

# CROSSINGS

KID COUNTRY CHILDCARE'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 12/15 - Holiday stories and chocolate milk with Miss Donna
- 12/14-12/16 - Blue Gills Holiday Extravaganza
- 12/16 - Blue Gills Holiday Party
- 12/17 - Holiday Parties
- 12/20-12/22 - Holiday Extravaganza
- 12/23-12/24 - CLOSED for Christmas Holiday
- 12/31 - CLOSED for New Year's Holiday



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Join us in celebrating our first Ray of Sunshine Award winner -- Miss Molly! The purpose of this award is to highlight an employee that is truly living our Core Values – Heart, Support, Dedication, Humor, and Community. Molly was chosen this month because she has been working extra days every week since August, she remains flexible and works in any room that needs her, she is smiling every day and truly loves our little ones! She also volunteered to keep our Center decorated for the holidays – an extra duty she is rocking! Molly exemplifies our Core Values every day and is truly our Ray of Sunshine! Molly received a round of applause from our team, a special sweatshirt, and a spa gift card. Next month, Molly will choose our next Ray of Sunshine and pass the trophy on!

We have a month filled with fun holiday events! The children will be joining me for holiday stories and chocolate milk, holiday parties will be held, and we will have a three-day holiday extravaganza as well! We will be sending home more information on all of these events and how you can help us celebrate the season! There is nothing like the wonder of Christmas seen through children's eyes!

My holiday wish is that each of you has a season filled with family, friends, and fun! Enjoy every moment with your children – they grow up so fast! Savor the memories and have a wonderful season and have a very Merry Christmas!

- Miss Donna



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

- 12/1 - Benjamin K.
- 12/2 - Chloe A.
- 12/11 - Greyson G.
- 12/16 - Nora T.
- 12/16 - Payten O.
- 12/17 - Brantley Y.
- 12/18 - Rylee D.
- 12/21 - Bailey S.
- 12/26 - Evelyn K.

## YELLOW DUCKS

November was filled with thankful thoughts and gestures in the Yellow Ducks classroom. To kick off the November month, the Ducks showed appreciation for the Mexican holiday of Día De Los Muertos. Día de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is typically a two-day celebration (November 1st and 2nd) of life and death. The Ducks honored the holiday through fun crafts and activities such as creating handprint skulls and water coloring sugar skull templates.

Throughout the month the Ducks also expressed appreciation of fall colors and elements through sensory play. Providing opportunities for children to actively use their senses as they explore their world through 'sensory play' is crucial to brain development. Sensory play encourages learning through exploration, curiosity, problem-solving, and creativity.

A sensory-based activity the Ducks enjoyed was exploring a fall sensory bin! The Yellow Ducks teachers set up a bin with leaves, plastic pumpkins, and gourds! As the Ducks explored the sensory bin, the teachers explained textures they might feel as well as assisted in expanding their vocabulary by naming colors! To conclude, the Yellow Ducks had a wonderful month filled with new traditions and gratitude. We are excited to see what the holiday season has in store for us!

Sincerely,

Ms. Karen, Ms. Amy, and Ms. Alex

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## PURPLE PARROTS

The month of November has flown by in the Purple Parrots room. The toddlers were taught how to be kind friends with one another. We did this by creating friendships within the classroom, working together to build a friendship quilt, and being thankful for everyone in our classroom. What a better month to become closer to one another and build formidable friendships!

The Purple Parrots spent the month working together to build on our relationships by recognizing who is in our classroom. The Purple Parrots used their expressive language and recognition to identify their peers within the classroom. During mealtimes the teachers inquired "Where's ...." the toddlers were encouraged to look around and identify who their peers are. The toddlers get so excited when it is their turn for their peers to find them. While identifying their peers the toddlers were also using their ability to take turns.

The toddlers used their fine motor skills to work together to create a friendship quilt. Fine motor skills are the coordination of small muscles in movement with the eyes, usually involving the synchronization of hands and fingers. The toddlers used their fine motor skills by using their palmar grasp and pincer grip to color the puzzle pieces. Once the toddlers colored together the teachers put the pieces together to create the friendship quilt.

The Purple Parrots are excited to see what the month of December will hold. We cannot wait to get into the Christmas spirit!

Sincerely,

Ms. Emily S., Ms. Molly, and Ms. Scarlett

## RED ROBINS

The Red Robins experienced an exciting time focusing on friendships and being thankful this month! Expressing kindness, taking turns, and sharing are all key elements of friendship in the Red Robins classroom. Being a kind friend is an aspect of the Red Robins classroom that we will continually build upon throughout our time together. We encourage the children to collaborate in classroom free-play as much as possible, whether they are building train tracks together or creating scenarios in the dramatic play center. The Robins built upon their fine motor skills this month as we dived into our activities this month. The Robins enjoyed learning about Thanksgiving in a variety of ways from creating turkey feathers, painting with corn cob, group activities outside, and enjoying many books about friendship and what it means to be thankful.

