



# CROSSINGS

## Newsletter

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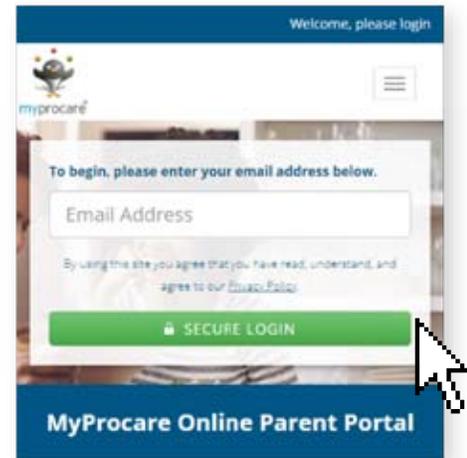
### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Registration time is here! While it is hard to be thinking about summer and fall when it's only 10 degrees outside, it is time to enroll! This year our registration will be completed through your **MyProcare.com login**. We are making it as simple as possible, **but we need everyone to complete the questionnaire online.**

You will be asked if you want to enroll your child for summer, fall or both. You will also be asked if you want your child's weekly schedule to stay the same, or if you are requesting a change in days. If you need to change your child's schedule, please enter your preferred schedule. Registration fees (\$65/child) will be charged to your account during the week of February 21 (collected on February 25th).

If you request fall registration without summer registration, you will be put on a waitlist and notified in July as to whether you will have a space in the fall.

Instructions on how to register have been sent home and should be completed no later than Friday, February 11. Open spots will be offered to people on our waitlist after the 11th, so PLEASE make sure you complete the registration process on time.



One other note on registration -- our Yellow Ducks classroom is a hot commodity! Please remember that the room only holds eight babies, and those spots get reserved quickly! If you are pregnant and are planning for your new little one to attend Kid Country, PLEASE let our admin team know immediately! We joke that we should be the second person to know -- your spouse then us! But it's true if you want a spot!

Thank you for your continued support and choosing Kid Country for your childcare and early childhood education needs! We appreciate your trust!

*Donna*  
Miss Donna



**February Birthdays**

<b>3rd</b> Elaina F	<b>21st</b> Troy W
<b>7th</b> Blythe C	<b>22nd</b> Bradley E
<b>7th</b> Gwen C	<b>22nd</b> Mabel S.
<b>8th</b> Miss Emily S	<b>24th</b> Sophia F
<b>11th</b> John H	<b>28th</b> Katie V
<b>18th</b> Grayson A	

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



## YELLOW DUCKS

The *All About Me* unit brought wonderful learning opportunities and experiences in the Yellow Ducks Room this January. All About Me activities are a fun, introductory way for children to explore different aspects of themselves such as their hair, skin, and eyes. The teachers introduced name recognition as well as talked to the Ducks about their feelings and emotions. There were a ton of fun activities tied in— sensory, art activities, and so much more!

A fun and engaging art activity the Ducks enjoyed was messy name painting. For this activity, the teachers taped each Duck's name onto white construction paper. The Ducks were then encouraged to pick paint colors and explore color mixing. Not only was this activity a great way to introduce name and letter recognition, but also included the many benefits of messy

painting -- being sensory development, color learning, and exercising creativity! Another All About Me activity the Ducks enjoyed was Taking Care, in which the teachers provided the Ducks with combs and non-breakable mirrors. The teachers talked to the children about their reflection and how combing our hair was a part of self-care, encouraging coordination and concept of self.

Overall, January was filled with lots of learning and fun! The Yellow Ducks teachers strive to find opportunities in every routine and interaction to enhance children's abilities. We are excited to try new fun activities each week!

**Miss Karen, Miss Amy,  
and Miss Gina**

## PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots are ready for a colorful new year! Colors, colors everywhere, can you find color like the Purple Parrots! The Purple Parrots have been busy learning all about colors! The Parrots used their sensory, color recognition, fine motor, and built their communication to learn all the assorted colors.

The toddlers' sensory skills have been put to the test this month! They put together different colored sensory bins each week for the toddlers. Sensory bins allow the toddlers the opportunity to explore and learn through hands-on tactile play that engages their senses. The toddlers also used the collaboration of their motor skills and senses by creating different art projects such as painting with cars, finger painting, painting a colorful rocket, and much more! During these activities, the Purple Parrots were encouraged to use their color recognition skills.

