



JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

5th -- Lukas S.
7th -- Travis B.
16th -- Ethan B.
17th -- Nathan C.
18th -- Charlie H.
22nd -- Carson A.
23rd -- Miss Katie
25th -- Daphne B.
25th -- Elise B.
26th -- Ava S.
27th -- Joe C.
29th -- Maebry M.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Miss Katie



Sweet 16!

It's Kid Country's Sweet 16th Birthday! In June 2002 we opened our doors to the families of Manhattan! It's been an incredible experience, and I cannot even imagine how many children have come through our doors over the years. There is no way to express enough thanks to the community of Manhattan for embracing Kid Country as overwhelmingly as you have. It is so rewarding for me when I see a past Kid Country child graduate high school, stop in to visit and find she is taller than me, and to have a Kid Country graduate check out my groceries at the grocery store! I look forward to many more years of getting to know the children and families of Manhattan!

I'd like to give a shout out to our latest group of graduates as well! We celebrated their successes with a Graduation Ceremony on May 23. This year we had 34 graduates cross the stage in their Sunday best and caps, and what a great group of kids they are! I cannot wait to see what they have in store for the world as they make their way. Thank you also to all of our teachers and Miss Michelle for putting together another awesome performance! These children did an excellent job singing their hearts out for the 300+ audience members!

For those of you that are leaving us as summer approaches, let me say thank

you for choosing Kid Country for your early childhood education needs! It has been a pleasure to have you among the Kid Country alum, and we wish you all the best! For those sticking around throughout the summer, we are looking forward to a FUN, action-packed summer with all of our Kid Country children!

Miss Michelle has packed our summer with many exciting field trips along with some great in-house special activities as well. Make sure you have your field trip and special activity schedule posted on your refrigerator so you know what is happening every day! Watch your classrooms also for information every day about that week's upcoming events. Some trips require special shoes, water bottles, etc., along with a red Kid Country shirt, so please watch for these special instructions throughout the summer. For those of you that have signed up to chaperone one a field trip, THANK YOU! We cannot go on these trips without your help!

We are super excited about summer here at Kid Country, and we are happy you are joining us!

Donna

Blue Dolphins

As summer is quickly approaching, we would like to take this time to congratulate the Blue Dolphins as they complete another school year. We are so pleased and proud of their growth and achievements throughout this year. Your rock Dolphins!

We will begin to introduce and slowly transition the Dolphins into some of our summer routines. We will be gearing up for a fun-packed summer filled with interesting studies, field trips and special events at Kid Country. There will be new friends starting at Kid Country as well, along with some friends from years past returning! Our summer teaching staff will be Miss Rhonda, Miss Kristen, Miss Jenna and Miss Donna.

Our summer is meant to help the Dolphins wind down and provide a means for relaxation for our kiddos, however, our means for learning always remains the same. Most of this takes place through play. It is our goal to encourage our children, whether structured or unstructured free play, to work cooperatively with others, understand the importance of rules/regulations, along with teamwork and belonging. They will also utilize their creativity, imaginations, decision making and discover their varying interests and abilities.

We all look forward to an exciting summer!

Miss Donna, Miss Rhonda, Miss Wendy and Miss Jenna



PURPLE PARROTS

This month the Purple Parrots utilized their time by diving into a sensory and texture study. To get this study started, the toddlers created many different art projects including a feather mural, texture coloring, and finger painting. These are all great examples of the different sensations that can be experienced through their fingers and hands.

As we created these masterpieces, we talked all about the feeling of different objects that are smooth, bumpy, hard, soft, squishy, wet, dry, and many more. This was a great way to begin making connections and introducing some new vocabulary! Art was not the only way we explored textures, we also engaged in some fun filled group activities. A large piece of contact paper was set out on the floor and we each had a turn walking over it bare foot. This was a great way to introduce the idea of "sticky" to the children and get them to interact with their peers. In addition to sticky feet, we also used our fine motor skills to dive

into play doh and slime. Digging our fingers into the cool wet slime and feeling the coolness of the playdoh allowed us to experience yet another fun texture.

This month has been a blast, but the toddlers are so excited to dive into Kid Country summer activities! We can't wait! Miss Kim, Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Marisa and Miss Pam



GREEN FROGS

This month the Frogs enjoyed exploring new smells, tastes, and textures as we explored the remaining three of our senses! We began the month by learning all about our sense of smell.

The Frogs loved laughing and giggling to several silly books about smelly bears, and dirty hair. We played a mystery smell game where the Frogs were given the challenge to identify six smelly objects while blindfolded! The Frogs were shocked to see that they were unable to identify the smell of grass and cookies! We had wonderful conversations during our circle times about our favorite smells. We talked about all of our favorite meals and even made a chart illustrating some of the good and bad smells that we face every day. The Frogs practiced their handwriting as they wrote their names and covered them with different colored Jell-o powder! We had a blast taking turns smelling each other's names and talking about what flavor each color must be.

During the month of May we also talked about our sense of taste. Everyone in the classroom was very excited to learn all about the different recipes and foods that we were going to sample during the week! To start our week, we tested something very familiar: Skittles. The Frogs participated in a blind-folded taste test challenge to see if they could identify each color only using their taste buds. We also talked about the difference between sweet, salty, sour, and bitter foods. Looking at a diagram of a tongue, we pointed to each section of our tongues and discussed how each specific section perceives different tastes. We sampled sour lemons, salty pretzels, sweet marshmallows, and bitter dark chocolate. We also had the chance to taste some delicious gourmet popcorn! We made a classroom chart illustrating each Frog's favorite popcorn flavor after sampling grape, cheese, and butter. As a culminating activity, the Frogs made delicious dirt pudding

complete with a gooey gummy worm to put inside!

