



Kid Country

CHILDCARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

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DECEMBER 2019



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st -- Alison B.
- 1st -- Miss Stacy
- 8th -- Brianna B.
- 8th -- Hazel N.
- 8th -- Vinnie M.
- 13th -- Ally V.
- 16th -- Nora T.
- 17th -- Miss Stephanie
- 19th -- Miss Madison
- 21st -- Bailey S.
- 31st -- Madeline B.



## Christmas Traditions

Our annual holiday show is all set for the children to perform on Saturday, December 7 at 3p at Wilson Creek Elementary. This event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend! Let's pack the house to support these 45 children that have practiced their hearts out over the past 2-3 months! This year's theme is Christmas Traditions, and it is sure to be one of our favorites!

Did you know that the children gain many skills by participating in our holiday show? It's not just about putting on a great show for the parents, grandparents, and neighbors – the children are actually learning lifelong skills too! As reported by OpenMicUK, "learning to sing as a child causes the brain to perform multiple tasks at once. This helps to develop the memory: from memorizing lyrics to remembering a cue to start singing, the brain learns to be able to handle more tasks and is required to perform them simultaneously. Singing also encourages deep breathing, getting more oxygen to the brain which helps with natural development, emotional well being and concentration. Singing provides children with practical examples of concepts such as fast and slow to loud and quiet. Engaging with (singing and listening to) music can improve the mood of the child, thus supporting a healthy emotional state.

It's not just the brain either. Singing and playing music are physical activities requiring the development of key muscles including the core. This makes children stronger and healthier, understanding how

to properly use the diaphragm and lungs."

So as you can see, your children are working on many skills while practicing for the big performance! Performing in front of such a large group can also help your preschooler gain confidence and overcome anxieties about large groups, enabling them to lead large groups of employees later in life with ease! We all look forward to showcasing the Green Frogs, Orange Owls and Blue Gills at this performance!

While the holiday show is our tradition to kick-off the Christmas season, our center-wide pajama day is another of our favorite traditions. I select special holiday stories to read while I visit each classroom, all while relaxing in our PJs and enjoying some chocolate milk and cookies! This will be happening on December 18, and we will wrap up our holiday celebrations with classroom parties on the 20th.

Don't forget to enjoy all the special moments along the way this year as we travel through the most hectic month of the year. Let's all keep the spirit of the season in mind and focus on making memories with our children and families! Enjoy your month and have a Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Mele Kalikimaka, Happy Hanukkah – whatever you celebrate, enjoy it and I wish you many wonderful memories with your family and friends!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

Fine motor strength and coordination was the focus of our month in the Green Frogs room. Using a variety of board games and manipulatives, the Frogs were able to enhance these skills in a fun and meaningful way. Play-Doh is not only one of the Frogs favorite activities, it is also one of the best activities to increase a young child's finger strength and coordination. The Frogs use their fingertips, palms, and knuckles as they carefully knead and shape their Play-Doh into various creations. Various tools can also be added during Play-Doh time to improve the Frogs dexterity such as cookie cutters, rolling pins, scissors, and eating utensils. Tongs are a tool that we use daily at Kid Country and many of our young learners struggle to master the pincer grip needed to properly use tongs. To help strengthen our pincer grip, we brought several pairs of tongs into our classroom and asked the Frogs to pick up small toy bugs that were lying in a basket beneath criss-crossed ribbons. This activity not only challenges the Frogs fine motor skills, but also encourages them to think critically as they try to find the best way to retrieve the bugs. Fine motor strength is easy to work on at home as well! Using scissors, colored pencils, tweezers, and Play-Doh are all simple activities that help to engage the small, but mighty, muscles! Gobble Gobble! It was turkey time in the Frogs room as we worked together to create turkeys to adorn our classroom walls. To make our turkeys really pop, we used a variety of art mediums including paint, paper, and tissue paper. We also enjoyed celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday with our Green Frogs family during our Thanksgiving feast. We welcomed our Red Robins friends to the classroom to partake in a delicious meal prepared by our very own Ms. Krissy. During this meal, the children

had a chance to engage in conversations about their own family traditions and learn new ideas from their peers. Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Melissa and Miss Wendy



# Blue Gills

I can hardly believe that November has come to an end. I want to thank all of you for coming to our parent teacher conferences earlier in the month. I love it when I hear about the children's home lives and can put faces to the families they love to talk so much about. It also gives me a chance to find out from you where you see them academically and compare your thoughts with our notes.

