



Kid Country
CHILD CARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

CROSSINGS

NUMBER 5 VOLUME 17

MAY 2018



MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st -- Parker C.
- 3rd -- Levi M.
- 3rd -- Miss Jessica
- 4th -- Elizabeth P.
- 4th -- Miss Wendy
- 6th -- Peyton F.
- 10th -- Lily F.
- 10th -- Miss Emily
- 13th -- Jakob H.
- 14th -- Scarlett S.
- 16th -- Miles N.
- 17th -- Avery W.
- 19th -- Miss Jenna
- 23rd -- Miss Krissy
- 26th -- Lily P.
- 29th -- Miss Michelle
- 30th -- Bach G.
- 30th -- Miss Courtney
- 31st -- Connor R.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Miss Kathy



Glass of 2018!

And just like that, we blinked and it's the last month of the school year! Which, of course, means a very busy month for Kid Country!

We will start by having our annual spring photos taken and then move into the Teacher Appreciation week! Kid Country's teachers are the most caring and dedicated teachers I know! These ladies give it their all 100% of the time, and dedicating one week to appreciate them is the least we can do! Be sure to watch for my memo to see how you can help make their week even more special!

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be the next item on the agenda for May. During the week of 5/14, we will host conferences and hope to get 100% participation! All classrooms offer the conferences, and it is a great opportunity for you to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses with the teachers. We continually assess the children all year round, and the conferences in May give you an excellent snapshot of how much your child has grown in the past year! Please be sure to sign up for a time that works for you – signup sheets will be posted on the front bulletin board during the first week of May.

We finish off the month with one of our biggest events of the year – GRADUATION! We will host the event

at the Wilson Creek Elementary School on Wednesday, May 23 at 7p. Everyone is welcome to attend! The Orange Owls and older Blue Gills children will be walking across the stage in their caps and singing about their excitement of heading off to the "big" school. Please support our Kid Country graduates by attending this important event and stay for refreshments afterwards!

Looking back at April, I want to extend a HUGE thank you to all of you that participated in our Week of the Young Child activities! Remembering what the special day is and getting your kids involved was much appreciated! Thank you also for coming in to read to our classrooms and, of course, for supporting our Silent Auction! We raised over \$400! I hope you also enjoyed our Ice Cream Social and the Friday morning donuts and coffee! Just our way of saying thank you for your support!

For those of you leaving us at the end of the school year, have a great summer! For those of you staying through the summer, we are looking forward to another awesome summer filled with exciting activities!

Donna

Blue Dolphins PURPLE PARROTS

In the past several months, we have kept a strong focus on encouraging appropriate behaviors. Qualities such as respect, responsibility, caring for self and others, and fairness are important qualities we expect the students to exhibit here at Kid Country.

Thank you for acknowledging these behaviors in your children when you see them display these behaviors at home!

It seems the winter weather has finally let go and the Blue Dolphins are embracing spring and so excited to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine! The kids are back to playing organized outdoor games and just enjoying the chance to be kids!

During the Week of the Young Child Celebration, the Blue Dolphins participated by creating "thank you" cards for our local community workers. You should be proud of the cards they made and the sentiments the children put into these cards! All of the children worked hard on their cards and their personal drawings were amazing! Miss Donna, Miss Rhonda, Miss Wendy and Miss Jenna



The toddlers spent this month begging Mother Nature to send spring. Getting started, the Parrots got their hands dirty planting seeds. They each had a chance to build on their sensory skills by digging their hands deep into a large bin full of cool, fluffy soil. They also used several different size shovels to transfer the soil from the bin to the pots. When they were finished with that, they assisted a teacher in planting many different shape and size seeds. As the days passed the children noticed as the plants began to germinate. As a class we talked about the colors and the size of the plants! We also worked on taking turns each morning when we "give them a drink." The toddlers also ventured outside with their shovels to dig in the garden! We cannot wait for our plants to grow big and strong so we can take them

outside. In addition to planting, we spent some time working on both our social and fine motor skills. We sat together coloring a beautiful spring picture that can be found hanging in the room. This was a great way to expand vocabulary and encourage several back and forth communication exchanges. We also used the cap side of a water bottle to stamp black circles onto a red paper creating our very own lady bugs, just like the ones in the ever so popular book "Ten Tiny Ladybugs."