Colors are a part of our daily lives, they are everywhere! The teachers wanted to build on the Purple Parrots' language, so what better way than adding sign language to our toddler's daily vocabulary! The toddlers use sign language around the classroom during free play, circle time, meal-times, and when trying to communicate with their teachers and peers! The teachers added "colors" to the toddler's sign language

*Purple Parrots continues...*

vocabulary. Color is signed by taking your fingers to your chin and wiggling them in place. Ask your child to sign the word “color” for you. The Purple Parrots use sign language in the classroom to enhance the levels of communication with their teachers/peers or when they cannot fully get the word out yet.

We are excited to be adding new sign language to our vocabulary as we move through the different lessons each month. We will be kicking off the month of February with learning all about love bugs!

Sincerely,

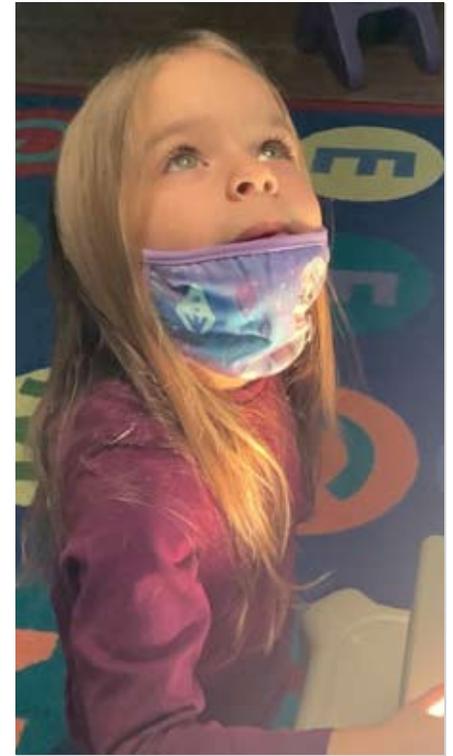
**Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily S.,  
and Ms. Emily K.**



## RED ROBINS

January was a busy month for the Red Robins! While it was too cold to venture outside most days, the Red Robins were engaged in a variety of activities indoors to keep the winter blues away. This month the Red Robins were introduced to several different animals and their habitats. The children explored animals from the arctic, the forests, the desert and even the ocean.

The Robins were encouraged to learn about these habitats throughout the month by engaging in sensory activities, music, and movement, and by enhancing their fine motor skills by utilizing playdoh. On a day where it was too cold to go outside, the Red Robins teachers brought the snow indoors for an exciting sensory experience where the Robins used a variety of watercolor paints for a fun cause and effect activity that encouraged color recognition. The Robins were very excited to discover the texture of shaving cream during one sensory experience. The Robins described the texture as being soft and squishy. The Robins explored the shaving cream as “snow”, the habitat for many arctic animals. The Robins enjoyed learning about each animal, where the animals live, what they sound like, and what they do. Throughout the month, the Robins enhanced their gross



motor skills as they danced around the classroom – swimming like a polar bear, jiggling like a jelly fish, slithering like a snake, hopping like a rabbit, and other fun animal cues. The Robins will continue to enhance their fine and gross motor skills as we introduce new activities and experiences to the children to keep them active in the classroom.

We are looking forward to what the next month has in store for us!

Sincerely,

**Ms. Kelly, Ms. Jessica,  
and Ms. Grace**

## GREEN FROGS

With the weather so cold, the Green Frogs decided it would be a good time to study the exciting world of the Arctic. We began our study by discovering the Northern Lights. The children were excited to use the overhead projector and colored transparent shapes to reflect colored lights onto the ceiling creating our very own Northern Lights. To further our exploration, we used chalk on black paper, and used our fingers to smear the chalk and create a glowing effect. To complete the scene, we added a polar bear with white paint.

To understand how large a polar bear is, the Green Frogs compared their height to that of an eight-foot polar bear. You can see our height chart in the room for all to see. There was amazement and laughter as we painted the bottom of our foot, we then stepped onto a life-size bear paw. This helped the children to recognize the comparison between bigger and smaller.

