



Kid Country

CHILDCARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

CROSSINGS

NUMBER 11 VOLUME 18

NOVEMBER 2019



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 2nd -- Quinn K.
- 3rd -- Zephyr F.
- 3rd -- Lilianna G.
- 4th -- Lucy D.
- 4th -- Austin H.
- 7th -- Louie B.
- 8th -- Travis H.
- 9th -- Henry P.
- 13th -- Miss Melissa
- 15th -- Logan B.
- 16th -- Cameron W.
- 18th -- Lillian N.
- 23rd -- Evan R.
- 25th -- Madison M.
- 29th -- Miss Donna



Thankful for you!

When you work with children every day, you tend to experience emotions all over the board. One moment you are laughing with a four-year old that just told you need “to put some make-up on” and the next you are feeling sad as you comfort a child that is missing his mom. One moment the classroom is loud, crazy and hectic with a room full of toddlers exploring their world, and the next moment those same children are sleeping peacefully on their cots looking like “babies”. And one moment you are feeling accomplished as you see the ‘ah-ha’ moment on the children’s faces as they just figured out how to get their very own shoes on, and again the next moment you are feeling like a failure as the children clearly didn’t have much interest in the science lesson that you worked so hard on, but obviously missed the mark.

No matter how many emotions you experience in a day, however, one thing remains the same – gratitude. Gratitude for having the opportunity to spend the day with children. Gratitude for being able to (hopefully) make a difference in a child’s life every day. Gratitude for helping to shape our future by making sure our children are feeling safe and loved. Gratitude for working with a great group of teachers that amaze me every day with their skill, passion and

honest love of all children. Gratitude for Kid Country.

Now, of course, some days are easier than others. I’m human – some days are tough. But at the end of the day when you take a step back and look at the day as a whole, it always comes back to gratitude. Grateful that I have this opportunity, grateful that I have a job that I love, grateful to help shape the children of our community.

Anyone that knows me knows that November is my favorite month of the year. I love that this month is all about taking the time to appreciate all the good in your life and reminds us of all the reasons to be grateful. I urge you to do the same. The hustle and bustle of our every day lives tends to overshadow what is important – our children, families and friends. Take a deep breath, slow down and tell all the people in your life how grateful you are to have them!

Thank you for being a part of Kid Country and please know that I am grateful for you! I am grateful that you have put your trust in Kid Country to love and educate your child, and I am grateful to have you as a part of our Kid Country community. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Donna

GREEN FROGS

As the Green Frogs ventured into the forest this month they were able to get help from their forest friends to practice not only their fine motor, but letter recognition as well. We practiced our scissoring skills to cut rectangles, triangles, and circles. The Frogs then used these shapes to create trees to begin our forest. The Frogs were also very excited to include our Family Trees to enhance the forest.

We began to fill our forest with furry friends – one of which was a raccoon. The Frogs again practiced scissoring when they cut out heads for their raccoons; they each individually embellished their animals face with the finishing touches of googly eyes and smiley faces. Patterning was introduced while putting together the furry, black and white tails.

The next animal friend we had the joy of learning about was a squirrel. Each Frog designed the face of their squirrel to their liking with markers. Our fine motor skills were put to work when using the pincher grip on a marker and cutting the triangle-shaped ears. Then, they rolled construction paper around a pencil which made the perfect curly, bushy tail for their forest

creature. With every forest animal we were introduced to, we were also introduced to its beginning letter. We did this as a class during circle time which gave us great opportunities to interact with our friends and encourage each other with newer letter sounds.

In preparation for the spooky Halloween party, we added bats and spiders to our forest. In introducing math concepts, we counted out eight legs for our creepy

crawling spiders, we attached pipe cleaners (legs) to the spider and embellished with googly eyes. We also worked on math while making the wings for our bats. Using our knowledge of shapes, the Frogs cut a circle in half, making two semi circles. These semi circles were added to a full circle to form the wings of our bats. With our spooky October coming to a close, we are very excited to see what November has to bring! Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Wendy, Miss Kelly and Miss Melissa



Blue Gills

October is always a busy month for the Blue Gills. The two things that were the biggest hits with us were our Grandparent Tea and our field trip to the pumpkin farm.

