



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

1st -- Rylan P.  
2nd -- Stella C.  
3rd -- Elaina F.  
7th -- Nolan R.  
10th -- Bradyn S.  
11th -- Miss Leslie  
13th -- Aaron A.  
13th -- Camden J.  
13th -- Parker A.  
15th -- Lorenzo B.  
16th -- Connor D.  
21st -- Troy W.  
24th -- Sophia F.  
25th -- Margaret H.  
26th -- Miss Pam

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:**

Miss Krista



## Let's Bowl!

We are looking forward to our first ever parent sponsored fundraiser! Our Candlelight Bowl will take place on Saturday, February 23 at Laraway Lanes. This is promising to be a great time! There will be basket raffles (thank you for your donations) along with the bowling, and all proceeds will go towards the new playground equipment for our main playground here at Kid Country. Thank you for your support!

But before we get to bowling, we need to complete Registration for Summer 2019 and the 2019-20 school year. Your registration packet will be going home on Monday, February 4 and is due back by Friday, February 15. Please be as accurate as possible on your commitments for summer and fall. We did re-work our forms this year, so please reach out if you have any questions!

We will also be sending home the Winter Reviews during the first full week of February. These reviews are a snapshot of your child's progress and development to date. Our teachers are continually assessing your children and our

activities are designed to measure your child's skill levels as well. We compare your child's development to the Teaching Strategies Objectives for Development and Learning along with the Ages & Stages Questionnaires to ensure your child is on track developmentally. Please take the time to review these and be sure to talk with your child's teachers if you have any questions. We are happy to help you understand our reports and work with you to ensure your child's success during these early, formative years.

Of course we will also have Valentine Day parties on the 14th. Be sure to look for the sign-up sheets for each classroom for donations and volunteers. We couldn't do these parties without your help!

It's shaping up to be a very busy month here at Kid Country! Be sure to look for my weekly emails and those coming from the classrooms to stay informed about all of our activities. We are looking forward to a great month and also hoping that the weather calms down a bit!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

This month in the Green Frog room we began a new study on one of our favorite places to visit: the zoo! We began this study by talking with the Frogs about the role of a zookeeper and why their job is so important. In discussing with one another during circle time, we learned that it takes a lot of education to be a zookeeper since they have to know all about what to feed each animal and how to best care for them.

The first habitat that we focused on was the arctic. The Frogs shared everything that they knew about the arctic and learned that only a few types of animals can live in the arctic since the temperatures are so low! During this week, we focused on snowy owls and penguins. We made adorable snowy owls by using our cutting skills to create large wings and beaks and also our fingers and hands to glue feathers to their bodies. When it came time to learn about penguins, the Frogs were thrilled to discuss the way that penguins waddle across the ice to avoid falling down. To build our own penguins, the Frogs once again put their cutting skills to the test as they cut large bodies, bellies, and beaks.

The barnyard was the second habitat that the Green Frogs studied. We chose chickens and pigs as our main focus during this week. The Frogs learned all about the role of farmers and what hard work it is to care for their animals and their crops. We made fluffy paper plate chickens using all kinds of different shapes to create our combs, wattles, and beaks! While making our plump little pigs, the Frogs explored the concept of small, medium, and large as

they cut various circles to build their piggy features. We had a blast running up and down the hallway as we pretended to be pig farmers and corralled our pink balloon piggies from one end of the hall to the other.

The third habitat that the Frogs learned about is the Savannah. Many of our Frogs knew that the Savannah is a warm place where lions and giraffes live. We had a roaring good time pretending to be lions as we prowled through classroom obstacles and practiced our loudest lion roars. We also had some messy fun as we sponge painted paper plates to create lion manes and put our own ferocious faces in the center! The second animal we discussed was the giraffe. The Green Frogs were thrilled with the chance to measure the

height of a real giraffe using tape on our classroom floor!

Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Wendy and Miss Marisa



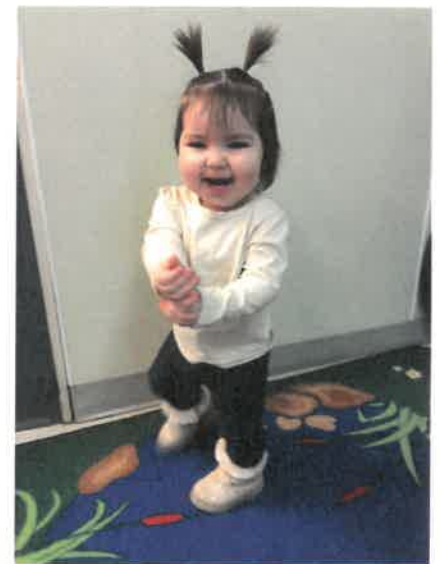
# YELLOW DUCKS

January has brought winter weather to Kid Country and the Yellow Ducks room. Since the weather has been a little too chilly for the Ducks to venture out in, the Yellow Ducks teachers have brought the winter inside!

