



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 5th -- Peyton B.
- 7th -- Tyler B.
- 8th -- Addelyn G.
- 8th -- Kyler M.
- 13th -- Cody R.
- 17th -- Isla R.
- 18th -- Warren W.
- 20th -- Jameson M.
- 21st -- Alex E.
- 26th -- Connor T.
- 31st -- Maggie C.
- 31st -- Allyson P.
- 31st -- Maddie S.



Is your child responsible?

We are winding down another very successful summer program and preparing for the start of another school year! This newsletter is always mixed emotions for me – sad that summer is ending, but also excited to see another school year start! I always love to see the smiling faces of the children on that first day of school.

The start of a new school year is a great time to think about responsibility. What are your children’s daily responsibilities now and what are some new responsibilities? For that matter, what does “responsibility” really mean? Responsibility doesn’t have anything to do with obedience, but rather more about being dependable so others can count on you, keeping one’s word, doing something to the best of your ability, being accountable for your behavior, accepting credit when you do things right and acknowledging our mistakes, along with being a contributing member to one’s family, community and society. Responsibility is a key to our children’s success both in school and the larger world!

I remember when my oldest was about 8 or 9 years old and had a melt down because I told him he needed to make his own peanut butter & jelly sandwich. This was my ah-ha moment! Did I really do that much for him that making a sandwich warranted tears?? Was he not responsible enough to make his own lunch? Apparently the answer was

yes! Well I can tell you that I never made another sandwich for him and that moment made me realize that my children were capable of so much more.

I know that many of us prefer to do things ourselves so that it is done correctly the first time, but we are robbing our children of the sense of pride you feel when you accomplish something on your own, and that feeling also fosters a sense of responsibility. If we always carry their backpack or put on their shoes, the children won’t ever view it as his/her responsibility to do it. A couple other things we see here at Kid Country that your child may be ready to do on his/her own (besides the backpack and shoes) may be hanging up his/her own coat, washing his/her own hands, and walking into Kid Country rather than being carried. So, as we start a new school year, take a look at the expectations you have for your child and see where you can help your child take pride in more responsibility!

We are looking forward to another great school year here at Kid Country! Be sure to plan on attending our Parent Orientation Night on Wednesday, August 14 to kick-off the school year. We will be closed for our inservice on Monday, August 19 and then our move-up day will be on Tuesday, August 20. Our Blue Gills preschool program will be back in action on Monday, August 26. Let’s make it a great year!

Donna

GREEN FROGS

Summer is in full swing here at Kid Country and the Green Frogs have been very busy with their fun summer activities! Our Frog friends tried something new as we ventured to Skate Land for roller skating silliness! We enjoyed many giggles and jokes as we all tried our best to skate around the rink without falling down!

Later in the week, we brought out our inner explorers as we trekked around the Exploration Station and engaged in their many interactive exhibits! At the Exploration Station, we enjoyed a tremendous amount of dramatic play in exhibits such as the castle, the veterinarian's office, and the grocery store. We also used our inquiry skills as we played with the wind tunnels and dinosaur fossils! After exercising our brains all morning in the museum, we enjoyed plenty of gross motor fun as we romped around the playground and Perry Farm.

Did someone say pizza!? The Green Frogs were absolutely ecstatic for their field trip to Aurelio's where they had the chance

to put on the chef's hat and make a pizza of their own! We enjoyed great conversation as we sat around the table with our friends and enjoyed the tasty pizza we prepared together. The Frogs had the chance to splish and splash as they ventured to the Central Park splash pad to beat the summer heat! We worked on our gross motor skills as we ran, jumped, and hopped around the splash pad. We also strengthened our muscles as we climbed on the playground equipment and took a nature walk around the park. Miss Fran, Miss Jessica and Miss Victoria



YELLOW DUCKS

The month of July was another opportunity to experience all of the fun activities that Kid Country hosted this year! To kick off the month, Kid Country had two holiday days for both the teachers and children to have a nice, relaxing holiday weekend at

home. These days are crucial for revitalizing the mind and relaxing the body for a nice, new refreshing week.

The middle of July was filled with fun activities that sparked imaginations and also helped bring socialization to the Ducks room, but also focused on fine and gross motor development. One of the activities the Ducks enjoyed most was ball pit day. The Ducks had plenty of fun rolling around and trying to maneuver the ball pit. This was a substantial multi-sensory activity as there were many brightly colored balls, encouraged relaxation and built fine and gross motor skills.

We are sad to see the summer coming to an end soon but are thrilled to start off the new school year with new activities and themes. Miss Krista, Miss Leslie and Miss Kelly



PURPLE PARROTS

The month of July flew by for the Purple Parrots. We had a fun filled month full of summer. This month we learned all about ice cream and the ocean! The toddlers had a lot of fun playing ice cream shop and exploring in a sensory bin full of different colored sprinkles. The toddlers were able to use their social skills to communicate with their peers by discussing their favorite color of ice cream and learning how to create an ice cream sundae. The sprinkle sensory bin had ice cream cones and scoops from the dramatic play center. The Parrots were encouraged to create their own ice cream by using their fine motor skills to scoop the sprinkles and sprinkle them on top of the ice cream cone. A huge ice cream cone was made by the class to display in the hall. The toddlers tested their sensory skills by smearing pink shaving cream all over to create the top of the cone. We celebrated the end of our ice cream unit by enjoying a yummy treat of ice cream cups!

