



**Kid Country**  
**CHILDCARE**

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

NUMBER 8 VOLUME 17

AUGUST 2018



**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

- 3rd -- Alyssa B.
- 4th -- Brayden O.
- 5th -- Peyton B.
- 7th -- Bobby V.
- 8th -- Addelyn G.
- 8th -- Kyler M.
- 8th -- Miss Hailey
- 8th -- Miss Marisa
- 12th -- Grace M.
- 13th -- Lucas G.
- 13th -- Cody R.
- 15th -- Jadeyn B.
- 17th -- Isla R.
- 18th -- Warren W.
- 20th -- Jameson M.
- 21st -- Alex E.
- 26th -- Eddie V.
- 26th -- Connor T.
- 31st -- Maggie C.
- 31st -- Allyson P.
- 31st -- Maddie S.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:**

Miss Wendy



## Summer Ends & School Begins

Here we are at the end of another summer gearing up for back to school! But rest assured, the children at Kid Country have had a great summer! Two of the big hits this past month were Glowby the Bubbler and Foam day! Our summer special activities and field trips will continue through August 10th, so the fun is not over yet! A special thank you to Miss Michelle for organizing the entire summer of special events and also for making sure every event went off smoothly!

We do have to face reality and get ready for the busses to start rolling again soon. Our Parent Orientation Night for our childcare programs is on Wednesday, August 15 at 6:30p. Our Blue Gills preschool only program will have their parent orientation night on Wednesday, August 22. These informative evenings are an opportunity for you to meet your child's new teachers and learn more about our curriculum and daily routines. We also go over some policies and procedures to make sure that we start the year off on the right foot! Childcare is offered for \$5 per child, but please sign up in advance by notifying myself or Miss Michelle.

For those enrolled in our Blue Dolphin program, we do not offer an orientation night, but we will send home some important information

during the first week of school. Be sure to look for this and read over the procedures for transportation changes, early releases, days off of school and more!

When the busses start arriving at Kid Country, please take extra caution when entering and exiting our parking lot. Enter only through the entrance (west side) and exit only through the east side of the parking lot. This helps safely move traffic in and out of our tight parking lot. Also, when the school busses are stopped in front of the building loading and unloading children, it is ILLEGAL to pass or go around that bus! For the safety of all children, please have patience and wait for the bus to move on. Last year we had 12 busses coming and going all day long – so PLEASE be careful!

We are looking forward to providing care and early education to the children of the Manhattan area for another school year! We have three classrooms at capacity and the rest are close, so it's promising to be a very busy year!

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer! Summer always seems to go by so fast and it is important that we all take the time to make some memories with our children every summer!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

outside of Kid Country. We've

The Green Frogs curiosity of their futures have only grown more from this past month. We had the privilege to see many more community workers come in to present their careers. We started off by learning about Ms. Blatt's career as a Kindergarten teacher. She displayed many new ways and information that Kindergarten students learn new ideas and knowledge. By presenting these new learning skills, the Green Frogs got a closer look on how Kindergarten will be and what they can look forward to!

Our next community worker was Ms. Cotter with the career of an Environmental Health Specialist. Ms. Cotter brought in some equipment she uses on a day to day basis to help her complete her work duties. New information was obtained as we discovered the many new facts about dairy products.

The next community worker that came in was Ms. Lynette. She is a Physical Trainer. We discussed and learned the importance of eating healthy and all the correct ways to exercise your body. She showed us many new stretches and workout routines for us to enjoy at home!

Veterinarian Technician Ms. Annie came in enhanced our knowledge about animals and what she does to help take care of them when needed. She brought in some of the equipment she uses and showed us how she uses it, such as a stethoscope and an x-ray light board.

The Green Frogs summer fun also continued throughout the month of July. More in-house activities happened, along with field trips



traveled near and far to explore new places and fun new activities! We can't wait to see what the month of August will bring us, as we will conclude on our summer activities and begin a new adventure in our new classrooms.

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

## YELLOW DUCKS

The month of July seemed to fly by in the Yellow Ducks classroom. Summer activities were in full swing at Kid Country and the babies had copious amounts of fun experiencing a variety of special events. A new experience that the babies encountered was the Waxed Hands Day! The babies made molds of their feet and hands with cold and warm temperatures. Some of the babies were unsure of the temperature change to their feet, but most enjoyed it.