To include the weather in our lesson plans, the Ducks teachers have been reading plenty of winter themed books and also have let the Ducks look outside the windows to see the snow. Miss Krista also created some snowflakes to hang on the walls for the Ducks to observe and also made fun snowman footprints!

In addition, the Yellow Ducks welcomed many new faces to the Duck pond! Interactions and socialization at such an early age is extremely important. The first twelve months of a child's life are full of social developmental milestones. As they grow and develop throughout that first year, they rapidly become more

communicative and expressive. The teachers of the Yellow Ducks room want to welcome Ashley, Frank and Amber to the Duck Pond! We are excited to watch you to see you grow and flourish! Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Leslie

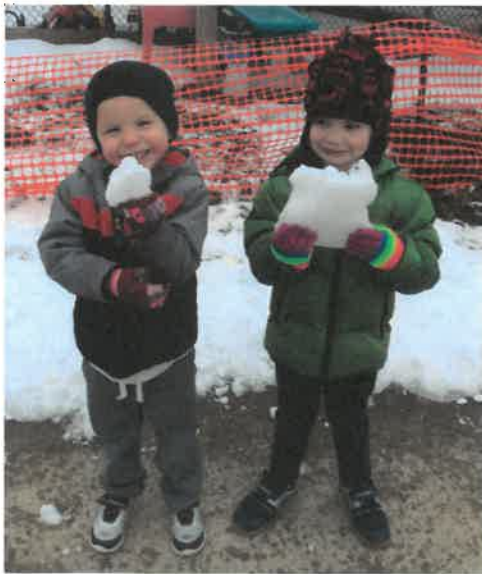


# Blue Gills

The frigid weather didn't 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 geography of our polar regions.

As we learned all about Polar Bears we found out 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. Penguins taught us how to count to 20 as we gave them fish to eat. We also explored penguin 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.

Through the numerous Arctic activities that the children in the Blue Gills room had, they explored problem solving, expanded their vocabularies, and interacted with read-a-louds. A lot of goals were met, and a lot of fun was had without getting frostbite! Miss Rhonda and Miss Pam



# Blue Dolphins

Baby it's cold outside. With the chilly winds and the cold winter air the Blue Dolphins have been making the most of staying indoors. Although the children love being able to take their energy outside, we have been focusing on other gross motor skills inside. The Blue Dolphins have been working on their balance and using the balance beam. This is a great tool to help them work on core strength. Strengthening their core helps with staying on the balance beam the longest, using one foot to balance on, and hopping on them. The balance beam also helps the children with their focus.

The Blue Dolphins have also been running obstacle courses. This type of skills helps with their agility. Can they hop, run, turn, crawl, and slide? These are all the types of moves that they put into use when going through an obstacle course. They have a lot of



fun being able to run and jump onto the crash pillow that we had set up in the room. They were able to put their own style into the free falls. They had a grand time working on different gross motor activities! But we are also looking forward to the days that we can get back outside!

Miss Pam, Miss Rhonda and Miss Julie

# PURPLE PARROTS

This month was all about the arctic for the Purple Parrots! The cold got the best of us so we decided to bring it in the classroom to learn about! Ice and snow was brought into the classroom to help the toddlers learn about nature. Animals were put in a block of ice and the toddlers were encouraged to break or melt the ice with their hands and fingers.

New sign language such as snow, hat, and penguin were added to the toddler's vocabulary. The teachers encourage the toddlers to use their sign language to communicate with one another. The Parrots also learned about polar bears this month! The toddlers used their fine motor skills to create their own polar bear by applying cotton balls to a paper plate and created their own face. They used their fine motor skills to transfer the cotton balls to a plate and grip the glue stick to apply to the plate.

Don't forget to take a look at the arctic fun pictures we took to add to the classroom. The toddlers had a fun time taking pictures in their winter gear. We talked to the toddlers about the color of the snow and how cold it is. We can't wait for warmer weather to be able to head outside for some outdoor fun!

