blue Gills would like to study about warmer blooded creatures by exploring Zoo Animals as their study! I think this one is going to be a roaring good time! Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Jenna, and Ms. Wendy



GREEN FROGS YELLOW DUCKS

With the month of March, came our exciting new study of spring and gardens! During our circle time, the Frogs enjoyed many informative discussions about the season of spring and all of the new changes it brings! We began our study by talking about rainbows. The Frogs shared stories about seeing rainbows in real life and learned about the color order that rainbows are always found in! Our circle time discussions are very important for the development of our little Froggies. During this time, we learn to take turns, wait patiently, and make connections based off of our prior knowledge and experiences.

Once we had learned all about rainbows and looked at many pictures, we made rainbows of our own! The Frogs loved getting messy as we constructed a large handprint rainbow to beautify our classroom wall. We also made adorable hanging cloud rainbows as we enhanced our cutting skills by cutting out paper strips for each color of the rainbow.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day this month and learned all about leprechauns in the Green Frogs room! Many of the Green Frogs had already known that leprechauns are small little people that collect gold and cause some mischief! We read several books about leprechaun families and even some about how to trap leprechauns! As a group, the Frogs sat on the carpet and cut out their own large pot and several pieces of gold to place in it. On our pots, we wrote what we would buy if we found gold of our own. We shared all of our great ideas at the carpet and learned a lot about each other! When green day rolled around at Kid Country, the Frogs did their best to catch a leprechaun of their own, but the sneaky little leprechaun got away! To stay healthy and active we did some fun and funny St. Patrick's Day yoga poses!

We are currently discussing plants and

gardening in the Frog room. The Frogs are really enjoying learning about seeds and how they grow into all different kinds of plants! Ms. Fran brought in some real seeds to give the students a chance to explore how they look and feel. Each Frog then had the chance to create their own seed using the art supplies in our classroom and decide what plant, fruit, or vegetable would grow from it. We placed the seeds in the paper grass and are anxious to see what beautiful things grow from them! In all the talk of gardens, we also discussed the need for sunlight and water. The Frogs worked together with their teachers to paint a large sun to brighten our room. Each Froggy also created a unique raincloud using paper and cotton balls to help keep our plants hydrated! The Frogs also enjoyed matching upper-case and lower-case letters in our raincloud game. We added fun pictures as well to work on letter sounds!

The Green Frogs are looking forward to April and all spring has to offer! Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Courtney and Miss Wendy

This month, we revolved our lessons plans around learning different types of undersea animals! To kick off this fun lesson idea, the teachers helped the Ducks handprint their hands on a piece of white paper. The teachers then created fish out of the handprints and stuck them in the "classroom fish tank."

Interactions between the teacher and the student are very important, especially at such a young age. Teachers who have positive interactions and bonds with their students create stable learning environments that are more helpful for the child to learn and to meet their needs such as emotional, developmental and educational needs. We as teachers create these bonds and interactions through one on one artwork, snuggling times, interacting with one child to increase their fine and gross motor skills, and by also acknowledging their feelings and needs.

Along with the handprint fish we created, the Ducks also made starfish out of their footprints, painted some puffer fish using a spiky ball, and painted with their favorite colors all over some different shaped seashells. The Ducks enjoyed talking about the different sea animals, and also reading about the ocean as well. As we continue talking about the different animals of the ocean, the teachers also talk about the differences and uniqueness that each child possesses.

As the months progress and the weather gets warmer, we will continue venturing outside as much as possible. We will continue with our peaceful walks up and down the sidewalk, and we will also start bringing and introducing some of the newer Ducks to the little playground. Miss Krista, Miss Hailey, Miss Pam and Miss Katie

Kid Calendar



Sunday, 4/1	Happy Easter!
Wednesday, 4/4	Haircuts
Week of 4/16	Week of the Young Child
Monday, 4/16	Masterpiece Monday and Crazy Hair Day
Tuesday, 4/17	Tell Me About it Tuesday and Jammie Day
Wednesday, 4/18	Work Together Wednesday and Work Out Gear Day
Thursday, 4/19	Thankful Thursday and Tie & Tutu Day
Friday, 4/20	Ice Cream Social, 4p-5:30p
Monday, 4/23	5:30p, Final Silent Auction Bids
Week of 4/30	Family Friday and Spirit Day
	Library Day
	Spring Photos

ORANGE OWLS

We wrapped up our "Out of this World" space unit before diving into Dr. Seuss this month. While studying Space, we flew far out into the galaxy to finish our exploring with constellations, the moon and its phases, and to touch on important key facts about each of the planets in the solar system.

