



CROSSINGS

Newsletter

Volume 21 | Issue 8 | August 2022

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The summer is winding down and we are gearing up for another awesome school year. I hope your children have enjoyed our summer program! We will be sending out a survey to everyone that participated in our summer program soon, and we look forward to seeing your responses so that we can improve for next year's program!

Whether we are ready for it or not, the new school year is indeed starting. It is just that time of year, and it happens whether we like it or not. It is a routine. If you'd like to start your school year off on the right foot, I highly suggest implementing a good morning routine into your day. Just like us, children find comfort in routine. They get a sense of control and confidence when they know what to expect. Routines help children learn to self-regulate their feelings and behaviors.

As you start to transition from the lazy days of summer into the busy-ness of the school year, keep this in mind! Set a consistent wake up time, followed by a consistent routine of getting dressed, eating breakfast and brushing teeth.

Leave the house at the same time every day and keep the same consistent, routine when you drop off at Kid Country. All of these routines will help your child understand his/her expectations which should help create a calmer household! I recommend you start this new routine a week or two before school starts to ensure the first day of school goes smooth.

We look forward to kicking off our new school year! We will close for an inservice day on Monday, August 22 and host our Parent Orientation Open House on this same day from 4p-6p. Stop in anytime between 4p-6p to pick up your child's classroom folder, meet the teachers, and learn about the routines, curriculum and expectations of your child's new classroom! All children that are moving up will be dropped off in their new classrooms on Tuesday, August 23. Our Blue Gills preschool only program will have their first day of school on Tuesday, September 6. We look forward to seeing you at our Open House!

Use these last couple of weeks to enjoy your last days of summer and get yourselves into a good routine for the school year!

Donna



To all those celebrating August Birthdays!

Cooper P. - 3rd

Liam G. - 6th

Tyler B. - 7th

Maximus S. - 11th

Jameson M. - 20th

Declan W. - 29th



YELLOW DUCKS

The summer fun continued in the Yellow Ducks classroom throughout the month of July as the Ducks engaged in numerous sensory activities. The teachers helped the Ducks to create ladybugs, ice cream cones and flips flops using their hands and feet to celebrate the summer season. During the creation of these art projects, the Ducks explored materials of various colors and textures including construction paper, paint, and pipe cleaners. Not only did these activities stimulate the Ducks' senses, but they also provided opportunities to practice decision making skills which foster the development of independence and self-confidence.

In addition to the creation of these art projects, the Ducks participated in more hands-on sensory activities such as ice cube painting and a "Jell-O dig." The Ducks were provided with colored ice pops and encouraged to "paint" on paper using multiple different colors of their choice.

This activity allowed them to experience the sensation of cold and explore what happens when ice melts. The Ducks also used their hands to dig for toys buried in Jell-O using spoons, small shovels, and their fingers. They practiced their social skills by communicating with each other and working together to rescue the toys from the sticky Jell-O. Participation in sensory activities sparks curiosity in infants and encourages them to explore the world around them using their five senses. Sensory play also promotes cognitive development, the process of collecting and using stored information. Overall, July was filled with fun activities geared toward the promotion of sensory development and introduction of new concepts. The Ducks were exposed to new textures and facets of sensory development such as experiencing changes in temperature. We are looking forward to the month of August and spending more time outside enjoying the beautiful weather!

**Miss Amy, Miss Gina
& Miss Hailee**



PURPLE PARROTS

The month of July was nothing short of sweet for the Purple Parrots! The month was filled with the 4th of July celebrations, ice cream, and shark week! The Purple Parrots stuffed their own animal, baked with Miss. McKenzie, enjoyed yoga with Miss. Victoria, loved on baby goats, tie-dyed, had a dance party, enjoyed some water days, and many more fun activities! Wow were the Purple Parrots kept busy!

Ice cream, you scream we all scream for ice cream! The Purple Parrots used their sensory skills to explore in a variety of sensory bins such as a cotton ball filled ice cream bin and a Dippin' Dot water bead filled sensory bin. Sensory play is a type of play that activates and stimulates a child's senses. The toddlers use their five senses to explore the world around them, which is why sensory play is important for them to learn.



Purple Parrots continued...