Much of our time outside this month was focused on nature! It is important that the children have time to play outdoors, as the experience will strengthen their gross motor skills including coordination, agility, and balance.





The Robins were very curious about the various colors of the leaves and why they were falling off trees. The children had fun discovering the leaves on the ground and determining the color. We used this opportunity to create a classroom leaf pile for all the Robins to have fun exploring! The children worked together to scoop the leaves into big piles, which resulted in many smiles and giggles from all. We wrapped up this month celebrating our friends with a Thanksgiving feast! The Robins are looking forward to what the holiday season has in store for us.

Sincerely,

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

## GREEN FROGS

This month, the Green Frogs explored the season of fall/autumn. We created our own autumn leaves as we marbled paper with the colors of fall. The Frogs then used their fine motor skills as we cut out the leaves. We made a chart of which fall-colored leaf was our favorite. Red was our favorite color with green running a close second.



We continued practicing our fine motor skills as we created a flock of turkeys. The Frogs expressed their creativity as they picked their favorite way to form feathers for their own turkey: drawing and rubbing chalk, sponge painting, or gluing colorful real feathers to their fabulous fall birds.

The Green Frogs helped to prepare our annual Thanksgiving feast by working together to make an apple crisp. We use our math knowledge as we measured the ingredients and our upper body muscles to stir the ingredients together.

We continued expanding our math knowledge as we created patterned turkey headbands. The Frogs glued colored squares in an AB pattern on a strip of paper and then added a turkey face to complete the look of our Thanksgiving headbands.

This fun and festive accessory also helped us practice our pattern recognition.

A celebration is always better when shared with friends. The Green Frogs enjoyed sharing their feast with the Red Robins. As we feasted on the delicious holiday food prepared for us by Miss Mary, we shared smiles and laughter with our friends from across the hall. It was another wonderful Kid Country Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Ms. Fran and Ms. Moliy



## ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls trekked through the depths of the jungle this month as we immersed ourselves in the animals, vegetation, and geology. The jungle is home to some of the most exotic animals on the planet, many we knew a great deal about and some we did not even know existed! We took an in-depth at the various animals and how they each have a part in the grand scheme of the jungle. One of our favorite animals to dive into were snakes. The number of different species of snakes is what caught our attention most. Each one of the nearly 3,600 different species has unique characteristics, lives in very specific environments, and can be the size of a small rodent all the way to the size of a small car! We used the various animals of the jungle to help us count and practice our beginning letter sounds. As we were introduced to each animal throughout the dense layers of the jungle, we were able to look at the names of each of them and determine the beginning letter and sound was for each. With these letters, we compared them to each other's names and the other animals of the jungle.

It is endless to count within the jungle because there is so much happening all at once! From counting the different layers to the many types of monkeys swinging from the trees, numbers were never in short supply! The jungle study provided an appropriate length of counting activities for all abilities in our classroom.

We closed out our month with one of our favorite days here at Kid Country- our Thanksgiving Feast. We used this week to reflect on what we are thankful for, how important our family and friends are to us, and just overall taking that time to express our happiness and gratitude for the endless blessings of our lives.

Sincerely,

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

## BLUE GILLS

We can hardly believe that November has ended. We want to thank all of you for coming to our parent-teacher conferences earlier in the month. We love it when we hear about the children's home lives and can put faces to the families they love to talk so much about. It also provides the opportunity to find out from you where you see them academically and compare your thoughts with our notes. Our biggest study this month was about life on the farm. Our first week we spent time finding out how a farmer lives and works. We found out that unlike us who use grocery stores, a farmer uses his farm to produce the food he needs. We discussed the kinds of foods they grow, and how they harvest them.

After that, we learned special things about farm animals. Did you know that a cow has five stomachs, or that a pig





covers their body with mud to protect their skin from sunburn? Or did you know that a pig can be as smart as a dog and that people have them as pets? They were also surprised to learn that just like there are various kinds of dogs there are diverse kinds of cows and chickens. Who knew? We are enjoying this study so much it is going to be hard to move on to another study. As the weather gets colder, we want to remind you that a portion of our day will still be outside until the wind chills go below 25 degrees. Please make sure your children are prepared to be dressed for the colder weather every day.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Wendy**

## BLUE DOLPHINS

The Blue Dolphins concentrated their conversations and focuses on gratitude and being thankful at the start of this holiday season. Many of the students were thankful for school, family, pets, friends, tablets, and books. As the oldest of the children in the building, the conversations can become quite complex in their memories and thoughts about traditions. Conversations about traditions are so important in the exposure of new ideas and methods different families celebrate different times of the year. It is something special about each child and their family, it also incorporates the connection of home life and school life.

