



CHILDCARE

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# CROSSINGS

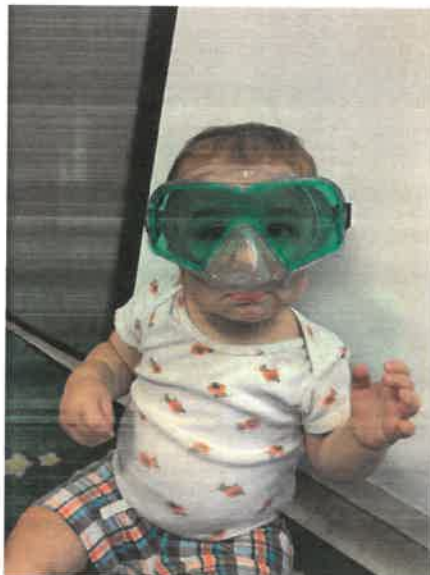
NUMBER 8 VOLUME 20

AUGUST 2021



#### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st -- Miss Jasmine
- 6th -- Liam G.
- 7th -- Tyler B.
- 11th -- Billy V.
- 20th -- Jameson M.
- 29th -- Declan W.



## Time to Celebrate!

**W**e have exciting news to share! This month we are kicking off our year-long 20th anniversary celebration! We will be doing special events and give-aways throughout the year to celebrate all Kid Country has accomplished in the past 20 years! Kid Country has gone from a brand-new center in 2002 that opened its doors with just 20??? Children enrolled, to the community leader in high quality early care and education that has more than 100 children enrolled today! I am extremely proud of the progress Kid Country has made in keeping up with the changes in the early childhood field and our commitment to continuous quality improvement! We are looking forward to celebrating with you all year!

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us at our Parent Orientation/Open House on Monday, August 23 from 4-6pm. We have revamped our parent orientation to provide a more informal open house format so that you will have more time to spend in your child's classroom meeting the teachers, learning about our curriculum, and just making that first home-school connection of the school year. Our administration team will be giving out some fun Kid Country gear sporting our new 20th anniversary logo as well! Stop in anytime between 4p and 6p,

stay for as long as you'd like, and even bring your child!

Our August schedule has changed a bit due to the Manhattan School District opening one week later than we had anticipated. Kid Country will be OPEN on Monday, August 16. However, we will be closed on Monday, August 23 for our Inservice Day and Open House. Then on Tuesday, August 24, we will have Move Up Day! You will drop off and pick up your child from his/her new classroom beginning on that Tuesday. For those of you enrolling in our preschool only (no childcare) Blue Gills program, our first day of classes will be Tuesday, September 7.

As we start our 20th year in the early care and education business, I want to say THANK YOU to all of you for choosing Kid Country! We are honored to have been a staple in the community for 20 years and look forward to the next 20!

*Donna*

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# Blue Dolphins

This month the Blue Dolphins blasted off into space. During our journey, we took command of our spacecrafts by making a rocket launching command center. The kids used their creativity and a lot of random materials to create their command centers with all the necessary dials, knobs, and gauges needed for a successful launch. One of our favorite activities this week was our balloon rocket races. With wires strung across the classroom, the children thread a blown-up balloon on the wire and when the countdown hit blast-off, the clips were released to start the balloons launching across the room. It was a great lesson in jet propulsion!

Once we were in space, we learned all about the sun and other stars. We found out how constellations are a group of stars that form a shape or pattern. We enjoyed making our own constellations which can be seen in the main hallway. For one of our snacks, we created the eight distinct phases of the moon out of Oreos. Not only was it a learning experience, but a tasty treat as well.

We finished our unit on space by making our own Conker's Comets and throwing them for distance in the side yard. The grand



finale was our Mentos Rocket Experiments. By placing Mentos into Diet Coke there was an eruption that sent our foam rockets shooting up into the air to great heights!

Next month we will explore Zoo Animals before returning to school on the 25th. Until then, the fun will continue full steam ahead! Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Wendy, and Ms. Donna K.

## OPEN HOUSE

Monday, 8/23 • 4-6pm



# PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots cannot believe summer is already coming to an end! But what a way to end the summer by diving into the ocean! We spent the month learning all about the beach. Examples of the fun activities we enjoyed were water days, ocean animal research (sharks, jellyfish, dolphins, octopus etc.), various ocean related crafts (fish stamping, flip-flop foot, making jellyfish), and feeding "sharks". The toddlers used their sensory, language, self-help, fine motor, and color recognition skills to complete these activities. While on our water days the toddlers also practiced their emotional development by interacting with their peers and teachers in a positive and progressive way.

The Parrots enjoyed the fun summer activities that Kid Country had planned throughout the summer. These activities included an exotic animal show, a petting zoo, the carnival, bubble day, shark week, a ball pit, and Christmas in July. The Purple Parrots were able to explore the world around them with their friends all

while having fun! Some of these activities allowed the toddlers to get messy, enhance their developmental skills, and engage in meaningful conversation. They even saw animals that they normally would never see in their day-to-day life. How exciting!!!

The toddlers cannot wait for the last fun weeks of activities. We are sad summer is coming to an end but also excited to see what the new school year will hold for us! We want to say thank you to all the parents and children that participated in the journey we called Summer 2021!

