

KID COUNTRY CHILDCARE'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 10/1 - Grandparent Day Invites/Nametags sent home
- 10/9 - Manhattan Chamber Oktoberfest, Central Park
- 10/11 - CLOSED for Inservice Day
- 10/12 thru 10/15 - Scholastic Book Fair
- 10/12 - Grandparent Days: Green Frogs & Purple Parrots
- 10/13 - Grandparent Days: Orange Owls, Red Robins & Yellow Ducks
- 10/14 - Grandparent Days: Blue Gills
- 10/20 - Manhattan Fire Department Visit
- 10/21 - Kid Country Fall Fest
- 10/29 - Halloween Parties (Blue Gills party on Thursday, 10/28)
- 10/31 - Happy Halloween



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We will be celebrating the special relationship children have with their grandparents during October! We will be hosting three days of events so that every class gets a chance to bring their grandparents in for some special activities. Please watch for the special invitation and nametag going home soon for the grandparents that you reserved space for. The children absolutely LOVE showing off their classroom to their grandparents and these events turn out to be one of the best days of the year for us and historically one of the best turnouts as well! This is a great way to strengthen our home-to-school connection, along with exemplifying our COMMUNITY core value! We look forward to sharing this special moment with your children! (Blue Dolphins will not participate as they get an opportunity in the school district.)

Speaking of COMMUNITY, Kid Country will also be supporting our local Chamber of Commerce with their inaugural Oktoberfest event on Saturday, October 9. Kid Country is sponsoring the children's games section at Central Park, on the tennis courts. The games are free to play and every child will get a choice of a prize or two – so be sure to stop by! We are looking forward to seeing you!

Our Pumpkin Decorating Contest was such a big hit last year, we've decided to do it again this year! Carve, paint or decorate a pumpkin or gourd of your choice with your family and email a photo of it to missmelissakcc@gmail.com by Monday, October 25. Everyone will be able to vote for his/her favorite later that week. Prizes will be awarded for the top three! Get your creative juices flowing and get ready to submit your pumpkin! Winners will be notified on Friday, October 29!

It's promising to be a busy month here at Kid Country as we welcome Fall!

- Miss Donna



YELLOW DUCKS

Ms. Karen and Ms. Alex

Autumn leaves and pumpkins, please! The Yellow Ducks welcomed in the fall with many musical experiences. The older Ducks engaged in these experiences through fine motor music toys and drums, while the younger ducks enjoyed songs. The teachers sang songs like 'Bringing Home my Baby Bumblebee', 'Baby Shark' and 'The Wheels on the Bus'. Singing to the Ducks is a great way the teachers can bond with the children while expanding the exposure of their vocabulary. Simple songs and songs with rhyming words are an important part of the earliest stages of communication and reading. The Yellow Ducks teachers strive to not only create a nurturing and fun environment but also to form strong relationships with each individual child.

Music and movement concepts help the Ducks grow in every possible way. Movement is a very important part of the experience of music.

A sensory-engaging musical environment can greatly contribute to a child's cognitive and sensory development. Music also assists in boosting skills such as memory, creativity, and language. Music can be experienced through listening to music, feeling the vibrations of sound, and seeing the objects creating the sound or sounds.

The Yellow Duck teachers are so proud of all the development the babies have shown over the month. We look forward to the next month and cannot wait to experience a new season!

"WISHING YOU A DAY FILLED WITH HAPPINESS AND A YEAR FILLED WITH JOY." - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 10/2 - Edith T.
- 10/5 - Margaret R.
- 10/6 - Hunter D.
- 10/7 - Frank D.
- 10/8 - Maddison E.
- 10/14 - Brooklyn B.
- 10/14 - Luisa S.
- 10/16 - Eliana J.
- 10/17 - Bentley S.
- 10/19 - Iris N.
- 10/20 - Maryn H.
- 10/22 - Ashton G.
- 10/22 - Maeve S.
- 10/25 - Andrew S.
- 10/26 - Sabrina R.
- 10/28 - Riley L.
- 10/29 - Camden S.
- 10/30 - Miss Krista

PURPLE PARROTS

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily, and Ms. Scarlett

The month of September has flown by! All things fall has begun in the Purple Parrots classroom. We had a month full of falling leaves and sports. The weather has been cooperative, so the Purple Parrots had a lot of gross motor time outside on the little playground running, crawling, hopping, and climbing around.