A variety of items were provided to learn more about ice cream, a sweet treat that the Purple Parrots enjoy! The Purple Parrots also enjoyed other activities such as handprint ice cream cones, painting with ice cream cones, and fizzy ice cream cones; just to name a few. Many fun activities were brought to Kid Country for the Purple Parrots to enjoy! These activities allowed the Purple Parrots to have a fun and exciting summer experience! Being outside the classroom and interact with other classrooms allows the Purple Parrots to communicate with others.

The Purple Parrots cannot wait to see what other activities are planned! Even though summer is quickly coming to an end, we are ready to end it on a high note with many more fun activities! We are soaking up the summer fun before some of our older Purple Parrots become Red Robins soon!

**Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily S,
& Ms. Elyse**



RED ROBINS



The Robins started off our month by learning all about different types of weather and what better way to experience the weather than camping! The Robins have engaged in a variety of camping themed activities centered around building the children's letter recognition, fine motor skills and self-help skills. These skills are especially important as some of our Red Robins prepare to become Green Frogs. Confidence in completing tasks independently is an important skill in the Red Robins classroom such as putting on socks and shoes, cleaning up after activities, and toileting. The Red Robins built upon their letter recognition skills throughout the month by identifying each letter of their name during many activities. Letter recognition enables the children to associate printed text with their letter sounds. The Robins also expanded upon their fine motor skills as they strung painted pasta noodles onto their clouds to represent a lightning storm.

Of course, there were many hands-on learning activities as we explored our camping unit! The children were encouraged to paint using marshmallows, build tents using popsicle sticks, and engage in dramatic play by sharing and listening to stories in the classroom tent. Some of the extra fun summer activities we experienced this month included, balancing skills with Miss Victoria as she engaged in summer yoga, making yummy treats with Miss McKenzie and giggles could be heard throughout the playground as Miss Valeria created face painting masterpieces! The Robins rode their bikes on the large playground, had a dance party, read stories with Miss Fran and even snuggled baby goats. The children explored through sensory play during our water days and discovered exciting facts about sharks during Shark Week! These experiences expand on the Red Robins' knowledge of their environments and build upon their social skills interacting with other classrooms. Although the summer is nearing an end; the Robins are soaking up all the fun.

**Ms Kelly, Ms Grace,
Ms McKenzie &
Ms Carolyn**



GREEN FROGS

There was so much fun interactive play and learning for the Green Frogs in the month of July! Every day the Green Frogs continued to learn about nature, engaging their creativity, fine and gross motor skills through all new crafts. After taking a trip to our Children's Garden outside, the children came back and discussed which vegetables and fruits were their favorites! To help us improve our scissor cutting skills, we had the Green Frogs cut out various shapes for cucumbers, tomatoes, and carrots. We also used scissors to cut out various colored leaves. This was a fun way to help the Green Frogs strengthen the muscles in their hands, and work on their hand-eye coordination. We also added name caterpillar friends to the garden, which helped the Green Frogs practice writing out the letters and reading their names!

Summer fun also continued both inside and outside of the classroom as we jumped at the opportunity to do fun activities throughout the building and on our exciting field trips! An amazing obstacle course, including tumbling mats and a

balance beam, helped our kids not only get all those wiggles out but helped them learn spatial awareness and helped build positive group cooperation in turn taking and independent mobility by moving through multiple classrooms and into the hallway for the course! Next was a very relaxing day of yoga with Ms. Victoria. During our session, we not only learned about sun salutations but also controlling our breathing and our ability to mirror actions. However, Ms. Victoria was in for a treat when the Green Frogs decided they were going to show her a thing or two about their yoga poses! The fun's not over yet though! To finish up our outside activities so far, the children raced up and down the blacktop on their bikes for Bike Day! While having heaps of fun, the Green Frogs didn't even know they were learning about balance and not only hand-eye coordination, but bilateral coordination as well! We went over the importance of hydration and bike safety so that when the Green Frogs are outside of class, they can help other kids learn and stay safe in their activities as well! As Bike Day exercised our gross motor muscles, Stuffed with Love Day exercised out fine motor muscles. For this, the Green Frogs were given the choice to choose their own stuffed animal to not only make but put a special wish into. With anything from Unicorns to Owls, the children got to see a wide range of animals, and by using their fine motor skills they were able to be involved in the process of putting their stuffed animal together.