To end our month of May, the Frogs learned all about touch. We spent a large amount of time exploring nature and the textures present in the trees, grass, flowers, and concrete. We made nature rubbings by rubbing crayons on paper over each Frog's favorite natural texture. We also practiced touching without seeing as we practiced seeing with



our hands. The Frogs were asked to put their hands in a cloth bag and try to identify the toy hidden inside of it. Everyone did a great job using their reasoning skills to identify the

mystery items! The Frogs also made 3D name cards as they placed a piece of aluminum foil over each Frog's name written in hot glue! The Frogs loved pushing the foil down as their name slowly appeared! We are looking forward to a great summer of fun filled activities and special trips! Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Courtney and Miss Wendy

YELLOW DUCKS

May was a month of celebration and finally warm weather in the Yellow Duck classroom. It started with embracing the coming of spring filled with numerous outside times to explore the nature around them. The teachers brought out a variety of toys on the little playground for the young children to play with on a large blanket.

When the ducks explored their surroundings and the other children around them, the teachers made a point to identify different assets of outside such as birds, the sky, the breeze, the grass and even smaller things such as the airplanes in the sky. This enhances the experience of being outdoors.

The Ducks also had their very first water day! The ducks had a blast exploring their senses through the water tub. As part of the water day, the Ducks also had the opportunity to wash some of the toys in the classroom!

The best part about the warmer weather that May brought the Yellow Ducks is that it gave new opportunities for the Ducks to test out their gross motor skills. By exploring outside, the ducks got to explore new objects and toys for them to climb up and over, crawl through and play with. The warm weather also gave them the opportunity to socialize with the children around them.

May brought Kid Country new opportunities for the Yellow Ducks room. The babies really enjoyed exploring their natural environment and getting their hands and feet dirty on the little playground. With the help of the warmer weather, our lesson plans will now be mainly revolved around being outside and exploring new opportunities once again.

Miss Krista, Miss Katie and Miss Hailey



ORANGE OWLS

The Owls closed out their year with cause and effect and testing their hands in the “kitchen” as well. It was a great way for the Owls to see the various different types of cause and effect and how they can affect our everyday lives. Effects such as sink vs. float, down vs. up, and dry vs. wet had their little minds racing!

The favorite across the board was our sink vs. float. The Owls were encouraged to scour the room for an item they would be testing in our sensory bin. We first began by having the children tell us their hypothesis in whether their chosen item would sink or float and why. To our surprise, many of the Orange Owls made the right choice and for the correct reasons!

We then tied these causes into our “Kids in the Kitchen”. We discussed how important measuring each ingredient is, why there are specific times for cooking certain foods, and with all of this information the effects it would take on the foods. The Owls quickly understood these concepts without a problem!

We have been wrapping up the year with our graduation and discussing everything we are excited for in Kindergarten. This year has been filled with fun, laughter, and a whole lot of memories! It has truly been a blast!

Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Rachel and Miss Madison



RED ROBINS

The Red Robins sure had the “month of May,” this spring season. The month began with the return of Ms. Emily after her maternity leave as well as the introduction to new self-help skills. The Red Robins began pouring their own milk and water at meal times with the assistance of a teacher. This skill is important for hand-eye coordination, understanding of spatial relationships, and the ability to control the muscles in their hands and arms. The introduction of this skill, as well as many introduced in the Red Robin room, are later fine-tuned in Green Frogs.

In addition to self-help skills, the Red Robins have been hard at work exercising and engaging their gross motor skills. The gross motor skills of their arms and legs involve the strength of their core in order to operate in effective and purposeful movements. The long awaited springtime warmth allowed the children to spend much deserved and needed time on the playground and grassy side yard. The Red Robins slide down the slides with smiles on their faces as they run and yell for their friends to join. The outside experiences of each day promote growth and development through fresh air, space to move and explore socialization between different classrooms as well as their own. The Red Robins have been playing with the Green Frogs on the large playground in the morning and experiencing play from an older standpoint,

which provides another level of imagination as well as the modeling of following rules to games such as tag or “monkey on the woodchips.”

Overall, the Red Robins are excited for the warm weather and the hints of summer days we have been able to experience. As their time in the Red Robins begins to end, their hard work and achievements will become more and more relevant to our routines. We are excited for our summer activities to begin as well as water days! The Red Robin teachers would also like to thank all the families that were able to attend Parent- Teacher Conferences, we appreciate the opportunity to communicate and connect with the families.

Kid Calendar

Friday, 6/1	Summer Field Trip Fees due
Monday, 6/11	Ball Pit at Kid Country
Wednesday, 6/13	Smoothie Day w/Miss Bailey
Thursday, 6/14	Sensational Science w/Miss Fran
Friday, 6/15	FANatics Day
Monday, 6/18	Splish Splash Water Day
Tuesday, 6/19	SkyZone and Bike Day
Wednesday, 6/20	Tumblebus at Kid Country
Thursday, 6/21	Matthiessen State Park
Monday, 6/25	Incredibles 2/Round Barn Farm
Tuesday, 6/26	Glowy Bubbler at Kid Country
Wednesday, 6/27	Swallow Cliff and Bike Day
Thursday, 6/28	Bike Day, Hike to the Library, and Ball Pit at Kid Country
Friday, 6/29	Rolling Video Games