We prepared for weeks for the arrival of our grandparent s. Each day we would practice the songs and hand movements to make sure we had it just right. We made the cutest little fingerprint gifts to share, and leaf crafts to go with them. Our Grandparents arrived, and we had a great time with crafts, songs, and snacks! There was a special glow in everyone's eyes that day!

Next, was our trip to Seigel's Pumpkin Farm. We made sure to learn about bus safety before getting on the bus. The children all had a lot of fun in their small groups as they traveled around the various

Kid Calendar

Friday, 11/1	Hair Cuts
Week of 11/11	Parent Teacher Conferences
Week of 11/25	Blue Gills Program CLOSED
Tuesday, 11/26	Thanksgiving Feast
Thursday, 11/28 and	
Friday, 11/29	CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday
Saturday, 12/7	Holiday Show, 3p

exhibits. We challenged our large motor capabilities on the giant pirate playground, trying to keep our balance, and maneuvering our way across the bridges. We also used our senses as we traveled into the barn hearing, smelling, and touching the animals. The weather was even nice enough for a hayride through the pumpkin patch. Another great time was had by all.

Throughout the month, we also discussed all things Trees to go with our study. We learned that there are hundreds of different kinds of trees and new words like deciduous and evergreen. The children learned the life cycle of trees and how they go into a dormant phase in the winter months to survive. We ended our study of Trees by making rubbings of the trees in front of Kid Country and going on leaf hunts.

It's turning out to be a great Fall!
Ms. Rhonda



PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots enjoyed an October full of new fall sensory experiences! We encouraged the toddlers to learn by using their fingers and hands to explore new materials, textures, and substances. So that's just what we did!

We began the month by playing in faux leaves, making puffy pumpkin paint, and using cinnamon scented paint. The toddlers tried stamping with painted apples and were able to shuck corn to paint with as well! We washed pumpkins in soapy water, stuck cotton balls onto ghosts, and even played in pumpkin guts! Towards the end of the month, we were able to enlist the toddlers to help us collect fall leaves and pinecones from the playground that we added to our sensory bin.

As the toddlers are exploring, we as teachers label and describe the new things they're experiencing to help expand their expressive vocabulary. This descriptive language can be used for an occurrence as simple as a toddler excitedly holding up a leaf from the sensory bin. We then say, "Oh wow, it's a leaf! That leaf is brown. That leaf is crunchy and hard!" We support the toddlers in hearing as much expressive and descriptive language as possible. The toddlers tend to repeat the new vocabulary they're hearing, helping them to speak clearly and learn the social rules of language, like eye contact and pausing at the proper times to let the other person speak.

Besides building vocabulary, the toddlers gain strength in their fingers, hands, wrists and forearms by using their fine motor skills exploring new materials. The toddlers also learn more about the world around them and the characteristics of Earth's environment/nature. We are looking forward to a November full of more exploration and discovery!

Miss Stacey, Miss Kathy, Miss Victoria and Miss Emily S.

RED ROBINS

The Red Robins had a very busy October! We kicked off the month celebrating our grandparents! Grandparents tea is a great time to show them our classroom, eat a special snack of cookies and juice, and create a fun art project with them. The Robins were so excited to have their grandparents by their side for an afternoon of fun!

The Red Robins were all about Halloween this month, so we created many projects to hang up around the room. The Robins used their fine motor skills to create creepy spiders, masking tape mummies, and scary playdough monsters. Towards the end of the month the Manhattan Fire Department stopped by for a visit, and the Robins were so excited to take tours on the fire truck and ambulance!

Each room had a different Disney theme to decorate for Halloween, and the Red Robins chose Monsters Inc.! We created all different decorations to deck out our room in the theme. To end the month, we had our annual Halloween party and parade. The Robins loved showing off their costumes to everyone and marching in the parade. We also had a blast decorating spooky monster cupcakes for our special snack and painting our very own mini pumpkins!

Miss Krista, Miss Kasey, Miss Jenna and Miss Emily S.

Blue Dolphins

We enjoyed spooky season in the Blue Dolphins room as we geared up for the Halloween festivities! The Blue Dolphins had the opportunity to help decorate pumpkins to accompany the scarecrows in downtown Manhattan! This was a great team-building activity for the Dolphins as they paired up and worked together to create a unique art masterpiece using paint and various brushes. The Dolphins beamed with pride as the pumpkins were displayed for all to see. We are so happy that the village offered us this great opportunity.