To close the month out we began a new study all about farm animals! Different animal sounds echo through the classroom and we can even identify a few new ones like the rooster, owl, and sheep. We are very excited about this study and cannot wait to see what learning is in store for us! Miss Kim, Miss Pam, Miss Kathy, Miss Marisa and Miss Danni

Blue Gills

The Week of the Young Child is a special time of year. It celebrates life's most precious gift – children. During this week, we wanted to make this celebration extra special so we provided activities and themed days to spice it up. Every day was something new and exciting.

The hallway art board has our Blue Gill's caterpillar, so check them out if you haven't already. What a fun week we had. Thank you to all who participated with our reading day, it's always a favorite. We hope that your children enjoyed this special week as much as we did. Our study of the ZOO was a huge hit! We learned the differences between Asian and African elephants, which included ear size

and how many toenails they have, prompting counting and measuring activities. And did you know that zebras stripes are like our fingerprints, no two zebras are alike? As for the big cats of the zoo, lions roar while tigers purr, and cheetahs are the fastest runners of all the big cats.

A great extension to our zoo study would be for you to take the children to the zoo soon, while they are still excited about learning about the animals. They can even show off for the zoo volunteers with the knowledge they already have!

Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Jenna, and Ms. Wendy



GREEN FROGS

The Green Frogs enjoyed a fun-filled month as we welcomed the season of spring! We began April with the conclusion of our springtime study as we talked about our favorite creepy crawly bugs! We shared some caterpillar fun facts during circle time and we practiced crawling across the carpet just as a caterpillar would! After discussing the way that a butterfly emerges from a chrysalis, we spent some time flying around the room like a butterfly! The Green Frogs worked on their letter identification and writing skills as they all created a unique name caterpillar to hang around our classroom! We also discussed lady bugs and their unique polka dot wings! We also enjoyed some counting practice as we built paper lady bugs and dotted their wings.

With our springtime unit coming to an end, we began talking about our five senses. We began the study by introducing all five senses and how they help us every day. The first sense that we focused on was our sense of sight. Our classroom library transformed to include many "look and find" books to help sharpen our eyesight and improve our focus. The Frogs enjoyed many fun sight games during the week including "Who Am I," "Pin the Eyes on The Head," and "I See a Shadow." These sight games encouraged the Frogs to explore their sense of sight in new ways! To end our sight week, we enjoyed navigating an obstacle course as a team while blindfolded! This activity helped us learn about the importance of our vision and teamwork!

The second sense we explored was our sense of hearing. We put the Green Frogs' ears to the test as we participated in many exciting sound and rhythm activities. The Frogs loved playing the mystery shaker game. Several shaker tubes were created with mystery items hidden inside of them. Using only their sense of hearing, the Frogs had to guess what was inside. We also had a

blast playing with rhythm sticks and different types of drums. Instead of creating art based off of the things that we see, this week we made art based off of what we hear. The Frogs listened to a nature CD and tried to draw all of the sounds that they heard! Some Frogs drew wildlife, while others focused on the weather.

The month of April brought us the Week of the Young Child. The Frogs enjoyed a festive week full of wacky hair, ties and tutus, and messy artwork! The Frogs enjoyed many engaging activities such as obstacle courses, story times, and awesome dance parties! Thank you to all of the Frog families who participated! Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Courtney and Miss Wendy

Kid Calendar

Week of 4/30
Friday, 5/4

Week of 5/7
Thursday, 5/10
Friday, 5/10

Week of 5/14
Wednesday, 5/23

Monday, 5/28
Friday, 6/1

Spring Photos
Summer Field Trip Permission
slips and payment plan
requests due

Teacher Appreciation Week!
Helping Hands Evaluations
Helping Hands Evaluations
Parent/Teacher Conferences
GRADUATION!, 7p
Wilson Creek Elementary
CLOSED Memorial Day
Summer Field Trip Fees due



YELLOW DUCKS

April was a month of celebration in the Yellow Ducks room. We celebrated the arrival of warm weather finally and the ability to be able to go outside and play! We started out by taking walks up and down the driveway next to Kid Country. Also during the month of April, our small playground was getting repaired, and finally during the last week of April, we were able to play on the small playground! Playing on the playground enhances many developmental domains such as physical, social-emotional and math concepts. The children are able to move and explore within their own personal abilities and wants. The ducks also had the opportunity to interact with their peers from the Red Robins room and the Purple Parrot room. When the babies interact and observe the older children, they are connecting abilities to activities. Outdoor play incorporates important learning methods as well as fresh air for the children.

