



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

6th -- Logan B.
6th -- Miss Molly
10th -- Olivia E.
13th -- Roman S.
14th -- Wesley D.
20th -- Ava D.
24th -- Claire K.
28th -- Miss Fran



2020 is Rolling In!

Happy New Year everyone! 2020?! It seems like just yesterday we were all worried about Y2K and here we are two decades into the millennium already!

Our annual Holiday show was a huge hit again this year! Thank you to all that were able to share the afternoon with us at Wilson Creek! The Orange Owls, Green Frogs and Blue Gills did an awesome job wow-ing the audience with their singing abilities! The children told of their favorite holiday traditions through song and ended by wishing everyone a very hearty Merry Christmas! A special visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus ended a perfect afternoon and gave all of you plenty of opportunities to capture some awesome family memories! I have definitely enjoyed looking at all of the pictures from the event. Thank you to Jim & Annie Dowd for being so gracious to be our guests of honor!

I'd also like to give a special shout out to Miss Michelle, Miss Bailey, Miss Rhonda and Miss Fran for all the behind the scenes work they do to put the songs, moves and decorations together to fit the theme! And of course, thank you to the rest of the teachers as well as it takes a "village" to pull off a show like this!

While I'm at it, I want to extend a thank you to our entire team here at Kid

Country for all the work they do every day. Our days can be a bit hectic and crazy, but at the end of the day these teachers truly love each of the children in their care. They put in 100% every day to ensure all the children at Kid Country receive the best early education and care. They take pride in providing high quality care to the children in our community, and it shows! THANK YOU to our entire team!

As we look to the start of the new year, we will be moving right into registration for summer and fall 2020 at the end of January and getting our summer field trips planned. We will also be completing all the paperwork for our license renewal process that happens every three years. However, what I'm looking forward to most in 2020 is our new playground! We will be hosting a "community" build in May. Thanks to your vigilant fundraising efforts our playground will get a much needed update in 2020!

Thank you to each of you for continuing to support Kid Country and for allowing us to be a part of your family! My wish for each of you is that you are blessed with a year full of family, friends and good times in 2020! Happy New Year!

Danna

GREEN FROGS

In the Green Frogs classroom, we spent the month of December preparing for Christmas! The first of our festive activities involved discussions, charts, and projects all about Christmas trees! The Frogs had a blast telling their friends and teachers all about how they decorate their Christmas trees at home with different lights, ornaments, and toppers. We also made two different trees of our own as we worked on letter identification.

For the first tree, the Frogs were encouraged to identify the letters of their names as they build a tall Christmas tree out of triangles. For the second tree, the Frogs again identified a variety of letters as they matched colors on a chart to the corresponding letter on their tree.

After Christmas trees, we moved on to Santa Claus! The Frogs shared during circle time all about the gifts that they are asking for and the types of cookies they will leave out for Santa on the big night. We built our own dancing Santas using our scissor skills to cut triangle hats, comfy boots, and beards made of long paper strips. To put our Santa together, we discussed the concept of small, medium, and large as we used circles in three different sizes for his body, head, and nose.

We ended the month with Christmas celebrations together as a Green Frogs family. Our special guest, Ms. Donna, joined us to read holiday stories as we all enjoyed delicious chocolate milk and cookies. We also had our Christmas party where we played many games including Christmas tree ping-pong toss, marshmallow stacking, and a wintery obstacle course! The Frogs also had the chance to decorate their own Christmas cookies for a special holiday snack. To end our party, we gathered on the carpet

together to listen to a special story with Ms. Fran. After the story, we had some silly fun with squishy snowballs on our parachute!

We are very excited to see what January brings to the Green Frogs classroom!

Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Miss Wendy, Miss Melissa, Miss Eileen, and Miss Kelly



Blue Gills

It is the most wonderful time of the year! Just ask any of our very excited Blue Gills. The gleam in their eyes and the thrill in their voices when they talk about Santa Claus' arrival is nothing but magical. We have been counting the days until Christmas by counting backwards on the bulletin board. Every day we took a number off and then counted how many days we had left. It was a great pathway to learning new number vocabulary.

Gingerbread men are always fun to study. We read all types of stories about gingerbread men, boys, girls, babies and pirates. We also compared their similarities and differences. Each story was unique but had some similarities. Circle time brought some gingerbread fun as we patterned them and played the missing gingerbread game. In this game we closed our eyes and had to

guess which color house the Gingerbread Man was hiding under. Sometimes we would guess right away and other times

we had to look under almost every house. What a great game to review colors and numbers!

Some of the other gingerbread activities we engaged in were counting them, creating our own gingerbread men out of paper and drawing them. We also had fun making our own homemade gingerbread play dough. After the kids measured and mixed the ingredients in a large bowl, Ms. Rhonda kneaded it for us. When the play dough was ready, we were able to play with it and make gingerbread men using gingerbread cookie cutters, buttons, and beads. Boy did it make our room smell so good!

We are looking forward to January and seeing what our new study, "Winter", brings us!

Ms. Rhonda



PURPLE PARROTS

RED ROBINS

The Red Robins spent the month of December getting into the Christmas spirit! To start the month the Robins made a banner for the annual Kid Country Christmas Program. Each child used crayons to color their own gingerbread person, and when finished we glued them around the gingerbread house!

This month we focused on a lot of fine motor projects with the Red Robins. Fine motor is important because it helps the Robins improve the dexterity and strength in their hands and fingers. These skills will help them throughout life such as using utensils to eat and pens to write. The first project the Robins did was using q-tips to paint Christmas lights. Each Robin chose what color to dip the q-tip in and using their fingers stamped the paint onto the paper. The next project was mitten lacing. Each child had their own mitten with little slits in the paper and they used a piece of yarn to lace all around the mitten.

