



Kid Country

CHILDCARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

NUMBER 3 VOLUME 19

MARCH 2020



#### MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- 4th -- Easton S.
- 5th -- Calvin H.
- 6th -- Elliot S.
- 10th -- Lachlan D.
- 16th -- Miss Donna K.
- 18th -- Dakota G.
- 19th -- Miss Bailey
- 22nd -- Kellyn S.
- 29th -- Dakota M.



## Surprise Windfall!

We were surprised by a windfall of toys this month! Last fall, Miss Michelle found a grant opportunity to provide new materials for infant, toddler and twos classrooms. The grant was being offered by our local childcare resource and referral (CCR&R) with a quick two-week response time. Miss Michelle talked with our teachers and compiled a wish list of materials that would enhance our programs and completed all of the grant paperwork. Unfortunately, we were informed several weeks later that we did not receive the grant.

However, a few weeks ago a delivery truck arrived and started unloading a bunch of boxes! As we opened them, we discovered these were items on our grant wishlist! Upon further investigation, we were told by CCR&R that they did end up granting a portion of our grant based on the number of applicants and funds available. When all was done, we received over \$1,900 worth of new materials!!! What great a surprise for us!

As soon as we confirmed we did indeed receive these through the grant, we quickly unpacked all of the boxes, and placed the materials in the classrooms. All of the pictures you see in this month's newsletter are children

playing with the new materials! We may not have received everything on our list, but we are extremely appreciative of the materials we did get. Taking advantage of these grant opportunities is so important for us in helping to keep costs down and still provide high quality materials. Thank you to the State for the grant offer and for Miss Michelle for doing such a great job of getting our grant together!

We have completed our 2020-21 registration process and will now be reaching out to those on our waitlists. If you know of anyone that is interested in attending Kid Country, now is the time for them to contact us -- spread the word!

Please remember that Kid Country will be closed on Monday, March 2 for an inservice day for our teachers. We will be getting re-certified in CPR and first aid, along with reviewing DCFS regulations and doing some team building activities. We will get a full eight hours of training completed towards our annual requirement of 20. And be sure you have Manhattan's Irish Fest on your calendar for March 6 & 7 -- this is the town's biggest celebration of the year! Everyone gets to be Irish on that weekend! Have fun!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

The Green Frogs spent most of this cold February inside continuing to study the Arctic. We started out the month by learning about **Eskimos**. We focused on a lot of fine motor skills as we cut out Eskimos with our adorable little faces on them! The Frogs had a good time learning about the science of **blubber** by using lard (in baggies) and ice-cold water to see that the lard helped keep their hands warm.

We also learned about walrus and about their **tusks**, **blubber**, and **whiskers**. We decorated walrus faces using paint, paper plates, yarn, and googly eyes. The walrus looked great on our walls swimming with the **icebergs**. The Froggies had a

blast when we turned our eating area into an ice-skating rink. Using wax paper, the Frogs glided

around the room and giggled while they wore **bufandas** (scarves) to help our imaginations soar!

When it was Valentine's Week, the Green Frogs had a wonderful time decorating the classroom with hearts, hearts, hearts! The Frogs practiced their letters by

making caterpillars out of hearts with their names on them. Practicing math concepts by measuring and mixing cupcakes as a class was fun but eating them was icing on the cake!! The class had fun at the Valentine's party, where they passed out goodies, played "Leap Hearts," "Pin the Lips on the Frog," bean bag toss, and decorated their marble paintings with a lot of stickers.

And finally, we're starting to see GREEN and wildlife!! Well, we are in our classroom, anyway. We have moved from the Arctic to the Rainforest. The Frogs enjoyed painting and decorating a **diorama**

(a mini rainforest). They also practiced their fine motor skills by cutting out large leaves to put on the tall trees and branches that have been set up to decorate the classroom walls. The Frogs will continue to study the Rainforest and all of its animals through many games and projects!! Miss Fran, Miss Eileen and Miss Wendy



# Blue Gills

February brought the Blue Gills a lesson in love and respect for others. With each emotion that we explored, we found that we all have these feelings and that it is

up to us to make others feel better about themselves not worse. As we learned about changing the way we say things, I could hear children saying things like: "I'd like it if you would play with us," and "If you would like one more, I could give you one of mine." Our motto during this study soon became: It doesn't take a lot to make someone feel good, you just have to think about how you like to be treated.

Mid-month we transitioned into a study that they were all

excited for, ZOO ANIMALS.

Everyone has their favorite animal when visiting the zoo. So, we listed our favorites and started to learn more about those specific animals. We learned new facts about the different animals and expanded our

vocabulary with words like zoology, pachyderm, marsupial, and nocturnal. For large motor we challenged our little bodies acting like the animals as we stomped, slithered, balanced, glided, and jumped. We even made binoculars to help us find the animals that had escaped from our zoo. We searched high and low throughout the room looking for different animals and writing down their names when we found them. Being a zookeeper is hard work, but spending time with the animals makes it worth it!

