



Kid Country
CHILDCARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

CROSSINGS

NUMBER 7 VOLUME 17

JULY 2018



JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- 7th -- Miss Rhonda
- 8th -- Cole B.
- 8th -- Braedan H.
- 9th -- Miss Kathy
- 15th -- Skyler S.
- 16th -- Nash B.
- 25th -- Molly S.
- 27th -- Mr. Cain
- 29th -- Reid G.
- 29th -- Evelyn F.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Miss Kristen



Survey Success!

We just love summertime here at Kid Country! Our summer field trips and special activities are well underway and the children are loving all the extras! Be sure to check out the Kid Calendar in this newsletter that has the extensive list of activities planned for July! We are certainly staying busy this summer!

We tried something new for our parent surveys and used Survey Monkey! We have requested your participation in two different surveys over the past month, and it was a huge success!

Our Parent Feedback survey received 59 responses, which is about double of what we typically get when we send out paper surveys. Plus, your comments and suggestions were so meaningful! We will definitely take your comments under consideration and look forward to making the necessary improvements to keep Kid Country the top childcare center choice in our area!

The Fundraiser survey had a lot of great responses as well! We received 44 responses and again, your input was extremely valuable! I am already working on a

fundraising plan for the 2018-19 school year reflecting some of your suggestions. Thank you to everyone that took the time to complete one or both of our surveys. I'll absolutely use SurveyMonkey for future feedback from you!

I'd like to give a shout out to the Helping Hands Children's Therapy out of New Lenox for coming out to Kid Country and providing free screenings. They screened just over 20 children while they were here, and several families followed up with Helping Hands and are now receiving therapy services for their children. Early intervention is the key to success, and we are excited about this new partnership! We are already scheduling their return in the fall!

Just a reminder that Kid Country will be closed on Wednesday, July 4 to celebrate the Independence Day holiday. I hope you are all enjoying your summer! I can't wait to hear about all the summer vacations and trips that you are taking!

Donna

Blue Dolphins

It is officially summer and everyone in the Blue Dolphin Room is certainly excited. Lately, we have been quite the busy bees bouncing from place-to-place on field trips and enjoying our time together as a team. During the beginning of the month, we enjoyed making new play-doh, sensational science day, riding our bikes around the property, challenging some friends to our favorite board games and showing our Blue Dolphin pride on Fan Day!

The Blue Dolphins have really shown their ability to act respectfully and responsibly when away from Kid Country and everyone is noticing! We visited the Skyzone this month and had a jumping good time. The children caught and got hit by many balls in the dodge ball area and met challenges on the fitness warrior courts. We hung tight to the rock wall while we climbed to heights previously unexplored and scored points at the hoops! It was definitely a trip that exhausted all of us young and old.

The weather hasn't cooperated as much as we would have liked, but we have been keeping ourselves busy with all kinds of indoor group games. We have played old classics like Heads Up Seven Up and Four Corners and are learning new ones like Oh Captain My Captain. We have also learned a few new silly camp songs to sing while on the bus.

As you have heard already, the Blue Dolphins have brainstormed some "Summer Studies". These summer studies are general topics/themes that the children are interested in exploring over their summer break. As teachers in the classroom, we will facilitate this exploration by providing the students



with some resources and activities to supplement their interest. Some of these studies include: Chemical Reactions, Lunar Eclipses, Animals, Facts about the Human Body, Rocks/Minerals, Underground, Sea Life, Transportation and Neanderthals.

Right now, we continue to learn more

YELLOW DUCKS

The month of June seemed to fly by in the Yellow Duck classroom. Summer activities are in full swing at Kid Country and the babies had a lot of fun experiencing a variety of special events.

The ball pit returned for gross-motor and fine-motor practice, the babies maneuvered around in the ball pit and picked up the colorful balls. This activity engages the children in physical activity in a fun way, in which, they were able to socialize with one another in the ball pit. The Ducks also had a water day outside for the first time! The Ducks finally were able to try on their swimsuits and go outside in the warm weather and splish and splash in the water!

The rest of the month was full of introducing the Ducks to new games! We introduced smaller games that help with learning and growing such as peekaboo, itsy bitsy spider, where did baby go, and so big. These are considered babies' first games that they learn. First games help a baby learn to play with others and teaches little ones how to get another person to do fun things. These activities also help develop a child's object permanence. Object permanence typically begins to develop when a child is around four months old. It involves a baby's understanding that when things disappear, they are not gone forever. Developing object permanence is an important milestone in that it helps children work through separation anxiety.

The rest of the summer is still packed full of fun activities for the Ducks to experience. We are hoping to continue having more water days, ball pit days and much more! Miss Krista, Miss Katie and Miss Hailey

about our new study of the Ocean. We are being creative with art materials making our own tropical fish, flying fish, and crustaceans'.