Towards the end of the month the Robins made their very own lists for Santa! They told the teacher what they wanted for Christmas and signed their names on the bottom! We couldn't forget about Santa's reindeer, so the Robins made reindeer food to take home and sprinkle on the grass so Santa and his reindeers would stop at their houses! The Robins also had their annual stories and special snack with Ms. Donna. They loved listening to Ms. Donna read them all different kinds of Christmas stories while they ate their cookies and chocolate milk! To end the month the Robins had so much fun at their holiday party! They made a special Christmas trail mix for snack and did a fun Christmas craft to take home! The Red Robins are so excited for the new year and what 2020 will bring!

Miss Krista, Miss Kasey, Miss Jenna and Miss Emily S.

Blue Dolphins

Our annual Christmas show was a huge success! The Blue Dolphins helped create some of the decorations, including a banner to fit the theme "Better Bundle Up".

Although the weather was not always cooperative, the Dolphins still enjoyed some playtime outside where we were able to run, climb and play sports together. The Blue Dolphins are always excited to begin a new project to help decorate our room. This month we spent time making paper plate ornaments, garland, and a variety of other Christmas crafts to make our room merry and bright!

In our classroom, we are all very excited for the upcoming Christmas holiday where many of us enjoy extra time with our friends and family. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday at home and a



great start to 2020!

Miss Wendy, Miss Rhonda and Mr. Joey

The month of December turned the Purple Parrots into small scientists! The Parrots tried out two exciting science experiments including making "Reindeer Toothpaste" and melting a Christmas tree. To make reindeer toothpaste, the toddlers observed as the teachers mixed dry yeast, warm water, food coloring, and glitter in an empty water bottle. As hydrogen peroxide was added, the green sparkly mixture began to fizz and foam up and out of the water bottle, much to the toddlers' delight. We used words such as foaming, bubbles, and fizz to describe this chemical reaction. The melting Christmas trees involved pouring vinegar over green baking soda trees, also producing a fizzing, bubbling reaction.

Watching experiments such as these enhances several skills for our small scientists. The toddlers are observing the scientific process, which includes inquiry and action/reaction. The teachers describe the step by step process and question what will happen next aloud. Watching the reaction while listening to the description starts the toddlers thinking about actions/reactions. It causes them to begin to ponder how things work not only for just this experiment, but possibly for many other things they see in their world. Observing as a class also helps the toddlers learn how to manage their feelings and take care of their own needs while in a group setting, which is an extremely important life skill. Another benefit of a group experiment is the language enhancement. The toddlers are hearing new language not only from the teachers, but from their older peers as well. We can't wait to keep experimenting more in the New Year!

Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Victoria and Miss Emily S.

ORANGE OWLS

As the year ended, the Owls had many things to celebrate! After much practicing and preparation, the Owls were singing sensations during our Christmas program! In front of their family and friends they belted out some of their favorite Christmas traditions through song. The audience was especially thrilled when we had a special guest of Santa and Mrs. Claus! It was a major hit, with all the children singing the songs for weeks after. We took a trip through our Winter Wonderland this month as we explored water in its different forms of ice and snow. We discussed the scientific reasoning of why water turns to both ice and snow, but why they are still different.

Though we did not get an abundant amount of snow it was just enough to help us with our exploration! We made our own ice experiment by freezing both a bowl and a bin, one inside and one outside. We took a poll of which one we thought would freeze first and why. Some of the thoughts that arose were that the bin outside would be

slower because of the sun, and the bowl inside would be quicker because it is "very cold" in the freezer! Through our observation the bin froze quicker! Afterwards, we thought it may be because the bin is in fact a bit smaller than the bowl.

Among the various celebrations throughout the month, our top two were cookies with Miss Donna and our Holiday party! Miss Donna had us more than intrigued with her new holiday stories of acceptance, giving,



and the love of family! Then to close out the week we played some reindeer games, made beautiful crafts, and had a delectable snack for our Holiday party! Our Christmas tree snack and snowball fight made our week!

We can't wait to see what January brings our Orange Owls!

Miss Bailey, Miss Molly, Miss Madison, Miss Donna K.

YELLOW DUCKS

The month of December was a month of preparation in the Yellow Ducks classroom. The majority of the children are aging out of the infant classroom and transitioning to the Purple Parrots room. The Yellow Ducks' teachers have worked closely with the Purple Parrots' teachers to ensure a smooth transition. This preparation began when the children turned one year old. The children are introduced to sitting at the "big table" during mealtimes and naps are focused to mock the toddler classroom schedule. Another skill that is introduced in the infant classroom is independent feeding using utensils. The toddler classroom focuses more on self-feeding using a fork or a spoon. We introduce being served meals in a bowl and providing a utensil. The children have responded well with the new additions to their schedule.

In addition, the Yellow Ducks kicked up the Christmas spirit with fun holiday music dance parties, expanding our library with festive stories and participating in a Christmas party. Our Christmas party was a big success

filled with red and green treats. We began our party with a special pudding treat with green food coloring and festive sprinkles to dress it up. Then we transitioned to our masterpieces of painting with gift bows and practicing unwrapping presents for the big day. The bow paintings were so much fun and were a great way to wrap up our party. The Yellow Ducks team would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. We are excited for the new beginnings in the New Year!

Miss Emily, Miss Leslie, and Miss Jyne



Kid Calendar

Wednesday, 1/1	CLOSED New Year's Day
Monday, 1/20	Blue Gills Program CLOSED
	No School for Manhattan and Peotone Schools
Friday, 1/24	Haircuts