Fall is in full effect in the Purple Parrots room. The toddlers explored the visual arts by foil painting a fall tree, mess-free apple painting, shaving cream leaf art, and finger-painted a tree.



RED ROBINS

Ms. Kelly, Ms. Jessica, and Ms. Jenna

It has been an adventurous month in the Red Robins classroom! The children have continued to become acclimated to the classroom, classmates, and teachers as we strengthen our connections with each other. Our focus was centered on enhancing gross and fine motor skills within many activities throughout the month of September. The Red Robins have enjoyed their time spent outdoors on the large playground where they are encouraged to explore the equipment – slides, scooters, bikes, and throwing a ball are all great examples to help enhance gross motor skills.

One activity encouraged social-emotional skills and team-building skills as the children worked together to have some parachute fun! The children were thrilled to discover cause and effect concepts as they wondered if the balls on the parachute could move with their own movements. Another activity enhanced creative expression and fine motor skills as the children rolled golf balls through a variety of paint colors to create a masterpiece! The children were introduced to painting with unusual materials.

This activity promotes the ability to think of objects in more ways than their initial use. This skill encourages problem-solving skills and critical thinking. Both are important skills for future life and academic concepts.

The Red Robins are looking forward to all fall has to offer!

The visual arts help the toddlers explore and represent their experiences through their artwork and show their creative side. The visual arts also allow our toddlers to explore their sensory skills by feeling the paint and shaving cream we used in these projects. The teachers encouraged each toddler to use their color recognition to identify the different colors they see while creating their artwork.

Sports week was such a hit in the toddler room! The teachers had a week full of baseball activities for the toddlers to engage in. The toddlers painted with baseballs created their own sports cards, and decorated their very own sports flag! We had so much fun talking about different sports and how we use our gross motor skills to play each sport. The Purple Parrots used their hand-eye coordination, balance, and muscular strength to throw balls around outside. We had a ball at Family Fun Night! October is right around the corner, which means cooler weather. Make sure to send your child in appropriate clothing, we will still be going outside as much as we can still.

Be on the lookout for the fall cubby checklist, this will be going out as soon as the weather changes. We are excited to see what fall fun October will bring us!



GREEN FROGS

Ms. Fran and Ms. Stephani

We are so excited for the new school year and the new group of our Green Frog friends! This month, the Big Green Frogs helped the New Green Frogs learn some of their new classroom routines. As they showed the new Frogs where to place their name tags at various interest areas, or where to return their toys; all the Frogs continued to improve their social skills by communicating their needs and feelings to their teachers and friends.

We have begun introducing letters and numbers during our circle time activities. To make learning fun, we enjoy playing the game Letter Hop, where the Frogs hop on a letter on the carpet, and we then name the letter and the sound it makes. To practice our number recognition and quantifying, the Frogs used a bowling ball with a number written on it, and then counted the corresponding number of pins to match the ball.

Family Fun Night this year was all about sports! To practice our skills for Family Fun Night, the Green Frogs learned how to play various sports with different kinds of balls. We practiced our balance and gross motor skills while kicking soccer balls, our eye-hand coordination while shooting basketballs, and our bilateral cross while throwing footballs. Another key skill we learned while playing sports was communication and teamwork, while the Frogs shared and took turns during each game.

We have been having so much fun getting to know all our Green Frogs and enjoying the last of the summer weather. We are beginning our new study where we will explore colors, shapes, and how we can create art with the new shapes. We look forward to a fun and exciting year of learning and playing together!

