



# CROSSINGS

## Newsletter

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### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

**20 years.** What an accomplishment! I am humbled, amazed and so incredibly proud of all that Kid Country has turned out to be!

I am humbled by the overwhelming support we've received from this community. From day one when our first child came through our doors to today, almost 1500 children later, this community has always supported us as we strive to provide a safe loving environment and to make learning fun! You've enrolled your children, but you've also supported us with our causes – whether it be a teacher or family in need, helping us survive the pandemic, or showing appreciation for all of our teachers -- this community has ALWAYS come through!

I am amazed by the dedication and quality of teachers that we have employed. The first five years of a child's development are the most crucial in their life and we have consistently provided teachers that honestly care, love and appreciate your children for the individual little humans that they are. In a time when early childhood teachers are not "valued" as much as public school teachers, our team has put in the extra work to acquire the Silver Circle of Quality designation year after year, with no financial reward. They do it because they believe in what we do. They do it because they want to see your child succeed. They are amazing.

I am so proud! Something has been built here that I never anticipated, and that is relationships. Relationships among the children. Relationships among the families. Relationships among the staff. Children have left our program and are graduating from school with their best friends, friends they made at Kid Country. KC families camp together and plan family outings years after they've "graduated." And then there is this select group of individuals that have worked for me, for Kid Country, and have become part of something so much bigger. The teachers have supported one another both professionally and personally, they've been there for each other through heartache and happiness, and have sustained lifetime friend status all because they met working at Kid Country. Wow!

Last, but certainly not least, I'm also proud of the children that have gone through our program! So many have come back and shared their school successes with us. Every child that comes back to see us just validates everything we do here! And, of course, warms our hearts and brings on the tears! :)

Humbled. Amazed. Proud.

Happy 20th Anniversary to Kid Country  
and to EVERYONE that has come through our doors!!!

*Donna*




**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
*To all those celebrating June Birthdays!*

Dean L. - 1st	
Lukas S. - 5th	
Caydence K. - 5th	
Maksim H. - 8th	
Emma H. - 9th	
Miss Jill - 10th	
Zachary S. - 17th	
	
	Hannah P. - 21st
	Gavin N. - 22nd
	Daphne B. - 25th
	Wyatt D. - 25th
	Joseph C. - 27th
	Joshua R. - 28th
	Miss Emily K. - 28th
	Maebry M. - 29th
	Cooper W. - 30th





## YELLOW DUCKS

May was filled with opportunities that enhanced the development of motor skills in the Yellow Ducks Classroom. Motor skills are the functions that involve movement of specific muscles to perform purposeful actions. Large muscle movements categorized as gross motor skills were strengthened using playground equipment and through outdoor play. The Ducks were able to explore the outdoors and move freely which encouraged learning as the children practiced crawling, climbing and walking.



The Yellow Ducks continued their focus on motor development, specifically fine motor skills through our All About Animals unit. Fine motor skills are the use of small muscles in the wrists and hands to make specific movements. During activities such as Animal Tracks and Animal Stacking Cups, the children exercised the control of small muscles as they played with animal figures and stacking cups. Focusing on fine motor skills now helps children to perform advanced skills in the future such as feeding themselves, and other self-care tasks. Overall, the month of May was filled with nurturing experiences that emphasized on the development of motor skills. We are looking forward to continuing outdoor experiences as well as the exciting activities summer will bring!

**Miss Amy & Miss Gina**



## PURPLE PARROTS

April showers brought May flowers for the Purple Parrots! What better month to focus on flowers! The Parrots spent the month creating many flower crafts, exploring in sensory bins, and using color recognition to identify different flowers. The Purple Parrots explored in veggie/fruit and spring garden sensory bins. Sensory bins provide children with the opportunity to explore and learn through hands-on tactile play that engages their senses. Sensory bins stimulate the brain, improves social skills, and enhance coordination. The Purple Parrots love the continuous exploration provided by different sensory bins. During the fruit/veggie sensory bin the Purple Parrots were encouraged to wash the food. We identified the different types of foods they saw in the sensory bin. What better way to spend a hot sunny day than exploring in a water filled sensory bin! The Purple Parrots also became gardeners and planted flowers in a different sensory bin. We took turns sharing the gardening tools to plant flowers. Sensory bins also enhance language as we used discussions to learn how to garden.



