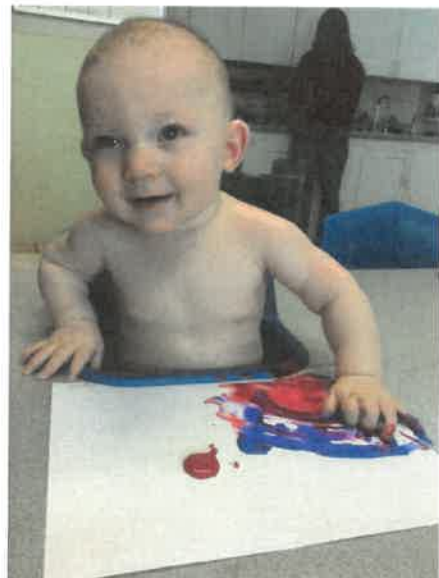




MARCH BIRTHDAYS:
 2nd -- Maggie N.
 3rd -- Colin C.
 5th -- Calvin H.
 10th -- Lachlan D.
 16th -- Miss Donna K.
 19th -- Miss Bailey
 20th -- Jack B.
 22nd -- Kellyn S.
 24th -- Keira T.
 27th -- Miss Sarah
 29th -- Dakota M.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:
 Miss Stephanie



\$5,100!!!

Strikes, spares and raffle baskets! That was the theme of the night for our big Bowling Fundraiser put on by the Kid Country Parent Committee. We had a great turnout of 78 bowlers and an amazing \$2500 worth of prizes donated! There were basket raffles, silent auctions and the 50/50 raffle – so everyone had a chance to be involved. By the end of the night, we had raised \$5,100!!! WOW! THANK YOU to everyone that helped – whether you volunteered, bought raffle tickets or donated items, it all is appreciated! It truly was a great event -- not only for the money raised for the playground, but also to see everyone having fun together! Thank you to the Parent Committee for spearheading this and making it all look easy!

With the bowling funds, our playground campaign has reached a total of \$12,155 -- which is 50% of our goal! I recognize that we still have a lot to do, but I am really impressed with reaching 50% of the goal in the first year of a three-year campaign. You should all pat yourselves on the back for a job well done!

Now that the Bowling Fundraiser is over, our Parent Committee is looking forward to what is next for them. A planning meeting has been set for Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30p here at Kid

Country. Anyone that is interested in being a part of the committee is asked to attend. If you can't attend, but would like to get involved, please send me an email giving me permission to share your name, phone number and email with the committee. At this point, they are considering doing something for teacher appreciation week, along with some type of family outing. It would be great if we had at least one family from every classroom get involved!

March has arrived and that means it is time for Manhattan's Irish Fest! There are all types of family events happening in town on March 1, 2 and 3. Saturday's parade is a big hit as are the Irish dancers in the entertainment tent. This event is a major fundraiser for the town and the group gives back money to many non-profit organizations that benefit our community and our children. Be sure to buy your buttons and enjoy the Fest!

Spring is hopefully arriving in Manhattan soon! We are looking forward to warmer weather and more outside play time! Have a great month!

Donna

GREEN FROGS

In the month of February, the Green Frogs finished up our study of the zoo as we discussed animals that live in the reptile

house. The Frog teachers introduced the class to the new term "reptiles" and explained that reptiles are animals that do not have fur, lay eggs, and have short legs. We discussed several reptiles including turtles, alligators, and snakes.

We put our gross motor coordination to the test as we attempted to slither like snakes,

without using our arms and legs, and to move slowly like a turtle.

The Frogs enhanced their cutting skills as they cut many skinny strips to create a patterned chain snake. When choosing where to hang our snakes in the classroom, the Frogs learned that many snakes enjoy climbing trees and that some like to swim in the water.

Once our snakes were complete, we started to create our adorable egg carton turtles. After viewing several pictures of real turtles, the Frogs had the opportunity to let their creativity run wild as they painted their own turtle shells. Once dry, we added a pom-pom ball head and googly eyes to complete our project. The Frogs discussed with their teachers that turtles like to be in the water, but tortoises prefer to stay on the land.

With the culmination of our zoo study came

Valentine's Day. The Green Frogs enjoyed many circle time discussions about the holiday and how Valentine's Day is a great

time to show our loved ones how much we care about them. At our classroom party, the Frogs enjoyed many fun games including bean-bag toss, pop-a-heart, and Valentine's hopscotch. As a whole group, the Frogs had a super silly bubble dance party and played with the

gross-motor dice to keep their hearts pumping! We enjoyed making magical unicorns during craft time and enjoyed delicious cookies and



strawberries for our special snack. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time and efforts!

Miss Fran, Miss Jessica and Miss Marisa



YELLOW DUCKS

The month of February was filled with love in the Yellow Ducks classroom. The babies enjoyed a variety of festive Valentines' decorations around the room. The teachers hung up handmade hearts from the ceiling and provided visual stimulation above the diaper changing station as well. Also, the children created a variety of artwork. This

included love bugs for the big bulletin board in the hallway and their very own frames out of tissue paper. In addition to the lovely festivities, the Yellow Ducks focused many of their activities around fine motor development. Fine motor skills refer to the movements we make with the small muscles in our bodies, primarily our hands. The development of these types of skills is extremely important at such a young age. To practice these skills, the Ducks participated in many different types of art activities. One that the Ducks really seemed to enjoy was coloring with markers. The Ducks seemed very interested in holding the markers in their hands, and also the color of the markers.

To finish off the month, Miss Krista started to focus the art activities and classroom decorations around St. Patrick's Day! The Ducks enjoyed getting into the green spirit, and we will continue with many different studies in the upcoming month.

Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Leslie



Blue Gills

One of the best things about preschool is the freedom of the art area! The art area in the Blue Gills room is a place where a child can express themselves through creativity. With the numerous collage materials offered, painting easels, play-doh with all the accessories, and stamping materials, individual expression happens automatically. With a touch of staff involvement, our projects are lessons of color recognition, shape identification, and conversation starters. Their drawing, coloring, and cutting help to develop the muscles in their hands needed for fine motor skills like writing as they begin to practice the alphabet, numbers, and their names.

During this month in Blue, we challenged the children to start thinking more in detail of what they were trying to achieve. We made connections by looking back to prior activities and stories. With each project we saw a little more from the children. As they added more detail to their creations, they had more to talk about, opening up verbally and taking pride in their work. What a great feeling to have!

Miss Rhonda and Miss Pam



Blue Dolphins

This month the Blue Dolphins were able to take some time from school and spend some longer days here at Kid Country. While spending their days here, they were able to do activities that challenged their minds and their coordination skills.

One activity that challenged the children was when they were divided into two



teams. Each team had to figure out how to stack 10 heart shaped candies on top of each other using two straws. This challenged their hand-eye coordination skills, as well as requiring team work. Communicating through this activity was a must to be able to win. Many children got upset and frustrated when they realized how hard it really was and wanted to give up. The other children in the group encouraged them not to give up and helped them succeed and finish the challenge. It's great to see the group encourage each other like this!

Another activity they enjoyed was blowing a pom-pom across the room blowing using a straw. This was an excellent game that encouraged turn taking and to be patient while waiting for each other to get across the room. The children were cheering for their teammates and using good sportsmanship. Team work is a goal that is always strived for and encouraged in the Blue Dolphin room, and the Dolphins blew it out of the park this month!

Miss Pam and Miss Julie

PURPLE PARROTS

What a messy month the toddlers have had, but these great messes came with great learning opportunities! To kick off the month of February the toddlers participated in a larger than life painting activity. Pink, purple, and red paint were dumped on the table tops and the children were encouraged to dive in hands first. While putting their fine motor, sensory, and communication skills to work the toddlers spread the paint all around

mixing it and exploring the feeling of wet paint between their fingers. Once the table and their hands were covered in paint, a large piece of paper was placed on top in hopes of transferring the prints that the toddlers left behind. When the paper was removed the toddlers engaged in meaningful conversations about what they saw. Words like pink, purple, red, mine, cold, and don't touch filled the air. Later in the month, the toddlers were able to explore another messy activity. They were each given a scoop of cool whip and a few drops of food coloring. They were encouraged to use a wooden stick or their fingers to mix the colors together. This was another opportunity to discuss the different colors and what they made when they were mixed. It was also a great way to engage their sensory skills and taste buds!

The month of February has been a blast but the toddlers are ready to dive into learning colors and animals using the book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" by Eric Carle.

Miss Kim, Miss Stacy, and Miss Kathy

ORANGE OWLS

Though February was short, it was full of much excitement! We began the month with a trek to the African Planes. With this we were able to explore not only the various wildlife and terrain, but the inhabitants and their culture.

Our favorite project associated with this study was when we created our Maasai necklaces. We were able to use vivid colors and patterns to match the different tribes all while learning what each color represents. Just as we see different color combinations and meanings in our culture, we can see similarities throughout theirs. Some examples are blue for the sky and water, green for the grass and crops, and yellow for happiness and friendship. As a class, we learned a new African Board Game. The game taught us how "simple" can be fun and reminded us that even though there may not be many resources around, there can always be a way to come together.

As we ventured through different parts of Africa, we found ourselves touring through the great wonders it has to offer! We explored great heights with Mount Kilimanjaro, learning how it is now an extinct volcano. We learned how immense Victoria Falls is and how loud rushing, falling water truly is! We then we headed over to the pyramids of Egypt to learn about the various tools used to build such unique structures, and we even made a few of our own!

Valentine's Day was a huge hit here in the Orange Owls room as we celebrated each other and the love we have for our families. We shared what we felt love is and then showed this to our parents



by writing them "love notes" with hand painted cards.

Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Kasey, Miss Molly and Miss Donna K.

RED ROBINS

February was a busy month for the Red Robins. We attempted to keep the winter blues away by keeping active and introducing new activities to the class.

We started out the month with a variety of concept skills. The children exercised their fine motor skills playing playdough, their colors during one-on-one table time, and spatial relationships/hand-eye-coordination while pushing the trains on the tape track. We will be continually building upon these skills in preparation for the preschool classroom.

We prepared for Valentine's Day by creating stamp heart art to hang outside of our classroom. The Red Robins used paper towel rolls to create the heart stamp. This art project strengthened hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness skills. The Red Robins had a blast at our Valentine's day party where we created our own love bugs out of toilet paper rolls. We ate a heart themed snack with heart shaped strawberries and bananas.

After Valentine's day we began to study about one color a week and each week will have color themed art projects and stories. We started off with red and we exercised our fingers to paint red



ladybugs. We also sponge painted squares and triangles. You will be able to see all of our colorful creations hanging in our room on our color wall.

We can't wait to see what exciting new things March will bring.
Ms. Emily, Ms. Holly, Ms. Jenna

Kid Calendar

Friday, 3/1	Manhattan Early Release
Saturday, 3/2	Manhattan's Irish Fest
Monday, 3/4	CLOSED Inservice Day
Wednesday, 3/13	Haircuts
Friday, 3/15	Peotone Early Release
Tuesday, 3/19	6:30p, Parent Committee Meeting
Friday, 3/22	Manhattan & Peotone Early Release
Week of 3/25	Manhattan Spring Break Blue Gills Program Closed

Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor wear at Kid Country! Hats, gloves, boots and a heavy coat are needed every day!