



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 3rd -- Lillianna G.
- 4th -- Lucy D.
- 4th -- Austin H.
- 8th -- Wyatt M.
- 8th -- Autumn B.
- 13th -- Miss Melissa
- 15th -- Nora O.
- 29th -- Miss Donna



Grateful for 2020?

Any of you that have been here at Kid Country for any length of time probably know that November is my favorite month! I write about it every year – not only is it my birthday month, it is the month that the nation takes some time to reflect on what we are thankful for.

Thinking about being grateful during this year has personally been a struggle for me, as I’m sure many of you can agree. We are in the middle of a pandemic that has all of us worried about our health and the health of our loved ones, has negatively impacted small businesses (Kid Country included), and totally turned our country upside down when it comes to thinking about doing anything “normal.” We have missed many of the fun extracurricular activities at Kid Country and playing with others on the playground. We miss some of our friends that no longer attend. We have to plan ahead and make a reservation to enjoy the zoo and we’ve had to embrace wearing masks anytime we step outside of our homes, not only for ourselves but for our children as well. Spontaneity is a thing of the past along with gathering together with our extended families. What can we possibly be grateful for??

I was lucky enough to recently take a trip with my husband to the Grand Canyon. We enjoy being outdoors and hiking, so we thought this would be a perfect “COVID trip” for the two of us. On our second day at the Grand Canyon, we were hiking along the south rim from Hermit’s Rest back towards the Village. We were literally feet from the edge of the canyon (no railings or barriers!) walking along and we wandered into an area where six elk were grazing. What an amazing sight to witness! Here we are, just the two of us, not another sole around (in fact, we hadn’t seen another human in over an hour), with this huge

canyon with absolute amazing views watching elk in the wild. How many people get to experience this in their lifetime??

We continue walking along and I’m just struck by how lucky I truly am. I realize how small we, as humans, really are in this world and how insignificant my troubles seem when I’m literally just a small speck in the grandeur of the Grand Canyon and even smaller speck within the world. Talk about putting things into perspective! Again, those that know me well realize that I am now in tears, looking out across the canyon telling my husband how grateful I am for having this moment, for having him, and for regaining clarity on what is truly important in life.

So yes, even in 2020, there is so much to be grateful for. We may have to look a little harder to gain that perspective, but it is there. Even with all the struggles this year, I continue to be grateful for Kid Country and the community it has created through the years. This year I think I am most grateful for this, the people that Kid Country has brought together over the past 18 years. People that have been and continue to be a part of my life, the lifelong friendships that have been formed between children that continue into adulthood, and the relationships formed when families meet each other here in our hallways (or parking lot nowadays!)

I am grateful for you and what you bring to our family! I hope you have a very Happy Thanksgiving, even if it may look different than years past, and I hope you have a grateful and blessed November! There is ALWAYS something to be thankful for!

Donna

YELLOW DUCKS

The Yellow Ducks engaged in all things fall during the month of October. A group of wonderful teachers put together a fall fest day for the whole center. This special day included games, tattoos for the older children, a little pumpkin patch, a special snack, and a photo booth. The Yellow Ducks really enjoyed the special snack and the trip to the pumpkin patch in the garden. The special snack was delicious to the children on our full school menu. The pumpkin patch set in the garden transported us to another place full of pumpkins and fall décor. The children were smiling from ear to ear as they patted their favorite pumpkins to bring home to share with their families.

In addition to our fall fest day, the Yellow Ducks enhanced their spooky fine motor skills in the spirit of Halloween by creating tear-paper candy corn to be displayed for Halloween. The children were involved in this project from start to finish. Ms. Leslie guided the children to tear the yellow, orange, and white construction paper to prepare for the gluing stage. Then each child practiced hand over hand to

begin the assembly process of layering the glue and pieces of paper. Each child made their own candy corn and placed the colors and pieces where they saw fit. This activity engaged many muscle groups in their fine motor skills as well as beginning to learn how to follow two-step directions. The Yellow Ducks loved their homemade and unique candy corns for the whole building to see.

Overall, the month of October was BOO-tiful in the Yellow Ducks classroom. It was full of fun new experiences and bittersweet traditions. Two of our older Ducks flew over to be with the Purple Parrots and strengthen their early childhood development. The Yellow Ducks classroom always loves to see the once Yellow Ducks become wonderful toddlers. Ms. Emily, Ms. Leslie and Miss Karen G.

GREEN FROGS

As we finished up our ball study, the Frogs discussed how different balls do not bounce the same way. A rubber ball will bounce up and down, while a football

bounces in many different directions. We asked the Frogs, what will a round pom-pom ball do when dipped in paint? Some of the Frogs said bounce, some said roll away. We tested their theories with gravity painting. Each Frog stood on a stool and was given 6 pom-poms with paint. They carefully dropped a ball onto a large paper.



Did it bounce or roll? No, it landed in a splat, sending paint flying in a spectacular way! Just to be sure none of the balls would roll, we dropped all 6 pom-poms. The result was a beautiful painting.

Fall Fest was a welcome day of fun! The Frogs tried their skills at pumpkin ring toss, horseshoes, and apple stacking! Their favorite part was the scavenger hunt. They worked together to find each item on the list, and even a few items that were not on the list! The Frogs' excitement as they found items on and off the list was incredibly entertaining!

Also, during this month, the Frogs spent some time practicing their fine motor skills. We practiced holding the paint brush with a pincher grip, while making leaf imprints. The Frogs worked on number recognition and quantifying by identifying a numbered card, and then using their fingers to place the same number of buttons onto a spooky pipe cleaner tree. Our scissoring skills were put to good use, as we cut along the line of a printed tree. Then, with glue sticks in hand, we added our gathered nature items to our trees.

