

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2021 | Issue 14 | Date: September 2021



Term 3 Highlights

Child Protection Week plans for a second year in a row have had to be amended however we still managed to celebrate with an afternoon dedicated to the children. The celebrations accumulating in a collaborative poster of the Middle Harbour Community that is now on display inside Cottage.

R U OK Day was commemorated on Thursday 9th of September highlighting the importance of conversations around Mental Health for all including children.

Science Week was celebrated throughout week 6 with different experiments programmed all week for the children to get involved with!

OOSH Educator's Day was celebrated in our own way at Cottage through lockdown with a pizza lunch in centre for our Permanent Team, Thank You bio's posted up for all parents to see and the come back of our Wall of Thanks for the families still attending Cottage. We will have a proper celebration once the lockdown has lifted.

Director's Message

Thank you to all families who filled in our Annual Survey, we really appreciate the feedback and support for you all. If you would like to fill in our survey here if the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTQG6JQ>

We will be sending out our responds to the feedback in informative emails to help all parents understand our centre, program, and daily running's.

For Term 3 as we are in lockdown for most of it, the team and children attending have been keeping busy by participating in a range of activities from paint and sip art class, our very own mini-Olympics, fitness challenges, gardening and so much more.

Our staff have been keeping busy through creating parent resource files for you all at home, along with planning vacation care for excursions and incentive activities, along with getting our 2022 enrolments ready for the new year.

We will be sending our 2022 Before and After School Care bookings confirmation emails in the next few weeks. This is to roll over your current 2021 bookings into next year, if your child/ren's bookings will stay the same you don't need to reply to the email. If your child/ren's bookings will change for 2022, please reply with your changes. If you have a new child staying in 2022 and you haven't already listed them on our 2022 waitlist, please do so. Here is the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXwE5tAOh-iJC0bey1_b5C5OB3PCH_jiO31XG4mWmVpaky5g/viewform

I just wanted to thank all families who wrote lovely messages to our staff for OOSH Educator's Day. We really appreciate all your support and kindness during this difficult time.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Vacation Care: We have made the decision to remain open for essential workers and single parents only or special circumstances. We will be open from 8am till 6pm. We have strict number of bookings and limited number of staff working. We have made this decision in line with the NSW Health and The Department of Education advice for parents and carers across the state are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home unless they need to be at those services. We want to ensure the health and safety of all children, staff, and local community.

Parents currently coming onto school site must be wearing a face mask and cannot come inside the centre. Our sign out iPad's have been placed outside Cottage for collection and your child will be sent out to you. We also have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available for parents to utilise at drop off and collection. Once you have collected your child/ren, we ask for you to leave the school site immediately to keep everyone safe.

Kids Cottage currently has **full Before and After School Care availability** in Term 4. If you would like to increase your permanent bookings, please contact us.

Cottage Through Lockdown

With less children at Cottage, it has provided the opportunity to think outside the box when it comes to our crafts. We have had lots of fun running our own Paint & Sip following along with instructions guiding the children step by step. We also completed a simple crayon art which allowed children of all ages to participate with brilliant results. It has been great to see all children joining in the craft activities and flexing their creative muscles in the process!

Olympic fever took over Cottage for two weeks in July with everyone a buzz with the Olympic Spirit. This was heightened even further when our very own Faith Nathan was playing with the entire community cheering her on! We held Mini Olympics where the children got to test their skills and dream of being in the Brisbane Olympics in 2032. The children competed in discus, shotput, 100m hurdles and relay races having lots of fun along the way.

We have had brilliant weather throughout this lockdown which has allowed us to keep the children running around out in the fresh air soaking up some sunshine! The mix of age groups at Cottage has led to the older children taking on a leadership role and teaching the younger children some new outdoor group games. The Junior have been enjoying the challenge of the older games developing their hand eye coordination and team-work skills in the process.

We always have a strong focus on sustainability and looking after the environment at Kids Cottage which has continued into lockdown. The children have enjoyed helping the team maintain and water the veggie garden out the front of Cottage for Steve getting a sprinkling themselves in the process. We have also had lots of boxes arriving at Cottage which the children have enjoyed using their imagination to turn them into houses, robots and spaceships!



Faith Nathan Tokyo Olympics

Over three nail biting days at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics our very own Educator Faith Nathan competed as part of the Australian Women's Rugby 7's team.

Day one of the pool round had the Australian team debut match against the host nation Japan. The Australian women were in excellent form dominating the field and ending the match 48-0. Their second match that evening against China had Australia showing their impeccable abilities on the field again ending the match up 26-10.

Day two was a tougher affair for the Australians with two nail biting matches against the United States and Fiji. Both matches were close however Australia was sadly lost both matches by just 2 points.

The Aussies picked themselves up for the final day of the competition smashing their first match against the Russian Olympic Committee winning 35-7. This put them in contention for 5th position in the competition, they just had to win against the United States who they had versed the night before. The Australians came out and gave it everything they had and won 17-7 proving you should never give up!