Ms. Rhonda



# PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots spent the month of February working on cooperation, sharing, and just overall being good friends to each other as we celebrated Valentine's Day. The Purple Parrots were able to celebrate Valentine's Day with a party filled with a craft, experiment, snack, games and sensory bin! They created cupcakes, made tic tac toe with our snack, went on a heart hunt, and watched hearts fizz in a beaker to name a few. It was a great time to interact with friends in our class and work on our social skills. Also, the Purple Parrots focused on both fine and gross motor skills. The toddlers hopped on heart-shaped pieces of paper to mimic the game of musical chairs. The Parrots were encouraged to focus on each heart they jumped onto to increase their gross motor skills.

In addition, the Parrots had a fun time learning about several emotions and what colors typically are associated with these feelings, for example blue for sadness, red for anger, and yellow for happiness. The Parrots painted or colored over poster board the different colors that represent these feelings and then the teachers added a face to help the Parrots get a better understanding of the emotion. These are wonderful skills to develop as they continue to grow and become more independent.

Overall February was a fun and exciting time in the Purple Parrots classroom, and we can't wait to see what March brings for us!

Miss Victoria, Miss Leslie, Miss Kathy, Miss Kelly and Miss Abby



# RED ROBINS

The month of February was filled with love, friendship and the knowledge of bonding in the Red Robins classroom. As part of every year tradition, the Robins held their annual Valentine's Day party! This day was filled with many fun activities including creating their own trail mix for a special snack, playing in the sensory tub filled with colored water and finishing off by creating special Valentine's Day necklaces! The Robins used their fine motor skills and their hand eye coordination to pick up the smaller beads and noodles and place them around the yarn to create a necklace!

To end the month, the Robins started their ocean unit. Many days were spent creating fun underwater animals and having one on one time with the teachers to create them. Having a special bond with each teacher can greatly improve a child's time at school and give them confidence throughout their educational careers. The month of March will continue to create more ocean life and start a new unit for the Robins to learn!

Miss Krista, Miss Kasey and Miss Emily S.



# Blue Dolphins

During February, the Blue Dolphins were able to have two full days here at Kid Country since the schools were closed. The children enjoyed a pajama day on Valentine's Day where they made tents with blankets and boxes to hang out in with their "special" stuffed

animal. They also enjoyed a special dessert made by Miss Rhonda – Valentine's Day cupcakes with custom toppings!

The next day off the children brought in some of their favorite board games that Kid Country does not have in the classroom. The children enjoyed playing the new games and also enjoyed the "grocery store" that Miss Rhonda made in the classroom. The children have also been spending extra time reading, as they work towards the goal of the Six Flags tickets.

Everyone is looking forward to spending more time outside soon! Come on spring! Miss Wendy, Miss Rhonda, Miss Stephanie and Mr. Joey

# ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls were nothing short of amazing this month as we dove deep into literature, writing, and nearly every aspect of books themselves. We began with the basics such as cover, pages, words, title. Then dove deeper into author, illustrator, theme, and types of books.

They were all very intrigued that books can look and read the same, but the words read could be both

fiction and non-fiction to either send us away on a mystical journey or explain to us what is happening all around us. As we went on, we began to be able to differentiate between the two as well, thinking critically of what truth is and what is fiction.

The Orange Owls then had the opportunity to be both an author and an illustrator as they created their very own short stories. They began with the Title. This was harder than they originally thought it would be, as it would set the theme of their book and give their reader one chance to see what the story is about. Once they decided their titles, it was time for their artistic



creations to emerge! We reiterated how important is to have a picture on the cover to not only catch the reader's attention but give clues to what their story is about. Now the fun part- the story! The Orange Owls had a delightful time being able to let their creativity soar as they put their minds and hands to work! Not only were they having a blast while writing and creating they were using past experiences, recognizing and using

letter recognition, using precise finger

control, exploring visual arts, and thinking symbolically.

February was a great month and we can't wait to see what March has in store for us!

Miss Bailey, Miss Donna K. and Miss Molly



# YELLOW DUCKS

The month of February was filled with love in the Yellow Ducks classroom. The babies enjoyed a variety of festive Valentines' decoration around the classroom. The teachers hung up handmade hearts from the ceiling and provided visual stimulation above the diaper changing station as well. Also, the children created a variety of artwork. This included love bears for our tree on display in the classroom. They also joined us in welcoming our new teacher, Miss Anna, to the Yellow Ducks classroom!

In addition to the lovely festivities, the Yellow Ducks focused many of their activities around fine motor development. Fine motor skills refer to the movements we make with the small muscles in our bodies, primarily our hands. The development of these types of

skills is extremely important at such a young age. To practice these skills, the Ducks participated in many different types of art activities. One that the Ducks really seemed

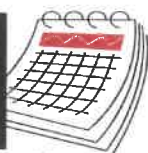


to enjoy was coloring with markers. The Ducks seemed very interested in holding the markers in their hands, and the color of the markers. To finish off the month, Miss Emily and Miss Anna started to focus the art activities and

classroom decorations around classic nursery rhymes. The Ducks enjoyed getting into the Mother Goose spirit, and we will continue with many different studies in the upcoming months!

Miss Emily, Miss Anna and Miss Krissy

## Kid Calendar



Monday, 3/2	CLOSED Inservice Day
Friday, 3/6	Haircuts
Thursday, 3/19	Library Day
Week of 3/30	Manhattan Schools Spring Break