



Kid Country  
CHILDCARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

NUMBER 12 VOLUME 17

DECEMBER 2018



#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1st -- Alison B.  
1st -- Miss Stacy  
8th -- Brianna B.  
8th -- Hazel N.  
8th -- Vinnie M.  
9th -- Holly B.  
13th -- Ally V.  
16th -- Nora T.  
17th -- Kaylen O.  
17th -- Miss Stephanie  
22nd -- Nick H.  
24th -- Charlie T.  
26th -- Emerson G.

#### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Miss Michelle



## Holiday Show Time!

We celebrate the start of December this year with our annual Holiday show on Saturday, 12/1! I hope that all of you can join us at 3p at Wilson Creek Elementary. Even if your children are not participating in the program, it's a great family event and a great way to kick off the holidays! Our Green Frogs, Orange Owls and Blue Gills have been practicing for weeks and will be singing and performing *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Please join us and support the children! Refreshments of punch and cookies will be served immediately following the show, along with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus! After our show, be sure to head into downtown Manhattan for the Chamber's Christmas on State Street events.

Our annual holiday show is one of the highlights of having your children enrolled at Kid Country. Over the years this program has evolved as our program has grown and changed. Our very first show was held at St. Paul's church here in town and involved all the children – even our babies! We quickly realized we needed to focus on the older children in the program, and we switched to a short play performed by our kindergarten students with our preschool children accompanying them in song. This was a great set up until the local schools went to a full-day

kindergarten program and we no longer had a kindergarten group. So, we switched again and went with strictly singing with our preschoolers. Each of the preschool groups had a time to perform on the stage with just their class, and then they all joined together for a few songs for a grand finale'.

This year happens to be another year of change. We decided it was time to switch things up and try a new approach! This year all preschool groups will be on stage together throughout the program, and the songs will be broken up with several small skits acting out *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. We are really looking forward to this new arrangement, and we hope you enjoy it as well! One other change happening this year is with our Santa and Mrs. Claus. Mr. Kenny and Ms. Loretta have filled this role since we opened in 2002, but they have officially retired from Santa duties this year. While this is very sad and one of the hardest changes we must adjust to, I have found a new Mr. & Mrs. Claus and I'm very excited about their debut this year as well!

As you can see our Holiday Show is truly a big event around here! We hope to see you on Saturday as we kick off the holiday season! Merry Christmas everyone!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

In the Green Frogs room, November was “out of this world” as we began our study on space. The Frogs began by learning about a few basic items in our solar system including the sun, planets, and constellations.

We spent a lot of time exploring the visual arts as we looked at many pictures of outer space and made art work of our own!

As the Frogs discussed and shared their knowledge of the characteristics of



the sun, we came to the agreement that the sun is a large, hot star that is yellow and orange. The Frogs also expanded on their expressive language as they learned the new vocabulary term: solar flare. To make our own suns, the Frogs used their fingers and hands to move paint around a paper circle that they had cut themselves; which led to great conversations about mixing colors.

Constellation is another new vocabulary term that was introduced to the Frogs this month. The Frogs demonstrated their ability to think symbolically as they viewed pictures of popular constellations and tried to identify the picture that the stars created. After viewing many constellations, the Frogs each created one of their own by using their fine-motor coordination to peel and place glowing star stickers onto a paper background. The Frogs used white chalk to connect their stars and perfect their constellation.

We ended our month by talking about several of the planets. The Frogs improved their ability to listen to and understand

complex language as we discussed several distinguishing features of the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. The Frogs sharpened their fine-motor strength and coordination as they cut small, medium, and large planets of their own. Using marble painting techniques, the Frogs designed their own unique and colorful planets to display in our room.

