



CROSSINGS

Newsletter

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

November! My favorite month! This month makes me think about family and anyone that knows me knows how much my family means to me. My grandfather was a very strong role model when it comes to putting family first, and that quality is ingrained in me! I've been blessed to spend the past twenty years owning/operating and working in a family business. Most of you probably don't realize how much my family is involved with Kid Country on a regular basis. My husband, Chet, is our "buildings and grounds supervisor" and spends many mornings fixing minor items and comes in weekends to make larger repairs. In fact, Chet and my stepson Mitch just replaced all four furnaces so we have the latest and greatest in heating and air conditioning!

My youngest son's fiancé Karen is currently our lead teacher in the Red Robins classroom and has been learning the ropes of the family business for about two years now. Jackie, my oldest son's wife, just joined our team recently and is working in the Green Frogs classroom as an assistant. My sons, Ryan and Connor, help us out on weekends and evenings whenever we have special projects, events or need some muscle around here. But it doesn't stop with just our children! My mother also helps us out! She sews curtains, pillow cases, makes special dramatic play outfits, and repairs all things fabric! Nothing makes me prouder or warms my heart more than to have family members involved in this business.

I hope that you get that warm, fuzzy family feel every time you walk in our doors! We work hard to create the Kid Country Family and we are glad you are a part of it! So during this month of Thanksgiving, enjoy time with your family (and ours) and savor every moment! From my family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!



Donna



Happy BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday

To all those celebrating November Birthdays!

- Zephyr F. - 3rd**
- Lucy D. - 4th**
- Austin H. - 4th**
- Franciso H. - 5th**
- Miss Meg - 5th**
- Henry P. - 9th**
- Miss Melissa - 13th**
- Miss Valeria - 14th**
- Olivia J. - 15th**
- Caleb G. - 16th**
- Colton B. - 21st**
- Miss Donna - 29th**



YELLOW DUCKS

The Yellow Ducks spent the month of October celebrating the beginning of the fall season by learning about various fall-themed concepts such as plants, animals, and the outdoor environment.

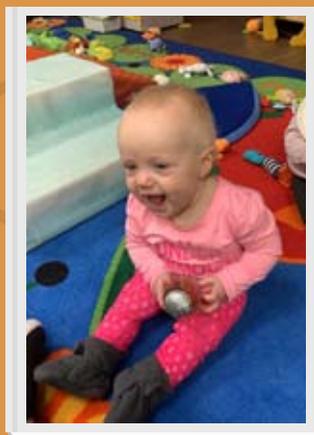
The Ducks used their hands and feet many times this month to create various fall-themed plants and animals such as acorns, foxes, owls, and corn cobs. The teachers used paintbrushes to apply the cool paint to the Ducks' hands and feet before helping them press down on a piece of paper to leave a colored imprint of their hand or foot. The teachers then turned the imprints into fall plants and animals! Art activities such as these have many benefits for children. Not only do they provide infants with an opportunity to use their hands and fingers, but they also engage the children's senses, as well as give them an opportunity to bond with their teachers.

In addition to the art activities, the Ducks explored different fall-themed sensory bins and bottles this month. One of these sensory bins contained leaves, pumpkins of various colors and sizes, and pinecones. This sensory experience was meant to teach the Ducks about the outdoor environment by exposing them to different objects found outside in the fall.

Another sensory bin the Ducks explored was a Halloween-themed spiderweb sensory bin filled with cotton spiderwebs and little spiders. This spooky experience was an opportunity for the Ducks to practice using their fine motor skills to pull the spiders out of the cotton webs.

Overall, the month of October was full of fun, fall-themed learning experiences for the Ducks. The teachers loved taking the Ducks on walks to enjoy the cool weather in addition to all the indoor learning experiences they had prepared. We are looking forward to the cooler weather and all the joys that the month of November will bring!

Miss Amy, Miss Gina & Miss Hailee



PURPLE PARROTS

"All Things Fall" was the theme this month for the Purple Parrots! Spiders, leaves, apples, and pumpkins were all topics discussed.

The Purple Parrots explored the visual arts to decorate the room for a nice warm welcoming fall vibe. Many sensory activities and books were read throughout the month to better learn about this season. The Purple Parrots also learned some new songs to celebrate.

There were many fun special events that filled this month such as Grandparent's Day, Book Fair, Fall Fest, and a Halloween Party! These fun events brought excitement to our Purple Parrots!

Inviting their grandparents to the classroom helps shows the support and comfort they bring to their grandchildren, we had a blast celebrating them! Fall fest and our Halloween party brought many exciting activities for our Purple Parrots, such as painting pumpkins, eating special treats, creating crafts, and enjoying some fall fun games!

BE THANKFUL
BE GRATEFUL
BE BLESSED



Purple Parrots continued...

The Purple Parrots enjoyed their time outside as they watched the leaves on the trees turn colors. As they were hunting for leaves they were using their color recognition as they picked up the leaves. The teachers helped them create big piles and count all the leaves they found. The Purple Parrots also explored the world around them as they went on a nature walk! The teachers pointed out the different colored leaves, created leaf piles to jump in, and searched for other fall nature items as they took a nature walk around Kid Country.

The Purple Parrots are very thankful for everyone who donated books to our classroom! We cannot wait to read them all! We are excited to see what next month will have in store for our Purple Parrots!

With cooler temps heading our way we ask that you please bring in hats and gloves to keep your child warm.

**Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily S,
Ms. Grace, & Ms. Meg**



RED ROBINS

The month of October was full of fall sensory experiences for the Red Robins! The teachers encouraged learning by using all 5 senses, as the Robins interacted with fall elements and textures through outdoor play and indoor activities. These experiences encouraged learning through exploration, curiosity, problem solving, and creativity!