The Orange Owls really enjoyed learning about the moon and what its phases are. We took more of a scientific approach as we discussed what made the moon look like it does and why. We learned how the moon does not produce light itself, but looks as if it is illuminated from the rays of the sun travelling past the Earth and reflecting on the moon's surface. We showed an example by using a flashlight and our hands in fists. This really had the Owls intrigued with how powerful the sun truly is in its effects throughout the whole solar system! The Orange Owls were then able to wrap up the outer space unit with many fun and interesting facts about each planet. For example, did you know that Venus is actually the hottest planet due to the layer of gas surrounding it?! We didn't either!

As we continued through March, we switched gears to Dr. Seuss. The Orange Owls have always had a love for his vast collection of books, and with this study we were able to dive deeper into each one as well as introduce all new ones! We worked on many rhyming, counting, and patterning projects that went hand in hand with the texts from various books. As a class we were also able to put many of our projects into group form to help us with teamwork as well. Our favorite team activity was a trial and error patterning "hat" made from cups and index cards. Each pair of children were encouraged to talk through and try to make a "hat" from these items without any assistance from a teacher. This was a great opportunity

for them to work on their critical thinking as well as their problem solving. With many hats falling we finally, as a class, got all the "hats" standing and all of our mouths grinning from ear to ear with pride! Miss Bailey, Miss Rachel, Miss Melissa and Miss Madison



RED ROBINS

The month of March brought a lot of color into the Red Robins room. We started off the month with our Unit on Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. The children learned about the letters in the alphabet as well as learned the first letter of their first name. We created our very own Chicka Chicka Boom Boom tree with our very own names.

The following week, we worked on our colors and learned about St. Patrick's Day. We started off the week by adding some color to the room by dot painting with marshmallows on clothespins to create our very own rainbows. This activity allowed for the children to paint in a variety of ways and really develop different fine motor skills than regular painting would offer.

We also played two different color games to work on color recognition, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills. The first game we tossed an O ball to each kid and asked them to pull out a specific color scarf and then toss the ball back to a teacher. This game was great for developing gross motor skills and fine motor skills while trying to pull the scarf out. The second color game was with bean bags, each child had to identify what bean bag was tossed at them.

We celebrated St. Patty's day by marble painting shamrocks. The Red Robins love to shake the box full of paint and marbles and see what patterns come out on our shamrocks. And on Green Day some silly Leprechaun hid gold nuggets outside and we went on a scavenger hunt to find them all!

Towards the end of the month, the Red Robins talked about our pets. It was so great to see all the pets that everyone has at home.

Thank you to all the Red Robin parents for bringing in pictures of your family pets. The children and staff really enjoy looking at them as well as talking to the children about them.

To put our fine motor skills to the test we created square mice, dogs, and cats. Each Red Robin was given the pieces of the animal and asked where it went, then they needed to glue it down with a glue stick. Our square pets came out great and you can see them on the bulletin board outside of our classroom. We explored what pets need from us in circle time, and we found out we have some very good pet owners in the class. We talked about how you need to feed your pet, give it water, clean up after it, and play and love it. We also worked on our gross motor skills by doing some Pet Yoga. The children learned to do the cat, dog, hamster and frog poses. These poses helped enhance the children's flexibility, refine their balance and coordination and helped to develop their focus and concentration. Plus, it's so much fun just pretending to be different animals!

As the weather warms up, the Red Robins will go outside any chance we get. This past month we managed to get outside a few times and enjoyed playing on the playground. The Red Robins will continue to go outside so please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately with what the weather is outside. We can't wait to see what fun April will bring!

Miss Leslie, Miss Holly, Miss Katie and Miss Madison