



Kid Country

CHILDCARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

NUMBER 6 VOLUME 18

JUNE 2019



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

- 5th -- Lukas S.
- 8th -- Maksim H.
- 16th -- Ethan B.
- 23rd -- Miss Katie
- 24th -- Marcellus C.
- 25th -- Daphne B.
- 25th -- Elise B.
- 27th -- Joe C.
- 29th -- Maebry M.

### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Miss Sarah



## Sweet Summer Time

And just like that, another school year has come to a close and the start of summer is here! Good luck to all of our students that are leaving Kid Country, and welcome to all of our new and returning summer students! We are happy to have you as part of our Kid Country family.

As you have come to expect, our summer program is packed with a ton of field trips and special activities to keep the children busy! We have everything from ball pit and foam making days held here at Kid Country, to outside trips to destinations like Lincoln Park Zoo and Matthiessen State Park. While these special events and field trips are fun, they are also educational! Many life skills are learned while participating, such as cooperation, following instructions, taking turns, and gaining independence, just to name a few! We are looking forward to having a fun summer with your child! Thank you also to everyone that has agreed to chaperone – we couldn't offer these trips without you!

I'd like to take a moment to give a shout out to our 2019 Graduates! The children graduated on May 22 with a great performance of singing and dancing to a packed house! Good luck to our 30 graduates – we know you will do awesome in kindergarten!

Did you know June 2nd is Kid

Country's anniversary? We've been a part of the Manhattan community for 17 years now, and what a great 17 years it has been! I can't even imagine how many children have come through our doors over the years! I can tell you that I am extremely proud to have been a part of so many little lives in our community. I had the pleasure of attending the 8th grade graduation for Manhattan Junior High last month, and I counted 20 Kid Country alumni walking across the stage! It made my night to see so many former students and hear how well they've been doing in school, and they are not so little anymore! Moments like these remind me why I do what I do and why I love this community!

I'm going to take one more opportunity to brag about Kid Country. DCFS just finished their unannounced annual monitoring visit and we nailed it! Once again an inspection with no violations! I cannot tell you how proud that makes me to have all our hard work to provide a top-notch childcare center be validated by our licensing agency!

Thank you, and all of Manhattan, for choosing Kid Country through the years and allowing us to be a part of your children's lives!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

This month the Green Frogs have furthered their knowledge about the garden and all it has to offer. The month started off with tons of planting! The children explored the many different shapes and sizes of seeds while comparing and measuring. They were even able to create their very own green houses.

As the month went on and the plants began to grow, so did the children's curiosity. They began to notice different leaves, and colors on the plants. They even noticed some FLOWER BUDS!

Gardening gave the Frogs a chance to get creative. They used all the materials on the art shelf to create unique seeds, roots, stems, flowers, and bugs! This enhanced the children's decision making, fine motor, and cognitive skills. It also introduced the children to the concept of cause and effect. If we water the plants then they will grow.

The children had a great time exploring the garden and cannot wait to see what we are going to learn about next.

Miss Fran, Miss Jessica and Miss Kim



# YELLOW DUCKS

The month of May was a month for the "mommies" of the Yellow Ducks classroom. In preparation for a special day for the mothers of the Yellow Ducks, the children made hand-print cupcakes and footprint birds. This was a very small token of appreciation for the love the children have for their mothers. In the Yellow Ducks room, there is an understanding of parents being a child's first resource of the world that surrounds them. We value the parent's encouragement of development and understanding.

This month we also held our yearly parent-teacher conferences. This allowed the teachers to describe the many advances each child has achieved. The infant classroom takes pride in the partnerships we build with each family to ensure comfort and development for each child.

Over the next couple of warm, summery months, the Ducks will begin to participate in the many fun summer activities that take place here at Kid Country! This includes activities such as water days, a petting zoo, a couple visits from special guests! We are excited to get outside every day and explore a new activity each and every day.

Overall, this month was an important one in the Yellow Ducks classroom. We sent lots of love to the mommies of the classroom for all they do for their children. The teachers held parent-teacher conferences to communicate with the parents about their child's progress and future here at Kid Country. And we are getting ready for a summer filled with fun!

Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Leslie





# Blue Gills

It's hard to believe that this preschool year has once again come to an end. It really seems like yesterday when they all arrived on their very first day of school and some for the first time. This year with both age groups together again, it has been another huge success. The children really worked together as a group and made some solid friendships. Our older Gills were awesome role models for the younger Gills. They did a great job showing the younger Gills the ropes of preschool and helping them out whenever there was a need. For our older Gills, the love of learning new things was definitely contagious, and our younger ones caught that bug. Great teamwork Blue Gills!

Graduation was a great show! Our Gills and Orange Owls had a good time singing their songs for their families and friends. Bet you didn't expect them to explode like dynamite on stage! They are a very talented group, and will no doubt do incredible things in the future. Good luck to all our Kindergarteners. I will miss you dearly. Make sure you come back to visit me. I love hearing updates from our Gill alumni.

For our younger Gills that are now our older Gills, I look forward to your return in the Fall and seeing how much you've all grown over the summer. We have a lot of fun and learning left to do and I cannot wait to share all the fun with you.