Overall it was an awesome October! Miss Fran, Miss Wendy and Miss Kelly



PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots sure do love fall and everything Halloween! But who doesn't? They have been having a lot of fun exploring this season through quite a few gross and fine motor activities. The gross motor activities have included pumpkin rolling, pumpkin stomping, paper plate spider web, obstacle course, pumpkin stacking, and actions dice game!

Our fine motor fun has happened through a game called "Save the Pumpkin", painting spiders, scotch tape mummies, coloring ghosts and pumpkins, making paper bag pumpkins, and painting leaves with a marble and shaving cream to name a few. It has been quite a creative month around here to say the least. The toddlers love experimenting with different kinds of art.

The Parrots have also celebrated a lot this month! They celebrated fall through our very own fall fest here at Kid Country. The toddlers absolutely loved all of the fall games, the pumpkin patch, and a very yummy treat. It was such a fun filled day! During fall fest the toddlers were able to use their gross motor skills and explore nature by going on a scavenger hunt all around Kid Country.

There have been a few birthdays this month which has been a great

reason to celebrate as well. Becoming a two-year-old is quite a big deal around here! The parrots can start using a "big" cup during all of our mealtimes. There are a few other perks as well.

At the Halloween party the toddlers were able to explore inside of a sensory bin, enjoy a yummy treat, create a paper plate pumpkin craft with doters, explore a ghost science experiment, and play ghost

bowling! With October comes the cold weather. The Purple Parrots still try to get outside as much as possible. Please remember to send your child in a warm jacket. Inside their cubby we

recommend keeping a hat, gloves, and an extra hoodie.

Miss Victoria, Miss Kathy and Miss Emily S.



RED ROBINS

In the month of October, we experienced several different weather patterns, played with, and discovered many different types of textures and created tons of different artwork that revolved around the fall season!

During October, each classroom hosts their own Halloween parties that are filled with sweet and tasty treats and special craft time! Unfortunately, this year's parties were a little different. We could not allow parents to volunteer this year and let them watch their children dress up and have a spooky party. It put a damper on most of the classroom parties, but we still managed to have a fun and spooky time!

The art projects were also flowing out of the Red Robins room this month! The Robins created several art projects mainly focused on Halloween. The Robins thoroughly enjoyed two specific books this month which were, "Where is my Mummy?" and "Five Black Cats." After reading these books, the Robins created mummies out of black paper and tape and created black cats by coloring with black markers. The Robins also used cotton balls to create scary ghosts, and black paint to create spiders that are hanging from the ceiling.

Although we are sad to see such a fun month end, we are excited to start our projects for November! We are hoping to venture outside as much as we can before the weather becomes too cold and snowy. Please remember to bundle your child up!

Miss Krista, Miss Sara and Miss Jenna



Blue Dolphins

BACK TO SCHOOL!! After waiting for what seemed to be a lifetime for some of these children, they finally got to meet their teachers face to face! It is so nice to be back to hearing joyful stories about what has been happening at Wilson Creek and Anna McDonald as they return from their mornings at school. Once they return each day, we have a little break with lunch and a large motor activity then, we get right back to work on our e-learning to finish out our day. Although it has been one more transition for these kids, I am so proud to say that they all are taking it in stride. It is such a good feeling when at the end of each day we all feel a sense of accomplishment!

While spending a few hours here at Kid Country, we are outdoors as much as we can be. We have been burning our built-up energy by having running races on the driveway, doing a little bit of Ball Tag on the playground, soccer in the side yard, or simply good ol' free playing with our friends.

One of the Dolphin's favorite days in October was the Friday before school started where we were able to join in Kid Country's Fall Fest activities outside. Because the other children of Kid Country had their fest on that Wednesday, we had the whole set up to ourselves all morning.

It all started as we enjoyed a delicious Halloween themed snack. During this time, Ms. Jess and Ms. Kathy set up a few fun games for us to play on the side yard. We had a blast trying to stack apples without them falling, our winning student had 5 apples that stayed upright for a count of 25. Next, we had a hopping good time with sack races and laughing with our friends that could not stay upright. Pumpkin bowling was a lot harder than it sounded. We found that pumpkins do not always roll the way you want them to. Then we all decided that playing ring around the pumpkin on a

windy kind of day was almost frustrating but still sort of fun. Thanks to Ms. Jess and Ms. Kathy, because of their hard work we had a great day!

As we venture into November, we hope that everyone stays healthy, school stays in session, and the snow holds off for a while! Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Donna K.



ORANGE OWLS

We scurried our way into fall here in the Orange Owls room! We began with the changing of the season and why these changes are happening along with the different vegetation we see such as the corn changing, beans drying out, and of course pumpkins! We took a good look at pumpkins, both inside and out, to get the real scoop on them.

Beginning with how pumpkins grow, we connected their process to that of apples. Both apples and pumpkins start from seed, grow sprouts, and then later grow their "fruit". After reading a few books it was clear the only difference in their growing process is that apples grow into trees whereas pumpkin sprouts grow into vines! Being able to relate their similarities had the Owls beaming as they told each other and their teachers pieces of information connecting the two!

Seeing as we did not get our chance at the pumpkin patch, we brought our pumpkin patch to us with our First Annual Fall Fest! With pumpkin picking, bag races, and Halloween tattoos- we had a blast being able to unwind and play an array of games with all our classmates!

To close out the month we celebrated one of our favorite holidays -- Halloween! With pumpkin painting, mummy wrapping, and spooky treats it was a welcomed day of smiles and cheer, and of course a spooky song or two!

Miss Bailey and Miss Molly