*Purple Parrots continued...*

The Purple Parrots also explored the visual arts while learning about flowers. Some of the crafts created this month included handprint flowers, paper plate flowers, flower stamping, and even painted their own flower pot! There were many more crafts created throughout the month. Exploring the visual arts help enhance the toddlers' sensory skills, color recognition, and fine motor skills. The visual arts allow the Purple Parrots to be creative in their own ways. What a better way to wrap up the lesson than planting their own flowers! The Purple Parrots became little gardeners by painting the flower pot, pouring dirt, and planting seeds! The teachers discussed what their plants will need to help them grow (water and sun)! The Purple Parrots will be making trips to the garden once it is all ready for us to explore in!

The weather is getting warmer out, which means fun outside time for the Purple Parrots! Just a reminder to please bring in any items that were highlighted on your child's summer checklist, thank you! We are excited to see what this summer will have in store for our Purple Parrots!

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



## RED ROBINS

This month the Robins explored transportation vehicles on land, in the sky, and in water! The Robins strengthened their fine motor skills as we flew into our unit. Fine motor skills are especially important for the Red Robins to develop their hand and finger strength that will allow the children to perform a variety of tasks independently such as eating, dressing, teeth brushing, and building pre-writing skills. To put their fine motor skills to the test they created hot air balloons using a variety of art materials. The Red Robins used the small muscles of their hands as they painted with watercolors, added stickers to their paper cup basket, and strengthened their hand-eye coordination as they threaded string into their basket to complete the balloon. The children displayed enjoyment while exploring many sensory activities this month including flying airplanes into clouds of shaving cream and making connections to their environments as they discovered how boats float in water using the sensory bin.

The Red Robins also strengthened their letter recognition as they identified each letter of their name to make a train. The children then glued each square of construction paper together to complete trains. The Red Robins also enjoyed matching each letter of their names during small groups and displayed pride when they identified their names in the classroom on their cubbies or on artwork.

This month the Red Robins have been excited to share their favorite types of transportation vehicles with the group as we graphed and counted each other's responses. These types of activities promote early math skills. As the weather began to shift, the Robins enjoyed time outdoors as we explored each playground. The children experienced their own "hot air balloon" as we lifted a parachute, and the children ran underneath. After a great month of May the Red Robins are looking forward to the all the garden has to offer in the next month as we begin our unit on gardening!

**Ms. Kelly, Ms. Julian,  
Ms. Grace & Ms. McKenzie**





## GREEN FROGS

The Green Frogs have traveled to the rainforest in the month of May! In preparation for our rainforest adventure, the Green Frogs learned new vocabulary words such as vegetation, fragile, transparent and vines. With each new word we added another letter growing list of letter knowledge.

We engaged our fine and gross motor skills as we brought the rainforest to life in our classroom. The Green Frogs ignited their gross motor skills to crunch up paper for branches. We worked with a partner to twisted paper to form the vines that our monkeys will swing from. Our fine motor skills were put to the test as we cut out many leaves. The Frogs creativity really came alive to create vibrant flowers that filled our tree.

As we discussed more about the rainforest, we talked about the different animals living in the rainforest. Then it was time to transform our classroom into a rainforest, we started with building our birds for the tops of the tress.



As we did this the children learned about the different parts of the bird expanding their vocabulary with words like beak, wings, and feathers. Another animal that the Green Frogs learned about was the beautiful butterflies that live in the rainforest. They learned fun facts about the butterflies, did you know, butterfly's taste with their feet! Finally, another animal that the Green Frogs learned about is the rainforest monkeys! We learned how much monkeys love bananas and how they swing from the vines in the trees.

