



JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- 7th -- Miss Rhonda
- 8th -- Cole B.
- 8th -- Braedan H.
- 9th -- Miss Kathy
- 21st -- Aida B.
- 23rd -- Brielle B.
- 25th -- Molly S.
- 25th -- Bradley K.
- 25th -- Amber A.
- 29th -- Reid G.
- 29th -- Evelyn F.
- 31st -- Alice M.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:
 Miss Holly



Benefits of Gardening

Have you had a chance to visit Kid Country's Children's Garden this summer? It looks AMAZING! Our garden volunteers (Miss Kim, Miss Fran and Miss Jessica) have gone above and beyond and have really turned our Children's Garden into a great learning center for the children!

Learning Center, you might ask? YES! There is so much for the children to learn while gardening. I recently reviewed two articles, *10 Benefits of Gardening with Kids* from Creativity for Kids, and *Gardening with Kids: 7 Reasons Planting Seeds Enriches Their Lives* by Brianna Flavin, Rasmussen College, and confirmed what I already knew – gardening with children is very educational and beneficial!

There are just so many things to learn while gardening, where do I begin?? Placing tiny seeds help with fine motor skills, squishing in the mud and adding water engages our senses, along with math concepts such as counting seeds to plant and measuring water. Scientific concepts are also introduced through gardening when we talk about how the leaves turn green, how much water a plant needs and what makes this plant different from that one. What a great way to introduce science!

But the skills don't stop with just "academic" ones. We also engage so many social/emotional and life skills while gardening. How about responsibility? The children learn how much care it takes to keep the plants alive and learn that you

need to pay attention and commit to the "job" of gardening to keep the plants alive.

What about how to plan and organize? You need to determine what plants you are going to plant and where they will fit in the garden. Is it a climbing cucumber plant? Do the radishes need to be planted in straight rows? Potatoes in a mound? Wildflower seeds scattered? Involving children in the early stages of gardening gives them a chance to discover how best to help the garden grow through proper planning and organization.

Let's not forget patience as well! It takes a long time to see the "fruit" of our labors when gardening. Gardening is great at teaching patience!

One of the most obvious benefits from gardening with children is developing better eating practices. The children may be more apt to try a green bean or pea when it came from their very own garden, and don't forget to ask them to help prepare it in the kitchen! But another benefit you might not readily think of is stress relief. Gardening creates a calming effect on our brains and helps children (and adults) to relax, breathe fresh air and find peace by themselves. Learning ways to relax are so important in today's society!

All the photos in this newsletter are from our very own garden. Enjoy!

Danna

GREEN FROGS

Premier's "Day of Play." The Green Frogs also ventured from Kid Country to experience new parks, forests, and trails as we visited Lake Katherine and the Round Barn Farm. We always enjoy a chance to ride on the big yellow bus and cannot wait to see what July has in store for

The month of June began our busy summer session here at Kid Country! The Green Frogs began the summer with the study of art. Throughout the month of June, the Green Frogs teachers challenged the children to think outside of the box and encouraged the use of new, and sometimes messy, art techniques. During our week of painting, the Frogs used painted and stretched rubber bands to snap paint splatter all over their papers! We also practiced our teamwork and cooperative play as we participated in large group marble painting with an enormous box!



We learned that art can sometimes be a whole-body experience as we participated in several gross motor art activities. We also enhanced our gross motor coordination as we threw paint-soaked pom-poms onto large sheets of paper to create messy splatter art! We also got our bodies moving as we grasped crayons and spun in circles on the floor making a human spirograph! To wrap up the month, the Frogs worked on their ability to create three-dimensional art and sculptures. We utilized a variety of different mediums including cardboard, paper plates, popsicle sticks, and paper to build our own uniquely painted and designed sculpture art.

We experienced our first dose of field trip fun this month as we participated in new and exciting activities at Kid Country. The Tumble Bus is always a crowd favorite as it gives the children the chance to climb, slide, and swing their way around a tricky obstacle course. We also practiced exercising our bodies as we participated in Fitness

us!
Miss Fran,
Miss Jessica
and Miss
Victoria



YELLOW DUCKS

The Yellow Ducks experienced the first month of summer fun here at Kid Country. Kid Country provides a variety of fun activities for the children enrolled, not only to have fun but to change their environment in a positive way. By changing the routine environment, we allow the children to have new experiences and further their memories here at Kid Country.

To kick off the summer activities, Kid Country welcomed a clown to the Blue Dolphins room! The Ducks were thrilled to watch as the clown performed tricks! The Ducks have also been getting into some fitness this month as Miss Fran and Miss Kryn brought fun and fitness into the classroom! With a relaxing yoga day, and a nice outside workout session, the Ducks have really gained new knowledge of different fitness techniques.

The Yellow Ducks are very excited to waddle in the remaining of the summer!

Hopefully the weather starts to cooperate and the Ducks can have their very first water day! The Ducks love getting outside and exploring the nature around them! Miss Krista, Miss Leslie and Miss Hailey



PURPLE PARROTS

Summer has started off to a great start for the Purple Parrots! We are patiently waiting for some hot summer days to enjoy some water fun! To kick off the summer, the toddlers created some art to hang around the room to get us prepared for summer! The toddlers created suns and popsicles to display around the room. The Parrots used strips of yellow and orange construction to glue onto a circle to create a sun. They used their fine motor skills to transfer the strips onto the sun. The toddlers also created popsicles by using a variety of materials such as paint, pom-poms, and foam stickers. During these activities the teachers encouraged the toddlers to use their language to practice color recognition.