Our biggest study this month was about Life on the Farm. Our first week we spent time finding out how a farmer lives and works. We found out that unlike us who use grocery stores, a farmer uses his farm to produce the foods he needs. We discussed the kinds of foods they grow, and how they harvest it. After that, we learned special things about the farm animals. Did you know that a cow has 5 stomachs, or that a pig covers their body with mud to protect their skin from sunburn? Or did you know that a pig can be as smart as a dog and that some people have them as pets? They were also surprised to learn that just like there are different kinds of dogs, there are also different kinds of cows and chickens. Who knew? We are enjoying this study so much it is going to bring us right into December.

Speaking of December, we have been practicing for our big show on December

7th for about a month now. The children are learning how to listen for the music and sing with the beat. They are adding hand and body movements to the songs and we are anticipating a great show this year! It's going to be one of the best shows ever!

As the weather gets colder, we want to remind you that a portion of our day will still be outside until the wind chills go below 25 degrees. Please make sure your children are prepared to be dressed for the colder weather each and every day.

Ms. Rhonda



# PURPLE PARROTS

The month of November encourages us all to think about what we are thankful for in our lives. The Purple Parrots are thankful for our many friends! We dedicated a week this month to learning more about friendship and practicing how to be nice friends. We spoke about using gentle hands with our friends by giving high fives and hugs. We sang a new song called "Friend of Mine" which involved doing actions like jumping, spinning, and marching with our friends. We used high fives to mix colors and make a friendship mural. To end the week, we read one of our favorite books, *Will Bear Share?* By Hilary Leung. As a large group, we practiced sharing by sitting in a circle and encouraging the children to pass a large stuffed football to the child next to them. It delighted the toddlers to receive such a "special gift" from their classmate!

Sharing is a difficult concept for toddlers to grasp, and for good reason. Even our oldest toddlers are only at the beginning developmental stages of noticing others' feelings. But talking about sharing and using gentle hands helps our toddlers begin to recognize and identify emotions such as happiness and sadness. We will say, "You gave your toy to \_\_\_! Look at how happy he/she is! He/she is smiling!" or "Ouch, you hurt \_\_\_! He/she is crying! He/she is sad!". Being able to recognize the emotions of others and respond appropriately to emotional cues are skills that will follow our little toddlers through adulthood. As their social-emotional growth increases within the next couple of years, they will be able to make and sustain friendships with their peers. For now, we can't wait to experience the excitement the month of December and Christmas has in store for our little Parrots! Miss Stacy, Miss Victoria, Miss Kathy and Miss Emily S.

# RED ROBINS

The Red Robins spent the month of November learning all about space! We started by asking the Red Robins what they knew about space and many of them replied stars, the sun, and astronauts! Ms. Krista hung up all the planets on the wall and each day we talked about how each planet looks, and what climate each planet has. The Red Robins made their very own kaleidoscopes by painting a toilet paper roll and dipping it in glitter! They then took them outside to look through and see if they could see the sun, stars, and the moon! The Robins were also very excited to make their own astronauts by coloring a picture of one with markers and then a teacher added their faces in the helmets! We hung them around the room, and it looked like they were floating into space!

The Robins are working hard on recognizing the letters in their names, so they created their own rocket ships and glued the letters of their name on so everyone would know it was theirs! To work on fine motor skills, the Robins created a sticker collage using all different space-themed stickers. To finalize our space study the Robins made Earth paintings using a balloon, green and blue paint. They stamped it all around their paper to make a beautiful painting!