The Green Frog teachers were very appreciative of all the treats and goodies that were given during the Teacher Appreciation week! Thank you to all the children and families that participated in spoiling the staff!

**Ms. Fran, Ms. Valeria  
and Ms. Kelsey**



## ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls concluded the "school year" portion of the year with learning all about insects! We learned the parts of various insects, built our own insects, and even grew our own butterflies! The butterflies were by far our favorite part because the class saw and learned their whole life cycle from caterpillar to butterfly. This learning opportunity encompassed many skills for the Orange Owls, they experienced the sequence of events, the longevity of a process, and the patience. We also learned there are so many more insects in the world than we ever thought. Within this study we also were able to take our small groups outside for more hands-on experience. Our bug hunts had us searching high and low and our insect chalk drawings drew the attention to all those who ventured to the big playground! The Orange Owls and Blue Gills worked very hard on their graduation performance and were over the moon surrounded by family and friends during this momentous occasion. We cannot thank each of you enough for sharing your precious children with us and letting us watch them grow into the brave and bold kindergartners they are now! The Orange Owls are ready for summer time and fun!

**Ms. Bailey, Ms. Holly,  
Ms. Victoria**





## BLUE GILLS

Oh, what a fun month May turned out to be! The Blue Gills children studied weather and Mother Nature did not let us down! There was a wide variety of weather patterns that floated through Manhattan providing many opportunities to study all aspects of spring weather! The Blue Gills took data in their weather journals each day drawing a picture of the current weather and then writing what kind of day it was. We made a tornado out of 2-liter bottles and had it in the science area to play with each day. This provided a safe visual and tactile learning experience involving tornadoes.

All the rain in the forecast lately gave us a chance to talk about our plants that we have growing around the room. The fluxuation of temperatures taught us how spring is very unpredictable. The warmer weather and rain also encouraged the bugs to return to their outside habitat.

May inspired movement as we started our study of all things creepy and crawly. We worked on the concept of symmetry while we looked closely at butterfly and ladybug wings. We discovered that there are good bugs that help our environment, and bad bugs that destroy and compromise our environment. As we work towards the end of the schoolyear, we will go on bug hunts and try to catch our own bugs to study! What fun! May brings us to the end of another great school year for the Blue Gills. We have worked tirelessly since September to get ready for kindergarten and it is all coming together as we prepare to graduate. Next year will provide many new challenges, but we are ready to jump in with both feet. Best wishes for a wonderful start in big school to all our graduates and we will eagerly await the return of the Blue Gills that will return in the Fall.

**Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Wendy**

# BLUE DOLPHINS

The Blue Dolphins tackled the month of May with great heart and excitement for the upcoming summer months. The Blue Dolphins reflected on their school year and discussed their favorite memories. It was a mutual response being in person was their favorite. The Blue Dolphins expressed how much they missed their friends, teachers, and “norm” of a school day in the past. Looking forward the Blue Dolphins have quite the summer plans, including basketball tournaments, crafts, games, and of course field trips.

The Blue Dolphins provided many suggestions of activities they would like to experience over the summer. The Video Game truck was a fan favorite from last year as well as the Manhattan Splash Pad. In other news, the Blue Dolphins are excited to see old friends who return for the summer program and meeting new faces to the area. The children are gearing up for a busy, fun-filled summer! As we say good-bye to this school year and hello to summer the Blue Dolphins are ready!

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



- 2nd Manhattan School's Last Day
- 3rd 20th Anniversary Open House Celebration
- 19th Father's Day



**CELEBRATING 20  
EXTRAORDINARY YEARS!  
2002 - 2022**

20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
2002 2022

**Kid Country  
CHILDCARE**

**OPEN HOUSE  
FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD  
4:30 - 7:30PM**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
GAMES, FOOD AND KID COUNTRY FUN!**

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