

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2019 | Issue 2 | Date: 15 May 2019



KEY DATES

1 May:
Welcome Back Mickey
from maternity leave!

20-24 May: Cultural
Week

31 May: Katrina's last
day

7 June:
Winter Vacation
program available

10 June:
Cottage closed
(Queens Birthday)

12 June:
Biting Truth
Nutritionist (Seniors)

COMMITTEE MESSAGE

The Kids Cottage Middle Harbour is a not for profit organisation owned by the Middle Harbour P&C and is operated by a dedicated sub-committee of the P&C. The Kids Cottage Management Committee is made up of volunteer parents/guardians of children enrolled at the Centre and operates under a set of rules approved by the P&C.

While the Director, Assistant Director, Team Leader, Group Leaders and Educators handle the day to day operations and management of the Centre, the Management Committee provides oversight and governance. Meeting twice per term and multiple email communications, the Management Committee assists with the formulation and application of policies, employment and direction of staff, financial management, direction of administrative procedures and a wide variety of other issues and concerns that arise.

The Management Committee's priority is always the needs of the Middle Harbour community and how Kids Cottage can best serve its community. As it is your needs the Committee is striving to meet, your feedback and input is always welcome. Thank you to Amanda Harriss, David Roylance, Thejna Vivek, Bec Hunt, Ros Anderson, Georgie Taylor, Tracy Bell and Kim Thomas for your ongoing dedication to making Kids Cottage an exceeding Before and After School Care and Vacation Care service.

CULTURAL WEEK

Next week, Term 2 week 4 we will be running an exciting week long event allowing the kids to learn about different cultures within our community. Cultural week activities will happen as part of our Before and After school care program. We have planned a variety of multi-cultural activities focusing on food, language, art and sport. Our hope is that by the end of the week, the children will have a new respect for the cultural diversity within their community and learn something new about their peers or even themselves. We would love to see our families get involved in our celebration of our culture next week. If you are interested, please see Charmayne or send her an email to see how you can help, charmayne@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com. We are looking forward to a great week of celebrating multi-culturalism at Kids Cottage.

KIDS COTTAGE KIDS COMMITTEE

Throughout the year Kids Cottage always strives to improve our centre so that it is a place where children can thrive and take an active role in making decisions about their world. One way we have done this is by running the Kids Cottage Kids Committee. At the start of Term 2 annually, each year group votes for two leaders to be their voice on the Kids Committee. The Kids Cottage Kids Committee meet every fortnight with Cottage management to discuss: how we can improve our programs, our routines, request any resources or make suggestions on prizes or any other concerns about Cottage they or their peers might have. We also give them leadership jobs such as taking surveys with their peers to get their input and helping to run events. Last year's Committee did a wonderful job. One of the big things they did was implement a green initiative that now sees each year group spend five minutes helping to clean up the rubbish and lost property from school grounds. Thank you Finleigh D., Rhys T., Eve K., Rayees E., Amelie N., Felix S., Lauren H., Saxon M., Alexis B., Daniel B., Scarlett S. Angus H., India R., and Josh K., our 2018 Kids Cottage Kids Committee for doing an amazing job helping to improve Cottage.

We are currently holding our election of new members for our 2019 Kids Cottage Kids Committee. It is open for any child to participate that would like to and children have been giving speeches at afternoon tea each day as to why their peers should vote for them. We are excited to meet our new Committee and to get to work implementing their ideas!

KINDY CLUB

Term 1 was a big term for everyone with getting back into the swing of school, meeting your new teachers and making new friends. But for one-year group it was a massive step, Kindy's were introduced to their new school routine for the next 12 years. Kids Cottage allowed the Kindy's to be introduced slowly to Kids Cottage life with Kindy Club in the afternoons. For the start of every afternoon, the Kindy's enjoyed some small group time from all the hustle and bustle of the older children. The club allowed the Kindy's to be introduced to the Junior leaders, and staff and create a strong, trusting relationship with them. It also allowed the Kindy's to learn our daily routine at Kids Cottage and our expectations for the children. We have seen a great improvement with the Kindy's as many have become more outgoing, more independent and more confident. Good job Kindy's. If you have not had a chance yet, check out our Kindy Club tree in the front room of Kids Cottage which introduces all of our new Kindy's giving a little glimpse of their wonderfully unique personalities and interests.