Keep looking around our room at drop off and pick up times for new items we are making to turn our room into an Ocean Adventure!

Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Kristen, Ms. Donna K., Ms. Jenna

PURPLE PARROTS

This month the Purple Parrots got themselves ready for summer! They spent time doing a lot of fun summer activities. Some of these activities included the ball pit, water days, painting, and much more! These are some examples that the toddlers got to enjoy so far in the summer.

During water day the toddlers spent time exploring the water and interacting with the Red Robins. This was a great opportunity to have them work on their communication skills. While spending a lot of time outside the toddlers worked on their gross motor skills by jumping, climbing, and running around trying to pop the bubbles.

Some of the fun activities that came to Kid Country so far were the ball pit and the tumble bus. The toddlers had so much fun with these activities. The teachers interacted with the children to work on colors in the ball pit. In the tumble bus the children were able to jump, roll, climb, and slide around. These are all great opportunities to work on their gross motor skills.

The toddlers also spent more time in the garden digging dirt, planting plants, and watering the flowers. They used their gross motor skills to dig the dirt up with a cup and transfer it into a bucket to plant flowers in. This was a great opportunity to have the teachers talk to the toddlers about what we need to do to keep our plants growing.

This month has been filled with a bunch of fun summer activities and we cannot wait to see what is next!

Miss Kim, Miss Kathy, Miss Stacy, Miss Pam and Miss Marisa

GREEN FROGS

To kick off our summer, the Green Frogs took a look at the world around them as they began to learn about community workers. In many group discussions during circle time, we discovered that our parents and family members have many different careers and work fields. Some of them are nurses, teachers, farmers, personal trainers and much more. To help us better understand what certain careers are and how they benefit our community, the Green Frogs will be studying the many different careers of community workers throughout the summer.

We began our study with our first volunteer, Gunnery Sergeant Hardin, and his service dog Howie. Sgt. Hardin explained to us how Howie became a service dog and all the different trainings and hours he had to complete in order to work as a service dog. Mr. Hardin was able to demonstrate some of the many skills and tricks that Howie learned through his trainings. Within these demonstrations, Sgt. Hardin answered many of our questions about Howie and how he helps people. Howie's service vest was a great visual for the children and helped to teach us that when we see a vest on a dog it indicates that that dog is 'working' and should not be approached.

To continue our community workers study, Lieutenant Caschetta presented her career of working in the Coast Guard to the Frogs, Owls, and Dolphins. Lt. Caschetta brought in a few pieces of important equipment that she uses each day at work on the boat and gave several children the opportunity to try them on! The children loved wearing the various types of life vests that the members of the Coast Guard utilize during their daily work on the boats. Throughout the presentation, we saw bright vests for the summer in addition to thick winter jackets and fully insulated body suits for cold weather. We learned that the job of the Coast Guard is to patrol lakes, rivers, and coastal regions to help people on the water who are sick or injured and to keep the water clean for the marine life.

As the summer continues, more and more community workers will come in and expand our knowledge of their many different careers. Our summer will also be filled with more special activities and fun field trips. We ventured off to Sky Zone to enhance our gross motor skills and put our jumping skills to the test on the many trampolines. More tumbling was done as we completed the obstacle course within the Tumblebus here at Kid Country! We took a nice relaxing trip down to the movie theater to watch a movie and finished the day off by



releasing some energy at the Round Barn. The Frogs are looking forward to the many activities and field trips that this summer

will bring.

