



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

6th -- Logan B.
6th -- Owen B.
6th -- Miss Molly
20th -- Ava D.
28th -- Miss Fran



Getting Automated in '21!

I want to invite everyone to check out Kid Country's new, updated website! You can access our current and past newsletters, our latest Parent Handbook, Direct Payment form, and the Authorized Pick-Up Form, just to name a few! We also have a direct link to our Facebook page. Take a minute to check it out at kidcountrymanhattan.com!

The updated website has been a part of a concerted effort over the past year to get Kid Country automated. We have invested in some data management programs designed to help streamline the administrative side of things. Our main software program is now Procare, which manages all the children's and parent's data, along with automatically processing our tuition. Parents can also log on to MyProcare.com and view your statements and make one-time payments as well.

Another new system we have is Childcare CRM, which is a leads management software. Our inquiries and waitlists are now automated and work seamlessly with Procare so we don't have to re-enter data. Now when a new customer walks in the door, or visits our website, they enter their information directly into our leads management software, streamlining the process from the first contact with Kid

Country!

We are also creating a complete electronic registration process that will include all forms being completed online, eliminating the need for us to hand out registration packets. We will have an electronic option for annual re-registration as well. I'm trying to get that all ready for this year's re-registration (keep your fingers crossed!).

When we add all of this to the new phone system and much need updated/faster internet provider, Kid Country is finally getting into the information age! We appreciate your patience as we've transitioned to some of the new programs and familiarize ourselves with all the new features.

We are definitely looking forward to 2021 here at Kid Country. Our hope is that we can get back on track with all of our typical programs, events and special activities and have a "normal" 2021. Our hope is the same for you and your families -- bring on 2021!

Donna

**Newsletters now
available online!
Visit
kidcountrymanhattan.com**

YELLOW DUCKS

This year has definitely been different to say the least, however the Yellow Ducks wanted to share the holiday magic from the first day of the season. The teachers inspired the magic by decorating the classroom with multi-color lights, holiday icons, and an interactive Christmas tree.

The lights were secured above the changing station as a conversation piece and to be viewed by the children as they completed a diapering routine. To further the experience of holiday lights and the exposure of color, Ms. Leslie created a light activity for the children. She used a large cardboard box to secure the holiday lights on the top of the box; the children were slowly placed in the box to view the colors to their liking. The children smiled and were in awe of the colors and lights. Kid Country also took the holiday cheer to the next level this season with the first three-day holiday extravaganza. The Yellow Ducks participated in the cookie decorating, listening to the "big kids" caroling, and a visit from the big guy himself, Santa. Smiles and holiday cheer were shining from ear to ear by all.

In addition to the experiences of holiday activities, the Yellow Ducks were still busy working and building important foundational skills. The teachers in the infant classroom strive for each child to gain as many opportunities as possible to challenge their gross motor skills. Gross motor skills are the mechanics of the large movements in the body. We consistently encourage tummy-time, assisted sitting and playing on the floor for the younger infants. However, this month the teachers wanted to kick-up the gross motor play for the older infants.



Ms. Emily and Ms. Leslie sanitized the small climbing cube/slide from the little playground to be used in the classroom. A mat was placed under the climbing mat for safety and the children who are mobile were able to utilize their whole body to climb and have a blast indoors.

Overall, the year 2020 has been a year, and for the children in our classroom it is the first year of lives. It is our mission to provide as much fun, developmental opportunities, and happiness while at

GREEN FROGS

The excitement of the holiday season was evident everywhere in the Green Frogs room! We created two classroom trees. The first was our countdown tree where we were eager to practice our number recognition each day as we covered the days with creative ornaments. For our second tree, we used our fine motor skills to paint the branches with sponges. We strengthened our fingers as we squeezed colored glue bottles to draw circles, straight and zig zagged lined. Then, using our pincer grips, we took turns decorating our beautiful tree!

The Frogs channeled their inner elves to craft memorable presents for their parents. They practiced wrapping gifts, once again using their fine motor skills to fold and tape the paper, to conceal the surprise inside. As all elves must know how to hammer, we used rhythm sticks and listening skills to follow the teachers as they tapped out patterns on the floor. Our little elves did not forget the reindeer. The Frogs scooped five different ingredients, which they used number identification skills to pour the required numbers of scoops. The result was a very tasty treat for Santa's helpers!

Kid Country's first ever Holiday Extravaganza was a big success in the Green Frogs eyes! We started the festivities with a

school. This last month of the year has been proof the children are striving in their smiles, holiday cheer, and achievements towards milestones. The Yellow Duck classroom staff would like to thank the parents for being so great with communication, trust, and teamwork this year. We have all had to adapt and ultimately become creative to ensure everything runs smoothly for the children and families. The Yellow Ducks family hopes everyone has a healthy, calm, and beyond joyful holiday.