Miss Kim, Miss Kathy, Miss Stacy, Miss Marisa and Miss Stephanie



# ORANGE OWLS RED ROBINS

The Orange Owls trekked through some cold territory as they journeyed through their discovery of how animals and humans survive in cold winter weather. We began the month discussing the differences between adaptation, hibernation, and migration. We focused on each of these three in various ways.

First, we began with adaptation. Adaptation is where an animal, or in our case a human, is able to adjust and adapt to the changing weather. For this we discussed what humans and animals have in common, such as coats and fur, gloves and paws, boots and pads. We were able to relate to what keeps each of us, animals and humans, safe from the ever-changing elements.

Second was hibernation. Hibernation is where an animal prepares for the winter throughout the warm summer months. We made bear caves using sheets as we huddled closely together to reenact how bears stay warm inside their caves.

Lastly, we learned about migration. Migration is for the animals who cannot hibernate or make it through the cold temperatures, so they fly away! To really grasp the concept of migration we all stood on the outside wall of our classroom, or the cold "North". Then we talked about how the weather changes, it's getting colder, our little wings are freezing, needing to get to warmth! We ran to the opposite side of our room flapping our wings and warming ourselves up as we headed "South" to warmer weather!

To wrap up the month we surrounded ourselves with all things Eskimo! While looking at their igloos, brainstorming how they stay safe in the vast arctic plains, and comparing and contrasting their everyday lives to ours, we were able to better understand a true Eskimo life. Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Molly and Miss Donna K.

The Red Robins jumped right into 2019 and began exploring new things and concepts. We started the year with a Dr. Seuss study. The Red Robin teachers read various Dr. Seuss books throughout two weeks. We read *The Cat in the Hat*, *The Lorax*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Oh the Places You'll Go*, and *What Pet Should I Get?*

The Red Robins let their creativity soar with Dr. Seuss themed art projects that helped the Red Robins fine motor skills and spatial awareness. The Red Robins created their own Truffula Trees by ripping up the colored tissue paper of their choice and gluing it to paper. By ripping the tissue paper into small pieces, it helps develop the Red Robins fine motor skills. Their spatial awareness is being exercised when the Red Robins are asked to glue the tiny pieces onto the paper. Their color creations looked like something straight out of a Dr. Seuss book! The Red Robins also painted the hair on their own Thing 1 and Thing 2. This created a discussion about where on the head hair goes and what color each Red Robins hair is, as well as exercising the Red Robins fine motor skills by holding a writing utensil. These are all important skills that we will continue to work on through the year.

The Red Robins also spent some time talking about pets. We started with a discussion about who has a pet at home and what kind of pet. You can see each Red Robins answers outside of our door. We also talked about how you need to take care of pets. We talked about feeding them, giving the water, brushing them, taking them for walks, and how we need to take them to the vet. We set up our own vet clinic in the Red Robin room and each Red Robin had the chance to be a veterinarian. They used stethoscopes, had x-rays, and had pretend shots to give out to our stuffed animals in the classroom. We also talked about how animals have different footprints when they walk. This created an activity where the Red

Robins were given playdoh and created footprints with our toy animals in the playdoh. This activity supported the growth of their fine motor skills, hand- eye coordination, and identifying animals by characterizing their differences.

It was a busy January for the Red Robins! We can't wait to see what fun adventures and activities February is going to bring us! Ms. Emily, Ms. Holly, Ms. Jenna



## Kid Calendar

Friday, 2/1	Bowling Fundraiser Registration Due
Week of 2/4	Winter Reviews Sent Home
Monday, 2/4	2019-20 Registration Packets Sent Home
Monday, 2/11	Basket Raffle Donations Due
Thursday, 2/14	Valentine Day Parties Manhattan Schools Early Release (send a lunch)
Friday, 2/15	2019-20 Registration Forms Due No School - Manhattan Schools -- NO BLUE GILLS
Monday, 2/18	No School -- Manhattan & Peotone Schools -- NO BLUE GILLS
Wednesday, 2/20	Winter Field Trip (Blue Gills, Orange Owls, Green Frogs)
Friday, 2/22	Peotone Early Release
Saturday, 2/23	Bowling Fundraiser
Wednesday, 2/22	Summer FT Fees billed
Friday, 3/1	Manhattan Early Release
Saturday, 3/2	Manhattan's Irish Fest
Monday, 3/4	CLOSED Inservice Day