Miss Fran, Miss Wendy, Miss Jessica, and Miss Courtney

Kid Calendar

Monday, 7/2	Waxed Hands at Kid Country (9 - 12pm)
Tuesday, 7/3	Phillips Zoo, Aurora (8:45 - 2:15pm)
Thursday, 7/5	Orange Owls and Green Frogs
Friday, 7/6	Family Fun Zone, Crest Hill (9:15 - 1:15pm)
Monday, 7/9	Blue Dolphins
Wednesday, 7/11	Lake Katherine, Palos Heights (9 - 2pm)
Wednesday, 7/11	Blue Dolphins
Thursday, 7/12	Hollywood Park, Crestwood (9 - 2p)
Friday, 7/13	Blue Dolphins
Monday, 7/16	Ball Factory, Naperville (9:30 - 2:30p)
Tuesday, 7/17	Orange Owls and Green Frogs
Tuesday, 7/17	Ball Pit Fun at Kid Country (all day)
Wednesday, 7/18	Red Robins, Purple Parrots, Yellow Ducks
Thursday, 7/19	Manhattan Fire Dept. Tour/Splash Pad, Manhattan (10:15 - 2:15pm)
Friday, 7/20	Blue Dolphins
Friday, 7/20	Ultimate Raingutter Regatta at Kid Country (10 - 12pm)
Monday, 7/23	Blue Dolphins
Tuesday, 7/24	Spish Splash Water Day at Kid Country
Wednesday, 7/25	Make a Messterpiece at Kid Country (all day)
Thursday, 7/26	Laraway Lanes/Round Barn (9:30 - 1:30pm)
Friday, 7/27	Blue Dolphins and Orange Owls
Monday, 7/30	Bring Your Bike Day at Kid Country (all day)
Tuesday, 7/31	Green Frogs
	Bring Your Bike Day at Kid Country (all day)
	Blue Dolphins and Orange Owls
	Foam Fun at Kid Country (all day)
	Perry Farm (Bikes Optional), Bourbonnais (9:15 - 2pm)
	Blue Dolphins
	Exploration Station/Perry Farm, Bourbonnais (9:15 - 2pm)
	Orange Owls and Green Frogs
	Bring Your Bike Day at Kid Country (all day)
	Red Robins and Purple Parrots
	Paint a Rock Day at Kid Country (all day)
	Blue Dolphin Productions at Kid Country (10:15am)
	Everyone
	Starved Rock State Park, Utica (9 - 2:30pm)
	Blue Dolphins
	Round Barn Farm, Manhattan (10 - 1pm)
	Blue Dolphins, Orange Owls, Green Frogs
	Photo Booth Fun at Kid Country (all day)
	Beggars Pizza/Haines Park, New Lenox (10:45 - 2:45pm)
	Blue Dolphins
	Spish Splash Water Day at Kid Country (all day)

ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls kicked off the summer with warm weather, tons of sunshine, and a dive into the ocean! We took the idea from the beautiful weather to make our classroom into an ocean! Each day we took an opportunity to really key-in to a specific ocean inhabitant. Creatures from sharks to jellyfish, coral to seaweed were all discussed in depth to give the Orange Owls a better understanding of what really goes on beneath the surface.

With the opportunity to discuss the various types of creatures, one in particular was most fascinating to us -- the octopus! We knew the basics of it having a large body and eight legs, but once we ventured into their three hearts and nine brains, Octopi sure did have our attention more than we thought possible!

Exploring the ocean was a great way for the Orange Owls to work on their fine motor and multistep directional skills. Throughout the course of the month, each child was given the opportunity to make various ocean animals. The favorite one by far was the shark. With this project the Orange Owls were given various sized and colored paper they were encouraged to use to make a shark head that looked as if it was coming out of the water with its mouth wide open! With their supplies ready, they were asked to use their past recollection and problem solving skills to cut out each piece of the shark and put it together independently. Each piece of paper represented a different piece of their shark and it was up to them to draw, cut out, and glue each piece into their chosen places of their creation. The Orange Owls were "head over fin" at the scary shark creations

they mastered!

As we wrapped up our first month of summer, the Orange Owls chose the next study without question -- dinosaurs! We will be traveling back in time and learning all about these giants that once inhabited the same Earth as us!

Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Rachel and Miss Madison



RED ROBINS

The Red Robins exploded into summer fun with many summer activities. Ms. Michelle organized all the summer activities for the building and she spoiled the Red Robins. These special events provide a variety in their learning opportunities while having fun!

The first activity experienced was the ball pit. The Red Robins had to adapt to the ball pit in the large section of their classroom causing the children to utilize their flexibility



also engages interactions with their peers and teachers. Interactions are a crucial sector of development in people, especially young children. The ball pit provides these interactions due to the small space in the ball pit allowing three to four children to interact with one another. The Red Robins giggled and smiled ear to ear as they played in the ball pit and began to establish friendships.

Another summer festivity experienced was science day with Ms. Fran. She graciously planned an interactive science experiment for the Red Robins to complete. In small groups of four, the Robins were provided with a large ice cube with a dip in the middle for baking soda and a squeeze bottle with vinegar and food coloring. The children squeezed the colored vinegar onto the baking soda inside the ice cube causing it to bubble over like a volcano. The Red Robins patiently waited for their turn, as well as visually experiencing a cause and effect situation. Understanding the meaning of cause and effect plays an important role in problem solving skills. These skills are necessary continually because it allows people to function within a group as well as other academic situations.

Overall, the Red Robins had a blast with all the activities they have experienced at Kid Country. The activities planned for the summer happenings continually promote and demonstrate a variety of developmental objectives for the children. The activities experienced in June engaged social-emotional, cognitive, gross motor skills, and knowledge of science domains. The Red Robins are sad to see our first month of summer fun gone but very excited to see what is next on our calendar for July. Miss Emily, Miss Leslie, Miss Holly and Miss Kryn