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



ORANGE OWLS

Summer is a busy time of year for the Orange Owls! We have been keeping busy with field trips and learning all about our national parks. Our field trip adventures have taken us to the Round Barn, Children's Museum, and to the movie theater! We have also had fun dancing our hearts out at our playground dance party, discovered new colors with tie-dye, and had our faces painted here at Kid Country. The Orange Owls sure been soaking up all this summer fun!

We have dived into the world of camping by starting our tours of national parks. We have explored The Grand Canyon and The Great Sand Dunes so far. We have made yummy snacks, created beautiful landscape artwork, and made our own versions of The Grand Canyon. We also had a special guest come visit our classroom to share with us all about national parks and what they are like in person! We are excited to finish out this unit before the summer comes to a close!

**Ms. Bailey, Ms. Victoria, Ms.
Grace D., & Ms. Sarah**





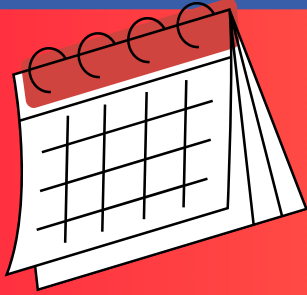
BLUE DOLPHINS

Christmas in July was the study for the Dolphin room. You are probably wondering what kinds of things we studied since most things that revolve around Christmas have to do with winter but, we were not short any ideas! July has had its challenges with weather this year, but at least we are happy to report that there wasn't any snow in the forecast. Since there wasn't any snow, we decided to learn about the Christmas customs of countries around the globe. Mexico was our first country. We had a great time making all kinds of ornaments like origami poinsettias, piñatas, and God's eyes for the first tree. We even enjoyed a special snack of fried tortilla snowflakes sprinkled with powdered sugar. Our second tree adorned ornaments from Italy. There was a craft of Babbo Natalie and wine cork snowmen. Our third country was Germany where we made gingerbread play dough and gingerbread houses. We learned about the tradition of the hidden pickle on the tree and made straw star ornaments. Ending our unit study was the best part complete with a gift exchange. What a great month!



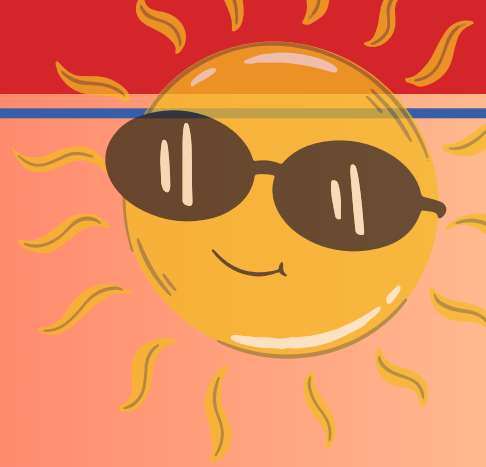
**Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Wendy,
Ms. Donna K, & Ms. Molly**





August Happenings

KID COUNTRY CHILDCARE



1st- Tile Painting @ KC

2nd - Exotic Animals @ KC

3rd - Wooden Magnets @ KC

4th - Messterpiece w/ Miss Grace @ KC

5th - Plaster Animals @ KC

8th - Tinley Roller Rink (GF, OO, BD)

8th - Ball Pit @ KC

9th - Penalty Box Shaved Ice @ KC
(courtesy of the Beno Family)

10th - Chalk It Up! Murals @ KC

12th - Popsicles on the Playground @ KC

11th - "Tim...That's Amazing!" @ KC

17th - Peotone First Day of School

22nd - Teachers Inservice KC CLOSED

22nd - Parent Orientation Open
House 4 - 6pm

23rd- KC Move Up Day

24th - Manhattan First Day of School

24th - St. Joe's First Day of School

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars! Kid Country is hosting a Parent (Only) Open House on Monday, August 22nd from 4 - 6pm. Plan to meet with your child's teachers, ask any questions, and complete any required paperwork.

Kid Country
CHILDCARE