In addition, we put our scientific knowledge to test as we explored how Arctic animals can swim in the icy water. The Frogs put one hand in a lined baggy of lard(blubber) and then plunged both hands into icy water. To their delight, the hand in the lard stayed warm and the other was very cold. They determined that



animals with blubber stay warm in the icy water. The Frogs continued their scientific study as they donned goggles and gloves to rescue animals from ice box. We used warm water, table salt, and rock salt to melt the ice so we could free the frozen animals.

As we rescued the animals from the ice, we discussed their characteristics and whether they lived in the Arctic or the Jungle.

**Ms. Fran and Ms. Valeria**

## ORANGE OWLS

This month, the Orange Owls were introduced to a new study focused on the ocean. Some of the main objectives included learning about ocean animals, the names of the oceans, the depths of each layer of the ocean, and everything surrounding the ocean!

We dove down deep into where each animal lives, cold or warm, we discussed each animal! The Owls were so intrigued to learn what keeps certain sea animals warm, where they are from, and different aspects of mother nature! Every child is so eager to learn in this class, and always make connections when we have circle time, and the teacher asks questions

The Owls tapped into their fine motor skills on several different occasions this month by creating fish, seas turtles, cutting out their own idea of what waves looked like, creating jellyfish, and so much more! We learned new math concepts such as new patterns (AABAA), measuring with blocks, and counting.

The conclude this month, we learned different ways to communicate through sign language. We incorporated this into our study by learning sign language for ocean animals.

Next month we are aiming to start learning about space and get into the deep depths of what space is

Orange Owls continues...

made up of. We are looking forward to month that will be out of this world.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily S.,  
and Ms. Emily K.**



## BLUE GILLS

The frigid weather did not slow down the Blue Gills this month. Because of the cold temperatures, we decided that it was a great time to learn all about Arctic animals and demonstrate a little knowledge of characteristics of living things. We also were able to tie in some social studies as we explored some simple geographic knowledge.

As we learned all about polar bears, we discovered that underneath all that thick white fur is black skin. We also used some comparisons as we measured a full-grown polar bear (9 ft. tall) against our own shorter heights. We also stretched our vocabulary as we learned that the Polar Bear's scientific name is *Ursus Maritimus*. It's always fun to say new words!

Penguins taught us how to count fish to eat and explore dance and movement concepts.

As we listened to the music and followed the directions, we quickly learned how to flap our right and left wings, then our right and left feet. Pretty soon we were all getting to be more aware of the right and left sides of our bodies. We all became Daddy penguins and tried to walk with an egg between our legs. Now that was a hoot to watch!

Through the numerous Arctic activities that the children in the Blue Gills room had, they explored problem solving, expanded their vocabularies, interacted with read-aloud books, and had a fun time meeting all these goals for themselves.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Rhonda and  
Ms. Wendy**

# BLUE DOLPHINS

The colder weather has really inspired and prompted the Blue Dolphins to dip deep into their creative play basis. The students enjoyed the many areas of the classroom but have really shown interest in the dramatic play area where they created their own “spa”. Kid Country has a variety of prop boxes to add to the children’s play in addition to the materials already available in each area. The “hair salon” prop box was the favorite this month as it was a big part of the Blue Dolphin Spa. This style of play prompted many important aspects of our program.

In support of Kid Country’s play-based curriculum the children experienced many learning opportunities. They utilized their social skills to work together to create the spa in conversations about what role everyone is going to carry out and the name of the spa. They combined their art skills and their mathematical skills when they created gift cards, coupons, and money for their spa. Finally, the Blue Dolphins tapped into their imagination as they wrote out scenarios and plans to include those who wanted to join the work force and who wanted

to be a customer.

Overall, the month of January brought the cold air but also brought the spirit of imagination and creativity to the Blue Dolphin classroom. The students will continue to have access to the variety of prop boxes, and we cannot wait to see where their imaginations will take them next.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Donna K.,  
and Ms. Wendy**



14th Valentines Day Parties



15th Blue Gills Valentine Day Party



11th Registration for 2022-23 is DUE



21st Kid Country is OPEN  
(public school closed)

## UPCOMING EVENTS February