Have a wonderful summer!  
Miss Rhonda



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# Blue Dolphins

Congratulations on finishing up yet another, great school year! We are all so very pleased and proud of the amount of growth and achievements the Blue Dolphins have accomplished this year. Way to rock it out Dolphins!

Summer is about to be in full swing here in the Blue Dolphin classroom and we are all so very excited. The Blue Dolphin summer staff members (Ms. Kim, Ms. Katie, Ms. Julie and Mr. Joey) are getting all geared up for a fun-packed summer chock-full of interesting studies, field trips and special events at the center! We will slowly begin to introduce summer routines and expectations with the children during the first few weeks of the program.

Our days are meant to wind down in the summer and provide a means of relaxation for the children, however, our means for learning remains the same. Most of the learning that takes place has one thing in common—PLAY! Even in the summer months, it is our goal to encourage our students to continue learning specific skills through play—whether that be structured or unstructured, free play. Through play children learn how to work cooperatively with others, understand the importance of rules/regulations, communicate and create a sense of teamwork/belonging. They also learn to utilize their creativity, develop their imaginations, practice decision-making skills and discover their varying interests and abilities through free play.

Looking forward to a great summer,  
Miss Rhonda, Miss Stephanie, Miss Katie, Miss Kim, Miss Julie and Mr. Joey

# PURPLE PARROTS

The toddlers were able to learn more about the world around them this month by taking an in depth look at animals and nature! We started the month by learning about animals in zoos. We built cages for our zebras, lions, and elephants out of small and large blocks. We also used playdoh and popsicle sticks to construct! These activities increase hand eye coordination, fine/gross motor skills, and the understanding of spatial relationships.

To further our zoo animal knowledge, we performed animal sounds and actions during an animal freeze dance song. The toddlers love using their liveliness to act like animals! We stomp like elephants, swing like monkeys, hop like a kangaroo and waddle like penguins. This musical activity helps the toddlers not only to get out their energy, but also helps to follow directions, interact positively in a group situation and increases their knowledge of the characteristics of living things.

The toddlers enjoyed interacting with nature firsthand by spending time outside looking at bugs,

grass, flowers, frogs, and everything else we can find! Indoors, we were able to play with a dirt sensory bin, construct flowers out of paper, and jump in pretend puddles. With cooperating weather, we will continue to spend as much time as possible outdoors in the upcoming summer months learning more about the world around us!

Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Emily, Miss Kasey and Miss Stephanie

# ORANGE OWLS

We took our trip through the wonder of each continent and now it was time to travel the seas! We began with what we already knew about the ocean and, for those of us that have been there, what it was like to experience. We discussed the oceans' vast number of inhabitants and how many of them differ, though they call the same place home. After this discussion, we dove deeper into each ocean to get to the bottom of who lives in each and how they survive. We even pondered why each ocean has its own name when, after all, the oceans are really one large body of water that covers the entire Earth!

We began with our home oceans that border the United States, Atlantic and Pacific. Within these two oceans the Orange Owls were able to name many of the native creatures. The Orange Owls were then able to learn new specifics. There are seven different types of turtles, six of them calling US waters home. The Pacific Ocean coral

reef is home to the most coral species over any other ocean. We will continue to venture through the seas as we explore more far off places.

With the end of May comes a very special celebration, graduation day! The Orange Owls and Blue Gills worked very hard on their performance and were over the moon surrounded by their 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! Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Donna K. and Miss Molly



**Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor gear at Kid Country! A sweatshirt should be kept in his/her cubby along with swimsuit, water shoes and towel for the summer.**



# Kid Calendar

- Wednesday, 6/5 Haircuts
- Week of 6/10 Start of Summer Program
- Tuesday, 6/11 Magic Show, 10:15a
- Thursday, 6/13 Junior Chef's
- Friday, 6/14 Fitness Premier Party
- Monday, 6/17 Tumblebus
- Tuesday, 6/18 Inwood Park & Skate
- Wednesday, 6/19 Yoga with Miss Fran
- Thursday, 6/20 Ball Pit at Kid Country
- Thursday, 6/20 Lake Katherine
- Friday, 6/21 Matthiessen State Park
- Monday, 6/24 Round Barn Farm
- Tuesday, 6/25 Messterpiece
- Wednesday, 6/26 Joliet Slammers Baseball
- Friday, 6/28 Creamery Bike Ride



# RED ROBINS

The month of May flew by for the Red Robins! The Red Robins started the month by exploring all the activities that can be done outside. The Red Robins played with chalk, rode bikes, played basketball, played soccer, and hide and seek, just to name a few.

Outside time allows for the Red Robins to practice crucial skills including gross motor, cooperation, hand eye coordination and creative thinking. These are all being challenged when the Red Robins play outside! The Red Robins had a blast

creating their Mother's Day gifts and the gifts gave us the opportunity to work on our fine motor skill of cutting with scissors. The Red Robins have also been getting ready for the transition into Green Frogs. We are working on potty training, self-help skills, and serving our own food. We will continue to work

with the Red Robins on these skills over the summer. We can't wait to see what fun activities warmer weather will bring! Ms. Emily, Ms. Holly, Ms. Jenna