To end the month, the Red Robins celebrated Thanksgiving! We had our annual Thanksgiving feast with our friends and made different crafts with the theme of Thanksgiving! The Red Robins are so excited for the Christmas season and all the fun activities our teachers have planned! Miss Krista, Miss Kasey, Miss Jenna and Miss Emily

# Blue Dolphins

We've had another busy month in the Blue Dolphins classroom, and we can't believe it is almost over already! We've been taking advantage of every good weather day to get outside. The children love getting off the bus and heading outside as quickly as possible to run off some excess energy from school. The children also spent some time this month discussing what they are thankful for and made some very creative Thanksgiving decorations to hang from the ceiling in the hallway here at Kid Country. We ended the month enjoying a delicious Thanksgiving Feast prepared for us by Miss Krissy! We know that we sure are thankful for Miss Krissy and her amazing cooking! Miss Wendy and Mr. Joe

# Kid Calendar



Saturday, 12/7	Holiday Show, 3p
Friday, 12/13	Holiday Hair Cuts, 9a
Wednesday, 12/18	PJs, Stories & Cookies with Miss Donna
Thursday, 12/19	Library Day
Friday, 12/20	Holiday Parties
Week of 12/23	Blue Gills Program CLOSED
Tuesday, 12/24	CLOSED Christmas Eve
Wednesday, 12/25	CLOSED Christmas Day
Week of 12/30	Blue Gills Program CLOSED
Wednesday, 1/1	CLOSED New Year's Day



# YELLOW DUCKS

The Yellow Ducks focused on the development of their visual perception during the month of November. During our October in-service the teachers attended a training provided by BDI Playhouse about the importance of functional vision. Visual perception is how the brain interprets what the eyes see and is very important in everyday skills for any age. The Yellow Ducks teachers joined together to create more opportunities to strengthen and encourage the children's visual perceptions.

The first skills we contributed into our free-play time were sensory processing and visual attention. In order to execute this appropriately the infant teachers isolated the toys the children were interacting with to assist in the focus of the play at hand. For example, Ms. Emily borrowed the barn from the toddler classroom and placed the bin of animals and

people on each side. We placed it in the middle of the classroom away from the other options of toys for this interaction. The teachers were able to isolate the animals and people and model how

they relate to the barn as well as identifying each animal. We will continue to research and utilize all resources to build on our opportunities to strengthen the children's sensory processing and visual attention.

Another huge factor in our daily lives in the infant classroom is tummy time which engages a child's oculomotor skills; how the eyes move. The combination of core strength and the direction in which the eyes move are

incorporated into a productive tummy time session. The teachers engaged in a group activity of rolling a ball back and forth while everyone was on their tummy. The children and the teachers laid on their stomachs to push or roll the ball to each other to incorporate several visual and core skills, while having fun.

Overall, the Yellow Ducks had a visually enhancing month of November filled with

# ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls sped off with transportation this month! We began with truly understanding what "transportation" meant to us – understanding that it meant how or what moves people and objects from one place to another. This gave us the opportunity to list

and discuss all the different modes of transportation we could think of. While making these lists, we realized that not only are we using transportation when we head to school or the store, but we are also using various modes here at school! Our tricycles and scooters are our modes of transportation across the playground! After this realization, we discovered not all modes of transportation must have wheels either! We then went in depth about all that moves on the land, in the

sky, and on the water! This opened an abundant amount of different modes of transportation!

This month we focused on more group activities and the importance of accomplishing goals together. Red Light, Green Light was prevalent around the room both as a large group and in small areas as well. The Owls encouraged each other as a group to use their listening ears to hear the

educational opportunities for both children and teachers. As we enter the winter months the Yellow Ducks will continue to explore new methods of enhancing and strengthening visual perceptions to build the foundational function of each child's vision to assist in overall development throughout life. The Yellow Ducks are excited for the holiday season approaching!

Miss Emily, Miss Leslie and Miss Jyne

next direction and in small groups as they played with small cars in hand across the carpet, taking turns being caller. We worked in groups to recognize and write our oversized road numbers, helping and encouraging each other to say the correct number and trace it properly with a car or train.

We closed out our month with our ever-exciting Thanksgiving Feast! We were able to join our Blue Dolphins friends for a lunchtime filled with love, laughter, and of course delicious food! We took this opportunity to not only reflect on what we are thankful for, but the friends here at Kid Country we are thankful for as well! Miss Bailey, Miss Molly, Miss Donna K., and Miss Kelly