The Blue Dolphins also created leaf art in the hallway as they carried on about their favorite activities in the fall months. This project allowed the Blue Dolphins to have full creativity to make their leaves as unique as them. Kid Country Childcare supports Creativity Curriculum which allows children to express their own thoughts and perspectives about an image or object. The leaf activity fully supported the creativity and hard work of each child. Be sure to check them out in the hallway across from the classroom door. The Blue Dolphins are looking forward to the upcoming breaks and fun the teachers have planned.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Donna K.**





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

Sat - Sun - Closed



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# Kid Country December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	EAM: Graham crackers, milk SN: Oranges, graham crackers LN: Corn dogs, fruit cocktail, cucumbers, milk SN: Popcorn, grapes	EAM: Bananas, milk SN: Oyster crackers, peaches LN: Pancakes, sausage, mixed fruit, peas, milk SN: Bagel, cream cheese	EAM: Bananas, milk SN: Cheese crackers, pears LN: Sloppy joes w/ bun, later tots, pears, milk SN: Apples, goldfish	EAM: Pears, milk SN: Pretzels, cheese cubes LN: Chicken Alfredo, carrots, mixed fruit, milk SN: Bananas, graham crackers	EAM: Fig newtons, milk SN: Cheese Its, apples LN: Pizza, pineapple, peas & carrots, milk SN: pretzels, grapes	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	EAM: Bananas, milk SN: Graham crackers, apples LN: Tagitos, peaches, cooked carrots, milk SN: Cheese crackers, grapes	EAM: Bananas, milk SN: Oyster crackers, peaches LN: Pancakes, sausage, mixed fruit, peas, milk SN: Bagel, cream cheese	EAM: Pears, milk SN: Applesauce, graham crackers LN: Chicken strips, peaches, corn, milk SN: Apples, goldfish	EAM: Fig newtons, milk SN: Pudding, graham crackers LN: Chicken noodle soup, pears, green beans, milk SN: Bananas, graham crackers	EAM: Muffins, milk SN: Pretzels, cheese slices LN: Hot dog w/ bun, pears, later tots, milk SN: Goldfish crackers, Oranges	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	EAM: Bananas, milk SN: Graham crackers, apples LN: Tagitos, peaches, cooked carrots, milk SN: Cheese crackers, grapes	EAM: Pears, milk SN: Crackers, peaches LN: Ham & cheese sandwich, mixed fruit, peas, milk SN: Graham crackers, Apples	EAM: Fig newtons, milk SN: Cookies, chocolate milk LN: Chicken Alfredo, green beans, mandarin oranges, milk SN: Oyster crackers, oranges	EAM: Bagels w/cream cheese, milk SN: Cereal, milk LN: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, peaches, milk SN: Bananas, graham crackers	EAM: Graham crackers, milk SN: Carrots w/ ranch dip, oyster crackers LN: Tacos w/ meat, cheese, lettuce, corn, pineapple, milk SN: Crackers, cheese cubes	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	EAM: Pears, milk SN: Cereal, milk LN: Cream of chicken w/ rice soup, mixed fruit, carrots, SN: Cheese crackers, milk SN: Bagels, cream cheese, Bananas	EAM: Fig newtons, milk SN: Assorted muffins, bananas LN: Pizza, carrots, peaches, milk SN: Ice cream cups, animal crackers	EAM: Muffins, milk SN: Pretzels, mixed fruit LN: Chicken strips, green beans, pineapple, milk SN: Goldfish crackers, apples			
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	EAM: Muffins, milk SN: Oranges, goldfish crackers LN: Cheese Tortelli, peas, pineapples, milk SN: Bananas, Graham crackers	EAM: Fig newtons, milk SN: Animal crackers, apples LN: Corn dogs, pears, green beans, milk SN: Popcorn, grapes	EAM: Bananas, milk SN: cereal, milk LN: Chicken Teryki w/ rice, corn, mixed fruit, milk SN: Apples, crackers	EAM: Bagels w/cream cheese, milk SN: Oyster crackers, carrots w/ ranch dressing LN: Meatballs w/ gravy, later tots, peaches, milk SN: Pretzels, cheese	EAM: Cereal, milk SN: Goldfish, grapes LN: Taco z Pasta, pineapple, peas, milk SN: Cheese Its, oranges	
2	3	Notes				
<p><b>SUBSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN UNDER TWO:</b> Macaroni and cheese or fish sticks instead of hot dog; cooked carrots instead of corn or raw carrots; sliced grapes -- not whole; puffs rather than popcorn.</p>						

*Merry Christmas*