Since the Blue room is themed as "Winnie the Pooh" for Halloween, the Dolphins helped their teachers get into the Halloween spirit and decorate the classroom. Each Dolphin created a jar of honey to hang on the classroom shelves and used colorful art utensils to make larger-than-life "Winnie the Pooh" characters!

The Blue Dolphins were thrilled by the opportunity to wear their Halloween costumes to Kid Country after school. We loved comparing costumes, sharing about

our characters with the teachers, and enjoying a delicious Halloween treat with one another! Please keep in mind that the Blue Dolphins will continue to partake in playtime outdoors even as the temperatures drop. Please be sure that your child is dressed for outdoor play each time they come to Kid Country.

Miss Rhonda, Miss Wendy and Mr. Joey



ORANGE OWLS

As we got fully adjusted to becoming Orange Owls, we were able to dive deeper into our study of Fall! As fall came in swiftly, we were right there to observe, learn about, and get hands on with all the changes it brought.

We began with the overall changes we see and why they take place. With the changes in the temperature and pressure of the air, we get our beautiful colors and fall scenes. With all the various icons that come to mind when you think of fall, we were able to take these items and use them as our base for our letter and letter sound recognition. We made our own lettered leaves to be able to play in the leaves inside! As we threw the leaves, the Owls were encouraged to choose two leaves, which we then put in alphabetical order as a class. As we put them in order, we recalled what other items we know that begin with that same letter and its sound. Leaves were a large hit throughout the month with not only being able to see the changes but being able to make leaf piles and play in them outside as well!

We had many special guests this month as we invited our grandparents in for our annual Grandparent's Tea. This is one of our favorite days of the year as we can have one-on-one time with just our grandparents playing, making crafts, exploring the book fair, and show off our favorite parts of our classroom! The smiles, stories and hugs were endless during this special time.

Of course, we closed out our month with some spooky friends and Halloween celebrations! We included our monster friends to help us make patterns, use imaginative thinking as we made our own detailed monsters, and send our gross motor activities through the roof as we had our Halloween party "Monster Mash"! Miss Bailey, Miss Molly, Miss Madison and Miss Donna K.

YELLOW DUCKS

The month of October was a boo-tiful month in the Yellow Ducks classroom with lots of opportunities to explore the fall season. The small playground is a great environment for the Yellow Ducks to be able to spread out and explore their own abilities of movement. Our Creative Curriculum supports a child's abilities at all stages of development. This is very beneficial for the Yellow Ducks classroom because there is a significant amount of physical development occurring in the first fifteen months of age.

The teachers provide a variety of gross-motor skill equipment in the classroom such as the climbing mats, the jumping zebra, the large drum, the tunnel, and all the tummy time a child need. We also have many options for gross motor play outside with our large climbing hippo, the toddler approved ramp, small playhouses, and the jungle gym with slide. All the equipment promotes different skill levels and different muscle groups for the children to support. There is also lots of free space, this space is very important in the development of movement and gross motor skills because it

allows a child to move their body and to learn how their body moves within their abilities. The Yellow Ducks will continue to work our large muscle groups

as we head into the colder months by utilizing all the space inside of the building such as walking up and down the hallway or using the large rainbow tumble mat.

In addition to our month of movement, the Yellow Ducks celebrated Halloween with a very fun party. The little Duckies

looked so cute in their costumes as we paraded around the building with all the big kids. We also enjoyed a ghostly snack with the help of the children. Each child used their fingers, or a

popsicle stick to spread the white icing onto a graham cracker and then with assistance the black eyes and mouth was added. Then we transitioned to our special activity of painting spiders onto a web using a cut toilet paper roll. The children smiled throughout the whole morning and expressed happiness especially seeing all their teachers dressed up as some of their favorite Disney characters.

Overall, the Yellow Ducks had a month of milestone movements with the support of gross motor play inside and outside at school. Many children celebrated their first birthdays in October, and many started walking or became a more confident walker. The children conquered October by accomplishing milestones and two even transitioned to the Purple Parrots classroom. With the end of their transition, we wish Brad and Amber luck in Purple Parrots and we welcomed Logan to our ducky pond. This month was one for the books and we cannot wait to see what the rest of fall will bring for the Yellow Ducks. Miss Emily, Miss Leslie and Miss Jyne