A couple more fun events that the Ducks participated in were the magical show of Mr. Glowby Bubbler and also foam day! The Ducks were entranced with the different types of bubbles and, of course, loved popping them with their hands and feet and also feeling the bubbles pop on their faces. Miss Michelle and Miss Jessica set up a fun foam station for the children to play in bubbles like they were in a bubble bath!

Most of the babies were nervous about sticking their little hands into the bubbles, and instead enjoyed laying and taking in some sunlight! Overall this month was full of fun and new experiences as well as many new textures. With the thought of Summer ending, and the school year about to start, we want to fit in as many days as we can outside!

Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Katie

## PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots continued their summer with a lot of fun activities and new lessons. Summer has flown by for the Parrots. Many of the activities the children participated in this month helped them grow as individuals all while having fun with it!

One of the events the toddlers participated in was wax hands. The children dipped their hands into semi-warm wax. They then took their hands out and it hardened into the shape of their hand. The teachers talked to the toddlers about the colors being used and how they dried. Another fun activity was water day! The toddlers socialized with the Red Robins as they splash-splashed the day away together. This was a great opportunity to work on communication and language skills. During water day, the children strengthened their gross motor skills running back and forth from the water spraying in the air. On the messy side of things, the toddlers had fun with Miss Kim for messierpiece day. The toddlers used their fine motor skills by painting with their hands and fingers -- this was an activity the toddlers really enjoyed! Those were just a few of the fun summer activities the toddlers had a blast with.

The toddlers dove into an ocean study this month as well! They learned all about water animals -- such as jellyfish, starfish, turtles, octopus, sharks, and dolphins. A lot of fun art projects complimented our learning. The toddlers used their fine motor muscles as they grabbed tissue paper with their fingers and transferred them onto a jellyfish cutout to hang on the windows in the room. Later in the month the toddlers got to pick out different colors and paint octopi made from toilet paper rolls. This was a fun way to interact with each child and work on colors with them.

It is hard to believe how quickly this month flew by, but we cannot wait to see what next month's activities will hold. Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Pam and Miss

Marie





# Kid Calendar



- Wednesday, 8/1 SkyZone, 9:30a-1p (Blue Dolphins)
- Thursday, 8/2 DuPage Children's Museum, 9a-1p (Orange Owls, Green Frogs)
- Friday, 8/3 Yoga Day with Miss Krista for everyone
- Monday, 8/6 Tie-Dye Fun for everyone
- Tuesday, 8/7 Lincoln Park Zoo, 9a-2:30p (Blue Dolphins)  
Ball Pit Fun all day (Red Robins/Purple Parrots/ Yellow Ducks)
- Wednesday, 8/8 Children's Garden/Splash Pad, 9:30a-1p (Green Frogs, Orange Owls)
- Thursday, 8/9 Hickory Creek hike to Creamery, 9:45a-1p (Blue Dolphins)  
Mr. Steve's Music Show at Kid Country for everyone  
Bring Your Bike Day for Orange Owls and Green Frogs
- Friday, 8/10 Bring Your Bike Day for Blue Dolphins  
Flipstar/Round Barn, 9:45a-1:30p (Orange Owls/ Green Frogs)
- Wednesday, 8/15 Hair Cut day for everyone  
6:30p, **Parent Orientation Night**
- Monday, 8/20 **CLOSED** Inservice Day
- Tuesday, 8/21 Move-Up Day
- Wednesday, 8/22 6:30p, Blue Gills Parent Night
- Wednesday, 8/22 First Day of School for Manhattan Public Schools
- Monday, 8/27 First day of Class for Blue Gills 5-day program
- Tuesday, 8/28 First day of Class for Blue Gills 3-day program

## Blue Dolphins

The Blue Dolphins spent the month of July enjoying an array of field trips! We kicked the fun off by heading over to Hollywood Park, what a cool place! We had so much fun racing down the crazy slide and crashing into one another on the bumper cars!

