

## Week of the Young Child

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

1st -- Skylar G.  
8th -- Ryan A.  
10th -- Ava D.  
12th -- Joey R.  
19th -- Abigail S.  
22nd -- Aubrey H.  
27th -- Alexis G.

### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Miss Jenna



## Let's Celebrate!

It's April and that means it's time to celebrate all the young people!! Kid Country's Week of the Young Child celebration kicks off on Monday, April 15. During this week, we take the opportunity to really celebrate the children and, with that, we embrace play, cooperation and family connections. Every day has a different theme for the kids to dress up for, along with a corresponding special activity. This is a fun, spirited week designed to highlight the importance of young children, early learning, their families and their communities. When we all work together, our children blossom! Help us make this week a success by participating with your child as much as possible (we encourage you to dress up too!). Here is our schedule of events:

**Monday, April 15** – Music Monday and Disney Day! The children can dress up in their favorite Disney attire and to get the week-long party started, we will enjoy a center-wide Dance Party!

**Tuesday, April 16** – Tasty Tuesday and Wacky Day! Get crazy with the kids' outfits and everyone will enjoy an extra tasty and extra special smoothie for morning snack.

**Wednesday, April 17** – Work Together Wednesday and Career Day! Everyone dresses up as their favorite career and then we all work together playing board

games, putting together puzzles and reading stories together (children may bring in a favorite book, puzzle or game too).

**Thursday, April 18** – Artsy Thursday and Tie & Tutu Day! Bust out the ties and tutus and let's get fancy! The children will be attending a center-wide play starring none other than our very special Kid Country teachers!

But it doesn't stop there! We will also host an Ice Cream Social from 4p-6p that afternoon for you and your children! Pick up your children and stop in the Blue Room to enjoy some ice cream with our staff!

**Friday, April 19** – Family Friday and Spirit Day! This is a busy day! First, there will be a breakfast of donuts and coffee for you, the parents, and we will also ask you to stop in and read a book in your child's class. Send the children all decked out from head to toe in their classroom color – get creative!! Plus, we will be showcasing your FAMILY PROJECTS in our hallway! (Watch for more info on this project!)

Our WOYC celebration promises to be a fun one, and we look forward to everyone's participation!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

**G**oodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site was a class favorite as the Green Frogs wrapped up their study on buildings and construction. The children participated in several read alouds engaging in meaningful conversations along the way. They used enhanced vocabulary words like excavator and bulldozer to communicate. The Froggies were also able to get creative and build their own construction vehicle using shapes! They used their fine motor skills to cut and paste the shapes in place and then told their teachers and classmates all about them!

Later in the month, weather was introduced to the class. As a group we talked about the different types of weather and some of the features that go with them. We created a classroom chart to show which types of weather was the class favorite and which were not so popular. This activity was a great way to get the children to recognize and recall weather related experiences, implement math by graphing and counting, and introduce categorizing skills.

The Green Frogs had a fun filled month and cannot wait to see what the weather brings next month!

Miss Fran, Miss Jessica and Miss Kim



Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor gear at Kid Country! A coat is needed every day! Hats, gloves and a sweatshirt should be in your child's cubby just in case!



# YELLOW DUCKS

**C**olors, colors everywhere! This month in the Yellow Ducks room was focused around learning all sorts of colors! To kick off the start of this colorful month, the Ducks focused their art projects around green for St. Patrick's Day!

The Ducks created little shamrocks using a water bottle and green paint. With the assistance of the teachers, they stamped the bottom of the water bottle on pieces of paper to create shamrocks! After we explored many green things, the Ducks turned their attention on the colors of the rainbow. In light of this, Miss Leslie created several footprints with the Ducks that represent each color. She then hung the footprints on the wall to create a rainbow!

In addition to learning the colors of the rainbow, the Ducks spent several days exploring outside! This has been one of the first months that the Ducks have been able to consistently go outside and play!

We know that contact with nature is a source of amusement, curiosity and inspiration for children and can also reduce the stress of being indoors! We are hoping to get out every day as long as the weather permits us too! Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Leslie



# Blue Gills

As Spring arrived here in Manhattan, so did our curiosity of Worms and BIRDS. Here in the Blue Gills room, we wanted to know where worms come from, how birds stay up in the sky, what they eat, and where they have been since we haven't seen many of them the past few months. The children were all disgusted when they found out that the main sustenance for birds happened to be WORMS! Yuk!

So, we studied a little bit about worms and found out that they squirm around because they are invertebrates, and that they can't bite you because they don't have any teeth, and that they have to be the most loving creatures, because they have 5 hearts. After learning all of this, the kids had no choice but to like them a little more.

When we started talking more about birds, we found that there are thousands of kinds of birds and each one is a little different. We learned new vocabulary like wingspan, talons, and migration. With our fine motor skills, we made nests, then found eggs with chicks in them inside the nests. As the weather started changing, we took flight outside. The Gills played counting games and listening games as birds, but never made it off of the ground. Never the less we were glad to be outside flying free!

Miss Rhonda and Miss Pam



# Blue Dolphins

Hello Spring! With Spring being here, the Blue Dolphins are finally able to get outside and get their energy out that they have been storing all winter long. They are overjoyed about being able to get out! Their gross motor muscles are getting back into use with games such as football, where they can run and catch. They enjoy playing a friendly game of basketball which supports their throwing skills and jumping. Going outside is better for everyone because we are done hibernating and just want to be sunkissed!

When we weren't able to go outside, the Blue Dolphins were busy indoors. They enjoyed getting to create a Leprechaun trap for the classroom; however, it did not work because that sneaky little Leprechaun was able to get back out. We also are getting into spring-time so the Blue Dolphins have been hard at work creating their own Dahlia flowers. They were able to strengthen their fine motor skills doing these projects which included cutting, painting, and taping.