Ms. Emily and Ms. Leslie

special story from Miss Donna with chocolate milk and cookies. After that, the Frogs went Christmas caroling to all their friends in the Yellow Ducks and Orange Owls. As a very special treat, we watched an elf movie and enjoyed yummy popcorn. We ended our week with a fun party where we decorated our own Christmas tree brownies, ran through a reindeer obstacle course, and played reindeer games. But the best part of all week was a visit from Santa Claus! Santa let all of the Frogs know that they are on the nice list this year, and we wished him a Merry Christmas! Miss Fran, Miss Wendy and Miss Kelly



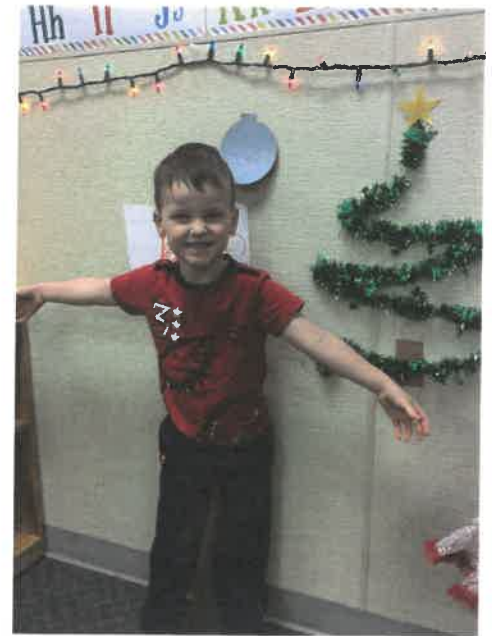
PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots have been exploring this winter and holiday season through experiencing different sensory experiences! The Parrots love their crafts and we have had some fun ones this past month. They have used their very own handprint to create a Christmas tree masterpiece and have painted numerous Christmas items such as Santa hats, stockings, and a melted snowman. They used their fine motor skills to put the snowman's eyes, nose, hat, and arms on. Their fine motor skills continue to improve the more they interact with paintbrushes, crayons, and markers.

The toddlers have also been developing their imagination skills by pretending to use a car and shaving cream as a snowmobile going through the snow. The Purple Parrots had so much fun getting a little messy! Speaking of messy, they have also had fun with classroom experiments. Each Purple Parrot "melted" a Christmas tree and listened to the fizzing sound as it melted away. The toddlers love exploring with science in the classroom!

The Purple Parrots have enjoyed celebrating the holiday season with each other with our holiday extravaganza! They were able to create an ornament, watch a movie,

decorate cookies, listen to Christmas carols, and have our annual Christmas party. The toddlers have had quite the exciting month here at Kid Country! The Purple Parrots room wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Miss Victoria, Miss Kathy, Miss Emily S.



RED ROBINS

Merry Christmas! The Robins had a very festive month to celebrate the Christmas season. This month, we focused many of our projects around our fine motor skills. Fine motor skills are the ability to make movements using the small muscles in the hands and wrists. When teachers talk about fine motor skills in the classroom, we

are usually talking about their abilities to do tasks such as writing, coloring, scissors and more advanced tasks such as a beading a string.

To incorporate projects that centralized around fine motor, we did projects such as cutting paper to create "cranberries" for wreaths, picking up and placing tissue paper on contact paper to create presents and beading pipe cleaners to create candy canes. The Robins enjoyed creating different projects, talking about what they wanted for Christmas,

seeing Santa Claus, and celebrating with a classroom party.

The next few months we are going to start really working with the Robins to help them improve their self-help skills to start preparing them for the Green Frogs classroom. This includes: using silverware appropriately, putting their shoes on and off, sitting at the table, and cleaning up after themselves.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and is looking forward to a great 2021!

Miss Krista, Miss Sara and Miss Jenna



ORANGE OWLS Blue Gills

The Orange Owls were nothing short of ecstatic this entire month! With Christmas lights aglow and talk of old Saint Nick himself they were just beaming the entire month through! Before we could really dive into all things Christmas we took the opportunity to start turning our room into a "Winter Wonderland". The Owls had many opportunities to strengthen their fine motor and multi-step directional skills while making items such as gingerbread people, snowflakes, and of course ornaments galore!

One of the class favorites was being able to make wreath ornaments during our "Holiday Extravaganza". Each Owl worked hard to peel the backs of various sized stickers to decorate their wreath, finishing with mini pom-poms as colored lights. The Orange Owls also worked very hard at number and letter recognition this month with the help of snowmen and cookies! With our frosty snowmen friends the Owls were encouraged to toss a snowball onto each numbered snowman as the number was called. This was a great way to not only get the Owls up, moving, crossing their midline, and following directions, but also being able to recognize numbers out of sequential



order. We closed out our month with an absolute blast of a celebration - our "Holiday Extravaganza"! Within these

special days we enjoyed a short movie, decorated Christmas cookies, had our holiday party, AND WAS VISTED BY SANTA CLAUS! To say we were excited would be an understatement! Not only were we able to take pictures with Santa we were able to tell him what we wanted for Christmas, right in our own room! How lucky are we?!

Miss Bailey, Miss Molly and Miss Kelly



Our Blue Gills program is slated to re-open on Tuesday, January 19! The program was temporarily suspended so that we could provide support to our school district e-learners, but they are scheduled to return to school on 1/19. We are gearing up to get our Blue Gills preschool program back in action! Stay tuned for more information!

Blue Dolphins

E-Learning is still going on here in the Blue Dolphins room. The children are starting to really get the hang of navigating through their days and enjoy their little breaks that they get. Speaking of breaks, Christmas break was just what they needed to give their eyes a break from screen time, and their bottoms a break from sitting. Although it was cold out, we finally were able to spend some quality time with the playground set. We stretched our legs out by playing some running games and a little ball tag.

Our classroom Christmas party was very joyful with games and special snacks. We played a couple Minute to Win It games like shaking jingle bells out of a box that was tied to our backs, and it brought us to laughing so hard some of us had tears. Next, was our indoor snowball fight. It was a game

of girls against boys at their recommendation, and wouldn't you know it the girls won 2-1! In Christmas style the boys congratulated the girls on a good fight, and all was good. We are all looking forward to a more pleasant 2021. We hope to return to the district classrooms, and a little more normalcy. Until then, we will keep on ROCKING THE REMOTE here in the Blue Dolphin's room.
Ms. Rhonda,
Ms. Karen,
and Ms. Donna
K.