We began exploring the fall season by learning all about apples and pumpkins! The Robins participated in apple washing, painting with apples and pumpkins, carving a pumpkin, and enjoyed yummy fall treats! As the children discovered all things fall, the Red Robins teachers described items and textures to assist in expanding their expressive vocabulary. Through these activities, the Robins were able to make connections to the world around them as they matched their new vocabulary to experiences.



In addition to sensory and language development, the Red Robins worked on enhancing fine motor skills. These skills were strengthened through the practice of scissoring and grasping drawing materials like crayons and markers. As children strengthen fine motor skills, they develop independence as the same muscles are also used for self-feeding, serving, and dressing themselves. As we venture into November, we are looking forward to creating new memories full of smiles and laughs. We are excited for what the holiday season will bring!

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



GREEN FROGS

The month of October marks the start of many fun festivities! We kicked off the month with our annual Grandparents Celebration! When the news came to our little Green Froggies that their loved ones would come to visit, they got so excited to start preparing a wonderful surprise for the big day! For our special craft, we asked the Green Frogs to use their fine-motor muscles to paint wooden frames using a clothes pin and a cotton ball. They created a variety of colorful frames that complimented their lovely picture message. For several weeks, we also made sure to practice singing a song that we felt expressed to our loved ones how much love and care we have for them. When the day of Grandparents' Tea arrived, the Green Frogs radiated with so much confidence as they performed and sang their little hearts out!

As the new season begins, the Green Frogs are starting to gear up for the colder weather. During our play, we continue to find ways to enjoy the outdoors, while continuing to exercise our gross-motor muscles. We enjoyed catching and throwing leaves. We also harvested the last of the vegetables in our Kid Country Garden.

And of course, we also must incorporate all sorts of spookiness for our favorite Halloween holiday! During circle times, we read so many silly and spooky books! After reading our Halloween stories we discussed the many things we like about Halloween. The most popular by far was the kind of candies and treats that they love to get while trick-or-treating! To get the Green Frogs starting to think about quantities, and comparing and contrasting, we also incorporated charts and graphing on our white board! We all agree that the candies and treats are the best part of Halloween! Excited for the holiday party, the Green Frogs had so much fun creating the decorations for all around the classroom! We practiced and strengthened our fine motor skills while we created witches, ghosts, and bats that can be seen flying across the night sky and our classroom!

Our Halloween Party was a great success! There were lots of smiles and laughter as we paraded in our wonderful costumes around the classroom! We enjoyed spooky games and yummy treats, and making fun memories as we played games with one another!

**Ms. Fran, Ms. Valeria,
& Ms. Emily K.**



**Happy
Thanksgiving**

ORANGE OWLS

Happy Fall from the Orange Owls! The Owls have been learning all about the basic staples of the all season recently. This has included discovering what animals thrive during this season through what they eat, different sounds they make, and how they move around. It was an adventure learning more about bears, wolves, owls, deer, and squirrels to name just a few!

Fall leaves are not only beautiful to admire but are also a wonderful learning opportunity! The Orange Owls discovered firsthand how the leaves change colors through scavenger hunts. They also became experts in creating and jumping into leaf piles. We love our outside gross motor time during fall before the weather turns as well as being able to see these changes firsthand. This season is filled with many fun experiences for all to enjoy and we are thankful to be able to do that together!

**Ms. Victoria, Ms. Bailey &
Ms. Mary**





BLUE DOLPHINS

The Blue Dolphins have engaged their Halloween spirits as they welcome the spooky month. The children have been sharing their costume ideas, favorite Halloween decorations, and traditions around this time of year. A huge topic revolving around Halloween is trick or treating, the teachers believe in discussing the safety needed during trick or treating. The importance of safety in any situation is crucial. We believe in fostering fun around celebrations with the impact of safety.

In other news, the Blue Dolphins have been creating Halloween masterpieces for the hallway display. The creativity from each Blue Dolphin always amazes us. It typically starts with a verbal idea and a scan of the art materials, then the children begin to plan their creation and the outcome is incredible. As much as we love the outcome of these creations it is the process of the creation that really produces amazement. The process in which the children express themselves and show how their brain organizes thoughts. We love to see how the children process ideas and interactions with guidance whenever appropriate. The children have been growing into a group of teammates in the way they interact and work individually and together to create.

Finally, the Blue Dolphins have already started planning the Thanksgiving break coming and all the fun activities they would like to do. Please be on the lookout for forms to fill out if your child(ren) will be attending the full days during the school break.

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



BLUE GILLS



We can hardly believe that October has come to an end. We want to thank all of our families for coming to our Grandparent's Day event earlier in the month. We love it when we hear about the children's home lives and are able to put faces to the families they love to talk so much about. It also gives us a chance to find out from you what makes your relationships so special

Our biggest study this month was about Autumn Harvests and Leaves. The children had a great time looking for different colored and shaped leaves throughout the Kid Country property. We talked about the importance of leaves on trees and looked at the anatomy of a leaf feeling the veins and stems. We watched all of the combines and grain bins as they passed by, and talked in length about how the crops go from the fields to our tables.

We will be practicing for our big show on December 3rd. The children will be learning how to listen for the music and sing with the beat. They are adding hand and body movements to the songs and we are anticipating a great show this year! It's going to be one of the best shows ever!

As the weather gets colder we want to remind you that a portion of our day will still be outside until the temperatures drop below 32 degrees. Please make sure your children are dressed for the colder weather each and every day.

Ms. Rhonda & Ms. Wendy

NOVEMBER

KID COUNTRY CHILDCARE

7 - 11th - Parent Teacher Conferences

8th - KC Closed for Teacher Inservice

18th - Manhattan School's Early Release

21 - 25th - No Blue Gills Program

22nd - Thanksgiving Feast

24 - 25th - KC Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!