To wrap up the month, the Blue Dolphins will be doing the 'Walking Water' experiment. They will learn what the word hypothesis is and they will use their teamwork skills to come up with one. We will see what will happen to the empty cups when paper towels are connected to them with the colored water.

Miss Pam

# PURPLE PARROTS

This month the Purple Parrots learned all about colors! We began reading the book "Brown Bear Brown Bear." Each animal in the book is a different color, and the Purple Parrots did an activity for each color. They created brown bears using paper plates and putting their faces in the middle. To work on counting, Ms. Stacy hid blue horses all throughout the classroom, each Parrot had to find a horse and when they were all collected we counted how many we found!

In the middle of the month we celebrated St. Patrick's Day! We created lots of art projects to display in the classroom and the hallway. To enhance our hand-eye coordination, we did marble painting shamrocks. The Parrots took turns shaking a box with different sized marbles to paint their shamrocks! The Parrots also got to play with green playdough and even had green food during the day.

Towards the end of the month it was really starting to feel like spring outside! The Purple Parrots love being able to be outside and work on their gross motor skills of running, climbing, and jumping! We are so excited that we will be spending more time outside and being able to plan activities that will help us explore the outside. We also spent some time decorating our room in bright spring time colors! The Purple Parrots also celebrated World Down Syndrome Day -- we all wore our most wacky socks! We are excited to see what next month will bring, hopefully not too many April showers!

Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Kasey



# ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls flew through March as they explored space and all it has to offer! We began with learning about each planet and their unique characteristics. We were able to learn about such characteristics as Mars having the largest volcano, Uranus rotates on its side, and Jupiter's constantly swirling red storm all through fun songs and hands on activities!

The Owls had many opportunities this month to fine tune their number recognition and written numbers. As they threw their "stars" onto numbered moons and stacked rocket ships so many cubes high, they each were working on their number recognition. When they rolled the dice to write the corresponding amount of stars, or when they wrote out how long a rocket ship was, they were working on not only fine motor, but written numerals as well.

As we travelled through every inch of space we can see from Earth, we ended the study with a week of astronauts. This was important for us to dive deeper into because, without these brave men and women, there would be many aspects of the Solar System that would still be a mystery to us! We discussed everything from what kind of training they must do to get used to no gravity, to how differently they have to live while in space.

To help wrap up our study and have a real life feel of how astronauts eat while in space, the Owls were able to put "astronaut food" into a baggie where they then had to eat it through a straw! This is how nearly every meal is on a spaceship due to the lack of gravity. As we tried to enjoy our "meal", though fun, it was somewhat difficult trying to imagine eating a whole meal through a straw every day!

Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Molly and Miss Donna K.

# RED ROBINS

The month of March brought warmer weather which meant lots of outside time for the Red Robins. Outside time promotes beneficial learning conditions for young children such as different textures, space to run and play, as well as fresh air.

The Red Robins took full advantage of every weather appropriate day to shake out our cabin fever and exercise. While outside the children climbed the outdoor equipment utilizing all skills of balancing and the continuous development of movements in a sequence to achieve a physical goal such as reaching the top of the slide. In support of Kid Country's play-based philosophy, the children have the space and comfort of interacting with one another while outside, the teachers observed many new interactions between children during outdoor games such as tag, duck, duck, goose, and riding bikes. The playgrounds provide a different setting for the children to interact, imagine, and grow surrounded by nature.

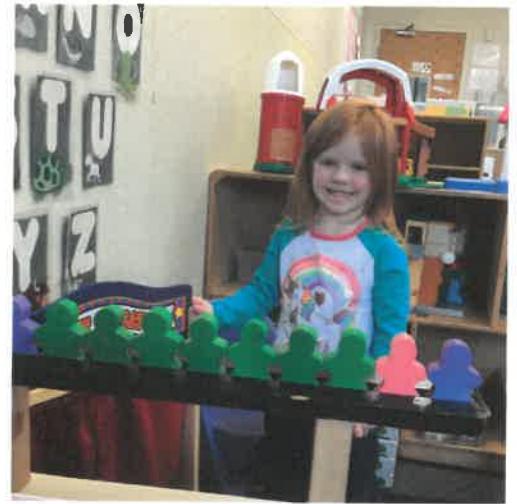
In addition, academically the Red Robins worked hard on the exploration of knowing their colors. Over the span of two weeks the children invested time in the colors of the rainbow. We worked in order of the rainbow beginning with red, then orange, yellow,

green, blue, and purple. Each color brought a new object associated with the color. For example, yellow inspired the Robins to create a classroom bouquet of flowers

created by painting paper plates. All our colorful creations are on display inside of the classroom for further exposure to colors.

Overall, the month of March was perfect to spring into colors for the Red Robins. The generous amount of outside time allowed for more imagination development as well as strengthening of social skills. The Red Robins will continuously polish our knowledge of colors and will be venturing to the understanding of spring and the many different comings of the season.

Miss Emily, Miss Holly, Miss Jenna and Miss Marisa



## Kid Calendar

- Thursday, 4/11 Vision & Hearing Screening
- Week of 4/15 Week of the Young Child Celebration
- Thursday, 4/18 Manhattan Early Release 4p-6p, Ice Cream Social
- Friday, 4/19 Manhattan No School Blue Gills CLOSED
- Sunday, 4/21 Happy Easter!
- Monday, 4/22 Manhattan/Peotone No School/Blue Gills CLOSED
- Week of 4/22 Spring Photo Fundraiser
- Monday, 4/29 thru Wed., 5/1 Helping Hands Screenings