We ended the month learning all about the ocean and the animals that live in the water. We had fun decorating the classroom

in ocean artwork. The Parrots created crabs, starfish, and jellyfish to display around the classroom. The toddlers used their fine motor skills to pick up the cheerios to decorate the starfish, pincer grip to color the jellyfish, and color recognition to identify the color of the crabs they were painting. During this lesson the toddlers learned a lot of new vocabulary.

We are sad summer is coming to an end but we cannot wait for all the fun activities that will carry on to next month! Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Kasey, Miss Stephanie and Miss Jennifer



Blue Dolphins

This month in the Blue Dolphin classroom, we have been enjoying nature and beating the heat with both outdoor and indoor field trips! The Dolphins' first nature experience was a trip to Matthiessen State Park. The students were able to explore the great outdoors while enhancing their knowledge about science. They did activities that included comparing and measuring, studying the life cycle, such as butterflies, and even walking through waterfalls!

Our next adventure took place at Pilcher Park, where the students engaged in tracking and directional skills to get themselves through the nature trails. The Dolphins also had the opportunity to visit the green house to experience the life cycle of plants and how to preserve and maintain them.

The Blue Dolphins took a break from the heat and participated in an indoor adventure at Gizmo's Factory! The Dolphins engaged in using social, communication, and motor skills to get them through the rope course and play pens, as well as other challenging but fun activities! Back in nature, the Dolphins took a hike through the trails at Swallow Cliff, each student surviving the Swallow Cliff stairs (Phew!).

The Dolphins also engaged in many experiences here at Kid Country. The

Dolphins experienced sensational science with Ms. Bailey. This taught the students more about chemical reactions and pressure when mentos combines with different types of pop. The rolling video game truck made its way to Kid Country to allow our Dolphins to participate in social activities while playing different video games individually and on teams!

The Blue Dolphins will continue our adventures and learning experiences as the summer will soon come to an end. In an educational light, the Dolphins learned all about their next country on the list, Mexico! Learning historical facts, present facts, and fun facts about the country in comparison to the United States. Next stop on the list, Canada!

Miss Kim, Miss Katie and Mr. Joey



ORANGE OWLS

As we hit our half-way point of the summer, the fun hasn't shown any signs of ceasing! We have been everywhere this month and have learned so much along the way! We balanced our way through roller



skating, had very intriguing hands-on learning with both sensational science and at Exploration Station, and one of our always favorites -- we were able to explore all that Lincoln Park Zoo has to offer!

In between all of our thrilling trips and experiences we turned our room in to a good 'ole down on the farm experience! We had some previous knowledge about farms such as what grew there and what animals can live there but were able to build on these in more depth. We began with the many rolls of farmers and how there are different types of farms and farmers as well. We incorporated this information into our projects of both pigs and barns.

Hog farmers have a very messy job! We were able to put this into a project by completing a roll in the mud project! The Owls were encouraged to roll a dice, count the number of dots, then rip that many pieces of "mud" from their strip of brown paper. They were then asked to glue their



mud on their pig as they pleased and repeat these steps until all their mud was accounted for! Within this project the Orange Owls used counting, one-to-one correspondences, fine motor skills, multi-step direction completion, and language comprehension.

We will continue here on the farm alongside the rest of our thrilling summer activities!

Miss Bailey, Miss Molly and Miss Donna K.

Kid Calendar



RED ROBINS

The Red Robins had a fun, activity filled month of July. We started the month off by beating the heat with a much-needed water day. The Red Robins had a blast running through the sprinklers and playing in the water tables. The Red Robins learned about sensational science with Ms. Bailey and made stress balls with water beads to take home. We enjoyed watching our water bead stress balls form over the course of the day. We moved and grooved in the tumble bus and stretched our muscles as we climbed, jumped, and balanced through the bus. We had a foam filled day with Ms. Jessica and the Red Robins had a lot of fun slipping and sliding through the side yard.

The Red Robins are still actively getting ready for our transition to the Green Frogs room in August. We are still working on our self-help skills that are needed in the Green

Frogs room. The summer is flying by, but we can't wait to see what fun adventures we have in August!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Holly, Ms. Jenna



- Thursday, 8/1 Laraway Lanes/Round Barn Farm
- Tuesday, 8/6 Ball Pit at Kid Country Adler Planetarium
- Wednesday, 8/7 Bronkberry Farms
- Thursday, 8/8 Strawberri the Clown
- Friday, 8/9 Tumblebus Fitness Sky Zone
- Wednesday, 8/14 Parent Night, 6:30p
- Monday, 8/19 CLOSED Inservice Day
- Tuesday, 8/20 Move Up Day Manhattan First Day of School
- Wednesday, 8/21 Peotone First Day of School
- Thursday, 8/22 Blue Gills Open House & Orientation, 9a-11a
- Friday, 8/23 Blue Gills Open House & Orientation, 9a-11a
- Monday, 9/2 CLOSED Labor Day