BLUE GILLS

Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Wendy

As we say goodbye to September, we must thank Mother Nature for the extra nice days to spend time outside. We were able to work on a lot of our large motor skills that we

will not be able to do in the coming months. We played games like Red Light Green Light, and Duck Duck Goose. We learned how to catch a ball, and then how to kick it while it was moving. We spent time in the sandbox learning new measurement vocabulary like empty, full, and halfway. Vocabulary that could then be heard in the classroom at our discovery table. Fun times for sure!

In the classroom, we did a study of "All About Me". The children were able to tell the other children all about themselves and their families. We graphed eye colors, hair colors, how many people live in our houses, and whether we have pets. The kids enjoyed talking about themselves daily in front of the group, and it really helped the children to get to know their peers' names better as we started the new school year. As the month progressed, we could see friendships blossom and small groups of children forming to play on a regular basis. They love playing large group games where they are all involved, and never leave anyone out. It was a great month of friendship!



To round out our month, we started learning about Apples. We learned how apples start as a blossom on a tree and slowly turn into fruit. We made our guesses of if an apple would float or sink, painted with apples, and ate a wonderful apple pie dip that we made ourselves. It's been a busy yet exciting first month and we can't wait for what October brings!

ORANGE OWLS

Ms. Bailey, Ms. Krista, and Ms. Emily K.

The Orange Owls started off their school year with the delicious study of apples! We began with the Owls stating different words to describe apples. They were asked to use specific words of what they look like, feel like, how they grow, and of course how they taste! This gave the Orange Owls a great opportunity to use their past knowledge and experience as well as a chance to learn unfamiliar vocabulary with the new descriptive words used.



We then went to the more scientific side of apples. We learned the life cycle of an apple, from the seed of the tree to the ripe apple ready for picking! This gave the Owls a chance to also connect this knowledge to other things that we have grown or seen. Many discussions amongst themselves were how they have planted seeds such as tomatoes, flowers, and even pumpkins! Each time the discussion led to a different plant they realized that once each seed grows, it produces something- Every time! These conversations were a great avenue to remind the Owls that almost everything we eat begins as little seeds planted in the ground.

We took these conversations and kept them growing as we shifted our thoughts to a greater scale, farming. We compared the cornfields farmers plant and harvest to the apple orchards we had learned about previously with our apple study. Each is just as important as the other but very different in many ways! The Owls learned about the various animals that can be found and used on a farm as well as the different crops other than the typical corn and beans we often see.

The Orange Owls' favorite was being able to learn about the different animals and learning more specifically about each of them. We wrapped up the month with the opportunity to make our bread and butter! Both with ingredients given to us by farmers!

BLUE DOLPHINS

Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Donna K., and Ms. Wendy

Blue Dolphins are back in the full swing of enjoying the new school year. Even though their time at Kid Country is short they still have lots of fun. In the spirit of Family Fun Night, the Blue Dolphins took the opportunity to show the building their artistic skills by decorating a jersey. The Blue Dolphins had their choice of design and which materials to use to create a one-of-a-kind jersey.

The children also spent as much time as they could outside enjoying the spacious playground or playing organized games in the side yard. The teachers feel it is important for the children to have lots of outside time and gross motor activities after a day at “big school.”

Another important aspect of the school-age classroom is providing a positive and social environment for the children. This month the Blue Dolphins welcomed many new faces and many returning faces. The children were excited to meet new friends and reconnect with others. A favorite game of the Blue Dolphins has been the card game “Garbage,” it had intrigued many children and expressed eagerness to learn how to play. It was a great opportunity for other children to be able to connect and teach the new favorite game. The children also laughed endlessly with their teachers as they told jokes back and forth to brighten each other’s day.

Overall, the month of September was the perfect kick-off to the school year as well as the new cooler season. As the weather is cooling off, please remember to dress your child appropriately from the top to the shoes. The Blue Dolphin teachers want the children to be comfortable and safe while they exert their energy from the school day.



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School Hours: Mon - Fri - 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sat - Sun - Closed