Seashells have been added to the sand table on the little playground to keep it fun and engaging for everyone! The toddlers use the seashells to scoop the sand up and transfer it into boats and buckets. The Parrots have enjoyed making their own creations out of the sand. During this time the Purple



Parrots can be found laughing and communicating with the Red Robins.

As a group, we have already enjoyed a few summer activities such as water bins, the tumble bus, a magic show, and even made yummy treats with Miss. Bailey! It was a blast being able to laugh with other friends around the building. The toddlers gross motor skills were put to the test as they jumped, climbed and balanced in the Tumble Bus. We cannot wait for more fun summer activities to enjoy as a class!

Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Kasey and Miss Jennifer



Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor gear at Kid Country! A sweatshirt should be kept in his/her cubby along with swimsuit, water shoes and towel for the summer.



Blue Dolphins

The Blue Dolphins had no trouble starting their summer off right with participating in many Kid Country planned activities and numerous other field trips. The Dolphin's June field trips included Inwood Ice Rink, Manhattan Splash Pad, and the Joliet Slammers game -- but the fun did not stop there!

We also enjoyed yoga with Ms. Fran, Junior Chef's with Ms. Bailey, and a day full of fitness with fitness premier staff. By participating in these activities, the Dolphins are exercising many skills. The Inwood Ice Rink and the Manhattan Splash Pad provided the children with the opportunity to engage in gross- motor, communication, and social skills. The Joliet Slammers game allowed the children to engage in simple mathematical concepts by keeping track of hits, outs, homeruns, and the speed of each pitch. By having the children participate in yoga, the dolphins were introduced to coping skills and ways to manage emotions. Both junior chef and fitness premier taught the children more about how to live and maintain a healthy lifestyle with exercise and eating healthy foods.

In an educational light, the Blue Dolphins learned all about the United States with a focus on Washington D.C., and they can now name the president, Vice President, and the many different buildings found around the capitol. The Blue Dolphins will continue their journey across the seven continents throughout the remainder of the summer. Next stop, Mexico and Canada! Miss Kim, Miss Katie and Mr. Joey



ORANGE OWLS

The Owls kicked off the summer with warmth, both sunshine and rain, and a dive into the five oceans! After traveling around the world through the seven continents we decided to see what each ocean had for us. Creatures from sharks to jellyfish, coral to seaweed were all discussed in depth to give the Owls a better understanding of what really goes on beneath the surface. Breaking the oceans down individually gave the Orange Owls a better understanding that, just like each continent, each ocean is different not only with its inhabitants but with how deep, wide, and with what each of their temperatures

Kid Calendar



Tuesday, 7/2	Matthiessen State Park
Wednesday, 7/3	Central Park Splash Pad
Thursday, 7/4	CLOSED
Friday, 7/5	CLOSED
Monday, 7/8	Skateland
Tuesday, 7/9	Sensational Science
Wednesday, 7/10	Pilcher Park
Thursday, 7/11	Gizmo's Fun Factory
Friday, 7/12	Exploration Station & Perry Farm
Monday, 7/15	Rolling Video Game Truck
Tuesday, 7/16	Fort Frankfort & Aurelio's
Wednesday, 7/17	Ball Pit at Kid Country Swallow Cliff
Thursday, 7/18	Tumblebus Fitness
Friday, 7/19	LWSRC Gym & Hibernia Park
Monday, 7/22	Glowby Bubbler at Kid Country
Tuesday, 7/23	Lincoln Park Zoo
Wednesday, 7/24	Foam Fun at Kid Country
Thursday, 7/25	SciTech Museum
Friday, 7/26	Flip Star Gymnastics
Monday, 7/29	Haunted Trails
Tuesday, 7/30	Craft Day with Miss Leslie
Wednesday, 7/31	Sarah's Petting Zoo at KC

are.

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 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.

With ease the Owls were head over fin at the scary shark creations they had just mastered!

As we traveled throughout the Oceans Blue, we were able to also become honorary pirates! We took a moment to use our gross motor balance to walk-the-plank, practiced our cartography as we created treasure maps, and of course had the opportunity to seek out our treasures!

Miss Bailey, Miss Molly and Miss Donna K.



RED ROBINS

June was a busy month for the Red Robins. The Red Robins had a blast and lots of laughs at the Magic show at Kid Country. The Tumble Bus was one of our favorite activities of the summer so far as the Red Robins bounced, climbed, swung, and rolled to the music in the Tumble Bus. Ms. Fran taught us some awesome animal yoga moves, and Ms. Bailey cooked us up a tasty summer treat!

As the summer has started, the Red Robins are actively working hard to prepare for the Green Frogs room. The Red Robins have started self-serving their food at meals. We have also started pouring our own milk and water from the pitcher to our cups. This is an important skill that is needed for the Green Frogs room. The Red Robins have also spent more time on the large playground getting to know and

playing with the Green Frogs teachers. The Red Robins will continue to get comfortable with the Green Frogs teachers and their room before move up day. The Red Robins are still working on our self-help skills, like putting on our own socks and shoes, going to the bathroom, and eating with silverware.

The Red Robins have a very exciting summer ahead of us and we can't wait to see what fun activities July will bring us! Ms. Emily, Ms. Holly, Ms. Jenna