The Green Frogs also enjoyed a tasty Thanksgiving feast with their Red Robins friends! We gobbled up turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn bread, and apple crisp as we shared what we are thankful for and enjoyed great conversation! Miss Fran, Miss Wendy and Miss Jessica



**Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor wear at Kid Country! Hats, gloves, boots and a heavy coat are needed every day!**

# YELLOW DUCKS

November was filled with thankful thoughts and gestures in the Yellow Ducks classroom. To kick off the November month, the Ducks showed appreciation for fall colors by creating fall art. Ms. Leslie prepared different paint colors such as yellow, orange and red to represent fall. The Ducks used their hands to spread the paint around a white piece of paper. While completing this project, Ms. Leslie identified the different colors present on their papers and the action of cause and effect. This activity utilized the objective of cause and effect in a manner of the paint appearing on the paper.

To finish out the month of November, Kid Country hosted their annual turkey day feast. The Yellow Ducks joined the toddlers in the Purple Parrots classrooms for a very special lunch. Ms. Krissy prepared a variety of foods such as turkey, mashed potatoes, corn bread and stuffing for the children to try out. The Ducks were excited to see old familiar faces that have moved up to the Purple Parrots classroom.

Overall, the Yellow Ducks had a wonderful month filled with new traditions and gratitude. The Yellow Duck teachers want to extend how thankful they are for Kid Country and its wonderful children!

Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Leslie



# Blue Blue Dolphins

**F**arm was our study for the Blue Gills in November. Out of all the farm animals that we started talking about, studying pigs seemed to be our most favorite. During our time of studying pigs, we enjoyed learning the silly new vocabulary words that come with pigs such as: slop, sty, boar, swine, grunt, and snout. We took these funny new words and put them into sentence form so that they could be read over and over again.

The children were showing such an interest in pigs that we continued our week learning exclusively about pigs. After a long discussion on how hard it would be for us to corral a bunch of pigs, we decided to make it into a challenge for the children. Pink balloons were blown up and pig faces, tails, and numbers were then added to each balloon. The balloons were placed all over the classroom. The children were given a paper pig with spots where they had to connect the number of dots to the actual numbers on the pigs. When the buzzer went off each child had to go find their numbered pigs and using their traveling skills and balance, return them to the corral without using their hands. The Gills were running around the classroom laughing at themselves and giggling at each other. We had such a great time with this activity that we did it over and over for the rest of the week.

We had so much fun in November we can hardly wait to see what December brings!

Miss Rhonda and Miss Pam



**T**hanksgiving has come and gone with a flash, and now it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Blue Dolphins are excited to get into the Christmas spirit by putting together their Christmas lists for Santa. They have picked out many wonderful toys that they would enjoy receiving; however, we have been talking about what the real meaning of Christmas and what it is all about. The Blue Dolphins have been having many conversations about how Christmas is about spending time with family and those we care about. It is also about helping those in need. Helping those in need is a great way to give back to the community and helps make them feel better about themselves.

The Blue Dolphins also have been helping prepare for the Christmas program with the rest of the building. They have helped by wrapping boxes to look like presents. They enjoyed being able to do this and this was a great way to help use their fine motor skills as well as teaching them how to wrap Christmas presents. Along with practicing their fine motor, having the patience to take turns and wait for their turn was a plus for this project.

We are looking forward to a fun month of holiday activities in the Blue Dolphins room! Miss Pam, Miss Rhonda and Miss Julie



## PURPLE PARROTS

**D**uring the month of November, the toddlers dove into learning by engaging in many different hands on activities. To start the month off, the children explored and collected many different size, shape, and colored leaves. Their collections lead to several meaningful conversations and the introduction to new vocabulary. The toddlers shouted out the different colors and made observations and comparisons such as wet leaves vs dry leaves. What a great way to explore nature!

Moving closer to the week of Thanksgiving, the toddlers switched gears while continuing to engage in sensory play. One of their favorite activities was sorting through "turkey feathers" in the sensory bin. Using their fine motor skills and communication skills, the toddlers discussed how the feathers felt and the different colors that they saw. After each of the toddlers had a turn playing with the feathers, we sat together and read several books that featured turkeys. As a group we compared the turkey feathers in the books to the feathers we had played with prior. This was a great way to form strong connections and

incorporate books into the daily routine.