Katrina Sparkes



For those who do not know, my name is Katrina, and I'm Co-Junior group leader. I have been working at Cottage for over two years and have had the pleasure of working with the children and assisting them grow and develop into more responsible, engaging and eager individuals. In a few weeks, I'm leaving to go backpacking around Europe for 4 months before settling in the UK, where I will work and live for the next 2 years!

A big thank you to the children who have made everyday at Cottage fun and engaging. It's funny to think that children can also teach you lessons! You all have been an integral part to my own growth and development. Thank you so much for teaching me lessons I will never forget like patience and empathy, and reminding me the importance of keeping things fun and light-hearted. It has been a pleasure working at Cottage, but it's time to farewell everyone and start my new adventure. Goodbye and good luck to all families. I know your kids will grow to be the new leaders of tomorrow.

HAVE YOUR SAY

KIDS CORNER

We asked two members of our 2018 Kids Cottage Kids Committee, Finleigh D (Yr 1, represented Kindy) and Saxon M (Yr 4, represented Yr 3) to share their experience being on Kids Cottage Kids Committee. Here is what they had to say:

What did you do in the Kids Cottage Kids Committee meetings?

Finleigh- We told how we want Cottage to be better. We could do this by cleaning up the rubbish for 5 minutes.

Saxon- We gave ideas to the staff, so they could do it. We were able to ask our friends in our year what we would like to do, we did a poll. And we had yummy food like icy poles and soup.

What was your favorite thing?

Finleigh- The food

Saxon- Eating good food. And getting ideas and being able to do them at Cottage.

How has the Kids Committee benefited to Kids Cottage?

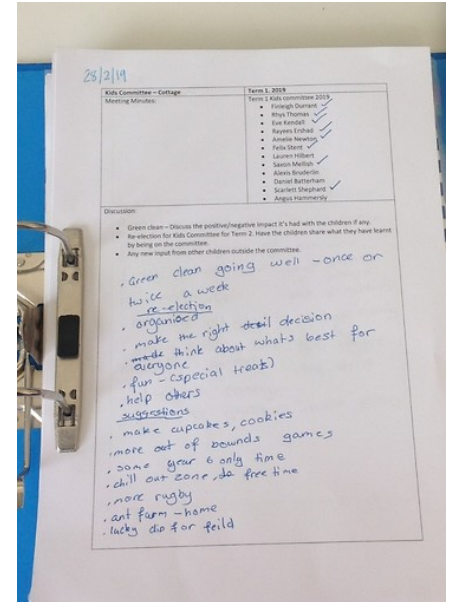
Finleigh- The staff may not have known what the kids wanted to do at cottage. So we can have more fun. I like the activities like baking rainbow chocolate cupcakes and eating them.

Saxon- We have been able to clean up the playground, as before we had a dirty playground. We also get to know more people and learn to be less selfish. As the committee allows us to think of the other kids and what they want to do. It would be unfair to just do what we want.

What advice will you give to next year's Committee?

Finleigh- You need to tell the staff how to make cottage better

Saxon- Listen to the staff, and don't be shy to tell your ideas. Do fun stuff not boring stuff.



STAFFING UPDATES

Katrina is in her final weeks at Kids Cottage. She has been an integral part of the Cottage team working her way from casual educator to junior group leader over her two years here. Katrina has planned engaging and fun Year 1 vacation care programs, welcomed new groups of Kindies and their families to Cottage and organised our Kids Christmas Party last year! She has brought a lot of life to Cottage with her bubbly personality and has built wonderful warm and respectful relationships with the children in Cottage. We will definitely miss Katrina at Cottage, but are so excited for her and her European adventure! Thank you Katrina for your dedication and contribution to Kids Cottage these past couple of years.

We welcomed Mickey back to Cottage at the start of Term 2. Mickey is one of our Senior Group leaders and she has been on maternity leave after welcoming her daughter, Kaiyah, last November. We're so excited to have Mickey back with the team!

We have a few staff away at the moment with Mia and Imogen over travelling for Term 2, Hayden on prac for his teaching degree until week 5 and Dan overseas touring with his band until August. Thank you to all our staff who are helping to fill the gaps while others are away. We look forward to catching up with all our team members when they return from their various adventures!