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Christal, Ms. Emily S., Ms. Scarlett, and Ms. Kelly

# RED ROBINS

We are slowly dwindling down to the last month of summer here at Kid Country. Some days the weather cooperated extremely well with us and other days the weather was too hot or rainy. This in turn gave the teachers numerous opportunities to discuss the weather and learn different patterns when it comes to the weather! Do not fret though! We managed to incorporate several fun activities into those days that were nice enough to get outside and even had plenty of activities for the Red Robins to participate in inside!

To give the month a fresh start, we had an exciting bubble day for all the classrooms! Miss Melissa put together several stations outside and different bubble wands for the children to use. A very gracious parent also let us borrow their amazing bubble machine! This produced hundreds of smaller bubbles that swam in the air throughout the playgrounds. Bubbles encourage many stages of development and curiosity in children of all ages. They promote locomotion skills when reaching and catching bubbles as well as curiosity of what happens to a bubble when it pops. The concept of cause and effect is introduced at a young age with the exposure of bubbles with the idea of bubbles popping and disappearing after being touched. The understanding of cause and effect also encompasses the thought process

of problem-solving skills.

Throughout the rest of the month, we had several water days, celebrated Shark Week, had an informative reptile show and lastly had a fun and delicious ice cream social during snack! This month was jammed packed with not only activities, but lifelong lessons such as sharing, making friends, using bigger muscles, and learning all about new things! The Red Robins are sad to see the summer ending but excited to see what August and the start of the school year will bring.

Ms. Krista, Ms. Jessica, Ms. Jenna, and Ms. Jasmine



# YELLOW DUCKS

July has been a fun and exciting month for the Yellow Ducks. The Yellow Ducks did a lot of activities involving fine motor skills. Fine motor skills are the movements and use of hands and upper extremities. Reaching, grasping, and manipulating objects with hands are all examples of fine motor skills that the Yellow Ducks use daily. Fine motor skills also involve visual motor skills, specifically hand-eye coordination. These visual motor skills are used to coordinate hands, legs, and the rest of the body.

Examples of the activities that the

Yellow Ducks did to enhance fine motor skills were bean bag toss game during our Carnival Day, using a spoon with our special Shark Week snack, and coloring with markers to decorate our cardboard playhouse. For the bean bag toss game, the Yellow Ducks used their fine motor skills to pick up the bean bags and toss them into buckets. Then the children used their fine motor and visual skills to maneuver their spoons to eat their shark pudding

and place the spoon into their mouths.

Finally, the Yellow Ducks used their pincer grasp to hold onto their markers to color the cardboard plays house for the classroom.

The Yellow Ducks have had a blast this summer so far filled with new experiences and support to achieving their next milestone. The Yellow Ducks teachers are beyond excited for the coming of August and the final weeks before starting a new "school year." The teachers are so proud of all the accomplishments of the infants and their

ambition to further their overall development.

Ms. Leslie, Ms. Karen, and Ms. Sarah



# GREEN FROGS

July has been an exciting month for the Green Frogs. We went on our first field trips and finally got to ride on the big yellow bus! We traveled to Exploration Station and Kidzwork Children Museum where we explored many interactive exhibits. The Frogs used their imaginations as they climbed to the top of the castle and dug for dinosaur bones like paleontologists! We also explored our culinary skills as we pretended to be the chefs in the restaurant. When we explored each of these museums, we got to enjoy a picnic lunch and were able to spend some time with our friends at the park. The Frogs have been enjoying all their wonderful adventures!

The Frogs also began their world travels study. After examining our globe, we were able to better understand the overall concept of the world. We learned that the blue areas represent water, or oceans, and the colorful areas represent land, or continents. The Frogs have been busy learning and coloring all the different animals then placing them on the continent or continents where they live. As we travel to each continent, we have been able to compare our culture and traditions to some of those around the world. Landmarks and animals were the key components of how we were able to connect ourselves, and even some experiences, to these amazing places across the world.

The Frogs have been exploring a map of the United States. As the children tell us about their travels this summer, we

place their picture on the map. We are then able to see just how far they have travelled away from Kid Country! So, whether your summer travels take your family overseas, across the state, or to the local park, the Frogs would love to see pictures and hear about your trip!

Ms. Fran and Ms. Stephani

# ORANGE OWLS

The Owls had quite the month wrapping up bugs and cruising through the heat of summer! We had bugs galore here in the Orange Owls room- figuratively! We set up our very own Painted Lady butterfly habitat where we were able to watch the entire life cycle- from caterpillar, through chrysalis, to being able to release the butterflies! We then ventured to ants. We set up our ant farm where we fed, watered, and observed them hard at work. We discussed how ants are such hard workers and so incredibly strong!

The fact that ants can carry something 5,000 times their weight astounded the Owls, as we then thought of ourselves and what we would have to lift to compare to them. Taking care of the habitats was made into a classroom job. We used our calendar to write out a schedule of feeding and



watering both of our habitats. We learned about various bugs diets, and like ourselves, why they are important to keep them safe and strong. These hands-on habitats gave the Owls a new perspective and interest in the science aspect of bugs and not just the creepy crawly side of them.

Throughout the month we were able to venture out to exciting new places as well as have an absolute blast with in-house fun-filled activities. The one that had us on our toes and continuously talking was the visit from the exotic animals. We were able to touch, hear, and even hold some amazing, yet a bit scary, animals from all around the world! We will start winding down our summer with a few more adventures and what we look forward to in kindergarten!

Ms. Bailey  
& Miss  
Molly