In the month of April, the Week of the Young Child was another celebration held at Kid Country. The Yellow Ducks value the crucial milestones to build a solid foundation of learning for each and every child. During the week, the ducks dressed up differently every day. On Monday, the ducks celebrated with crazy hair and also created a masterpiece to hang in the hallway. On Tuesday, the ducks dressed up in their favorite pajamas and brought in their favorite books to read. On Wednesday, the ducks dressed up in their work out gear. On Thursday, the ducks all participated by wearing tutus! Finally on Friday, the ducks celebrated with spirit day by dressing in all yellow!

Overall, this month of celebration was one for the books for the infants. As teachers we are so proud of the progress and development the babies have made this year. We are excited to see what the summer months will bring as we continue to strengthen our developing skills outside and expand schema on the world around them. Miss Krista, Miss Haley and Miss Pam

ORANGE RED ROBINS OWLS

We put our hats away as we wrapped up our Dr. Seuss study, and we went into weather and what our different seasons offer. We began with discussing the different types of weather we could see such as wind, rain, tornados, and even hurricanes! As a class we discussed that even though we may not see all different types of weather here in Illinois, they still exist all over the world. With this information we then began to discuss how weather comes to exist and how it is "made". Condensation, evaporation and precipitation were our vocabulary words that went along with this new knowledge!

Weather here in Manhattan sure did have us on our toes this month, as we never knew if we would wake up to snow or sun! With the random days of snow, we decided it was an excellent time to bring some into the classroom for some hands-on science! As we collected 4 cups of snow, we then discussed what snow is made of, why it comes down as snow, and what different aspects all need to be present for it to actually snow. We placed our snow in two jars to see if, once melted, the water left in the jars would be the same, more, or less than what we started with. This was a great way for the Owls to work on predictions, measuring, and cause and effect.

As we closed out the month, we began to explore what and why plants grow, how we can help support plants to grow as well as why plants are important to us as humans. We also continue to sing our hearts out as we practice for graduation. The year is almost over already! Miss Bailey, Miss Rachel, Miss Melissa and Miss Madison



The month of April really got the Red Robins excited for spring! We were excited to start the month of talking about different parts of a flower (the stem, petals, and leaves). As a group, we discussed how plants come in different sizes and colors, as well as how the veggies we eat are types of plants. We also talked about different geometric shapes (circles, rectangles, and triangles). The Red Robins incorporated these two concepts to create geometric flowers. We explored plant lives by planting our own flower seeds in the planters your children created. The Red Robins also learned a new song about the days of the week, as well as being able to recognize which days they attend Kid Country!

Next the Red Robins explored the ocean. We talked about the types of animals that are found in the oceans and the children voted that the shark was their favorite aquatic animal. We learned the dance moves and lyrics to our favorite song, "Baby Shark." The children really enjoyed dancing to this song. We continued our ocean activities by creating crab hands. The teachers helped the children paint their hands red and added googly eyes to make our friendly crabs come alive. The Red Robins had a lot of fun celebrating Week of the Young Child. The Red Robins voted that Thankful Thursday with our ties and tutus was their favorite day of

the week. The Red Robins are very thankful for our garbage man, Mr. Gilly. We created thank you cards for him and gave them to him on Friday. Mr. Gilly was so shocked and thankful for his cards. He said that it really made his day great to feel so appreciated.



We are so thankful for the parents that volunteered to read to us on Friday. The children truly love it when we have the parents involved in the classroom.

We wrapped up the month of April by talking about Earth day. We painted our own earths and raised our hands to hold it. The Red Robins loved to paint and trace their hands working on their creative fine motor skills. We also colored coffee filters with blue and green to make an earth, and had a lot of fun spraying the coffee filters with water.

The Red Robins are continuing to work on our table self-help skills. The Red Robins serve their own snack and serve the lunch sides. We are working on spooning food onto our plate and grabbing food with tongs. Please practice these skills at home to help mastery of them! Also the Red Robins are continuously working on potty training in preparation for our dear little ones to get ready to move up to Green Frogs. Thank you parents for all your help in reaching this milestone. The weather is getting warmer so please be sure to dress your children appropriately, we will be going outside! Miss Emily, Miss Leslie, Miss Holly, and Miss Katie