Our next adventure landed us at Lake Kathrine. It was here that we got to explore different flower and butterfly gardens, hike the nature paths, and observe several different size turtles at turtle bay! We spent time together playing games in the open field and enjoying a sack lunch.

We were also able to visit the roller ring and the bowling alley! Finally, we were fortunate enough to explore Starved Rock! Climbing on rocks, dancing under the waterfall, and hiking the trails was a great time! Not only did we venture out this month, fun came to us here at Kid Country! Some of our favorites were Mr. Glowby Bubbler, making a masterpiece and creating wax hands! There was something fun for all of us to do this month and we had a blast!

Miss Kim, Miss Jenna, Miss Kristen and Miss Donna K.





# ORANGE OWLS

As the Owls were soaring through summer, we took our study to Dinosaurs! We are huge fans of dinosaurs here in the Orange Owls room. We began the study with the different types of dinosaurs, such as herbivores, carnivores, and of course omnivores! With this we were able to discuss the physical differences between each of them and why each of these differences are crucial to each of them surviving. We then dug at dinosaur information in a different way. We investigated how fossils are created, what they are made of, and what different types of living things can become fossilized, not just dinosaurs!

As the month progressed, we moved



onto something that was big talk around the Owl room- Construction and Building. Whether it was a watch tower in blocks or a farm in Science, there was building to be had

everywhere! As a class, we learned about building in the sense of creating or establishing items themselves. We began with "What can we build?". The Owls were able to answer this and then some! Their list was unending! Then once we changed the question to "What is needed to build?" Their answers slowly began to change and take a turn at a whole new way of thinking about these items.

We discussed the idea of a house and what items from our list we would use for this house. Such items as tub, walls, lights, and shower were immediate. When asked what we needed for those specific items, it hit

them -- everything that is made or created is all connected to make the whole finished product! This realization then had the Owls' minds soaring. It made them take what they already knew about constructing and take it that one step further to critically think about what is needed all the way down to the smallest material! Great job Orange Owls!

Our field trips never disappoint, and

# RED ROBINS

The month of July was filled with bubbly fun for the Red Robins. The trend of this month's special activities seemed to be bubbles and the Robins loved it! The biggest of smiles and largest of giggles filled the side yard with each event.

One of the beloved experiences was Mr. Glowby Bubbler, with his ability to create lots and lots of bubbles. Mr. Bubbler brought several long rods with different nets tied to each side and with that he was able to create this entertaining production of bubbles. The children giggled, danced, screamed, and ran along with the flow of bubbles. The Red Robins used their large motor skills to their full potential to catch and rejoice in the bubbles. Another bubble adventure for the Robins was the foam party on the side yard. Ms. Jessica and Ms. Michelle set up a foam machine for the children to explore. As the bubbles grew bigger so did the excitement of the group. Even more silly cheers were expressed as we used cups to collect the bubbly foam.

Furthermore, to enhance each special event, the teachers encouraged conversations about the experience during lunch. The teachers continued the conversations by asking questions about how the children felt, what they saw, who they played with, and what was their favorite part. By asking these questions the teachers are allowing the children to engage in conversation, practice social rules, and speak about the past. All these skills require numerous important developmental milestones as well as life skills.

this month they were some of the best! We were hitting strikes as we went bowling, had some of the best hands on learning at Exploration Station, and ventured to new places as we trekked through the Phillips Zoo. With just a bit left of summer, we are going to be sure we get every ounce of sunshine in we can!

Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, and Miss Madison

In addition, the Red Robins have been continuously working hard to prepare for the Green Frog classroom. The Red Robins have been working on going potty on their own, this includes trying to wipe and washing hands with soap and water. The Red Robins serve themselves most of the food for breakfast, snacks, and lunch. The Red Robins are doing a fantastic job cleaning up after themselves before they move on to a new toy or activity. We have reintroduced the sandbox and the Red Robins love to play in it! We have started to interact more with the current Green Frogs and their teachers so that when the children move up the Green Frog teachers will be familiar, and the new Orange Owls will be children that they know and want to play with. The children's last days in the Red Robin room are quickly approaching and we can't wait to see what activities and experiences we are going to have in our last month as Red Robins!

Miss Emily, Miss Leslie and Miss Holly