Finally, the toddlers continued to learn some new sign language! This month the children were introduced to the words eat and mouse! Ask them to show you them at home!

What a great month November has been, but the toddlers cannot wait for the arrival of Santa Clause and his elves!

Miss Kim, Miss Kathy and Miss Stacy

# ORANGE OWLS

As the Orange Owls flew through November, they immersed themselves in all aspects of building. They began with the core basics of building. What types of buildings there are, what materials are needed to build various structures, and the names of those who build and design said buildings. The Owls were quick to catch onto the overall ideas of building.

We dug a bit deeper as we began to discuss the different "layers" that must take place to make the entire building complete. In other words, we took it all the way down to the studs! With our hands-on version of a house, the Owls were able to put in some of the various layers discussed such as the pipes for the water, the lines for the electric, and the shingles and tiles for the floors and roof. With this activity it showed the Owls that not all materials that are very much needed are necessarily seen in their entirety.

We moved on to other structures such as bridges and monuments around the world. With bridges it was a lot of cause and effect as the Owls tried to recreate and design their own bridges in several different settings. This was difficult at times for them to be able to look at the situation, see what problems they are having, and then how to go about fixing them in a manner they had not tried yet. The

critical thinking and problem-solving skills were put to the test throughout each of these situations.

There were many long pauses and doubts as they had multiple failed attempts, but this was just the beginning of them using their past experiences and knowledge to be able to succeed at the task at hand. As a class they prevailed more than once in our team building activities that really did need

# RED ROBINS

November was a busy month for the Red Robins. As the weather grew colder the Red Robins had to find new and exciting activities to do inside. The Red Robins love to dance, and we have discovered quite a few new favorite songs.

The Red Robins explored other cultures through music and have decided that our favorite song to dance to is the Mexican Hat Dance. With a few practice sessions all the Red Robins have become comfortable with the dance. The Red Robins also discovered a song called the Freeze Dance. This dance, which gives directions to the kids on what to do and when to freeze, helps the Red Robins work on controlling their body movements as well as expending group play.

The Red Robins art this month has been focused on exercising fine motor skills. The Red Robins were given turkeys with circles and the Red Robins were asked to use

daubers and put different colored dots in the circles. This activity worked on the Red Robins fine motor skills and spatial relationships. We created marble leaf paintings by putting two marbles in a large yogurt container. This helped the

two brains working as one. For some it took more than a few attempts, but once they did put their thinking caps together the groups did phenomenally! We are now looking forward to what great studies this cold weather will bring us!

Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Krynne, Miss Molly and Miss Donna K.

Red Robins gross motor skills by using their whole bodies to shake the container. The Red Robins then got to shake it as much as they wanted to create the pattern on their leaves.

As November flew by, the Red Robins had a lot to be thankful for. We created a turkey out of all the Red Robins handprints. Then the whole class discussed what thankful is and things that the Red Robins are thankful for. You can see what each Red Robin was thankful for on the turkey hanging in our room. We ended the month with a Thanksgiving feast with the Green Frogs. The Red Robins and Green Frogs had a great time and can't wait to do it again next year.

Miss Emily, Miss Holly and Miss Jenna



# Kid Calendar

<b>Saturday, 12/1</b>	<b>Holiday Show, 3p</b>
<b>Friday, 12/14</b>	<b>Manhattan Schools Early Release</b>
<b>Wednesday, 12/19</b>	<b>Hair Cuts</b>
	<b>Stories with Miss Donna</b>
<b>Friday, 12/21</b>	<b>Holiday Parties</b>
	<b>Manhattan and Peotone Schools Early Release</b>
<b>Monday, 12/24</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday, 12/25</b>	<b>CLOSED Merry Christmas!</b>
<b>Monday, 12/31</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday, 1/1</b>	<b>CLOSED Happy New Year</b>