Everyone in the Kids Cottage Community is extremely proud of Faith's achievements and her hard work and dedication throughout the lead up to the Olympics. We cannot wait to celebrate with her when she is back at Cottage soon.

STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

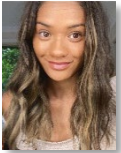
To end off Term 3, we thought we would share the break-down of our teams that work with your children every day at Cottage. Our Team is split into three groups most afternoons however our Educators may work across year groups when needed. We try to keep our team with the same age groups for consistency for the children and allow them the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with the children in their care.

Juniors

Imogen:
Group Leader



Faith:
Assist Group Leader



Maddie:
Educator



Lily:
Educator



Luke:
Educator



Matt:
Educator



Tom:
Educator



Seniors

Joe:
Group Leader



Katrina:
Group Leader



Gabe:
Educator



Adam:
Educator



Kennedy:
Educator



Winiata:
Educator



Jasper:
Educator

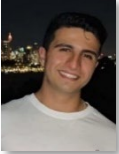


Kids Club

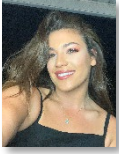
Kalani:
Group Leader



Regan:
Assist Group Leader



Will:
Educator



Aaliyah:
Educator



Brittany:
Educator

Taye:
Educator

Isla:
Educator

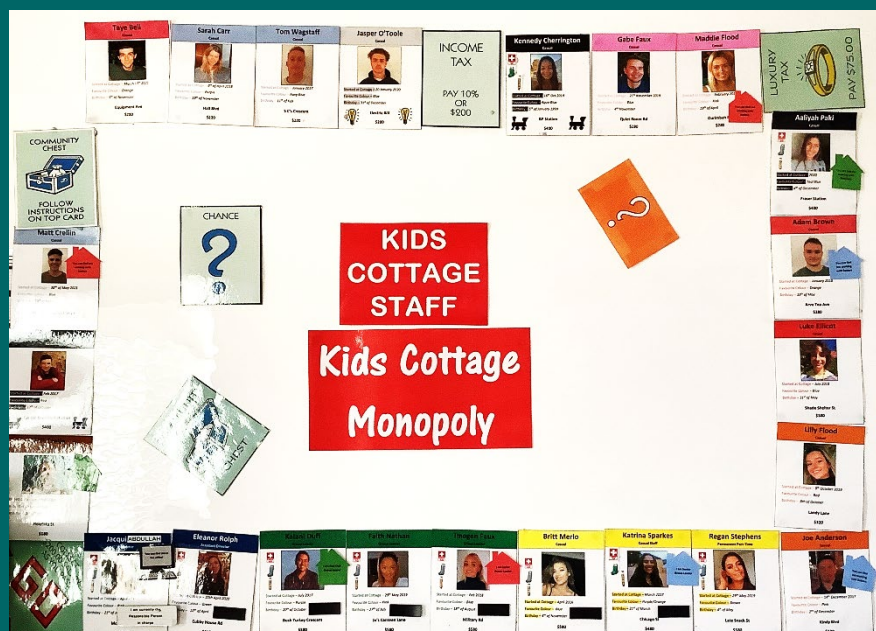
Kids Cottage Staff Monopoly Wall

Ever wondered who is working at Cottage each morning or afternoon? Have you ever noticed the different houses on our Monopoly Wall move?

Every morning and afternoon we update our Staffing Monopoly wall to reflect who is working that shift and where they can be found at Cottage.

We have different colour houses representing Juniors, Seniors and Kids Club in the afternoon along with Houses for Before School Care showing who is in the making breakfast, running the craft and the outdoor activities.

There are also some fun facts about each Team member shared on their profile so if you find yourself with a few spare minutes, have a read you never know what you might discover.



Child Safe Standard 1:

Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture

Through implementing the Child Safe Standard 1, Kids Cottage has made a public commitment to child safety and our Management Team champion a child safe culture both inside and outside of Kids Cottage.

Child safety is a shared responsibility by all members of the Kids Cottage Team at all levels of the Centre.

Risk management plans have been developed and implemented focusing on identifying, preventing and lowering risks to children in our care.

All team members have signed the Kids Cottage Child Safe Codes of Conduct that sets clear behavioural standards when interacting with children.

All Team members as part of ongoing training understand their obligations in reporting, sharing information and keeping records surrounding child safety.

QIP Development:

Our Quality Improvement Plan is a self-assessment tool that guides us to assess our performance in delivering quality education and care helping us plan for future improvement.

It is updated annually allowing us the opportunity to reflect on the improvement plan set from the year before and then create a new plan for the year ahead.

The QIP is a working document with progress notes being written in throughout the year to document progress on our improvement plans for each Quality Area.

Our QIP is always accessible to all families with the printed document being found next to the sign out iPads at the front of Cottage.

We would love parent input into our QIP development. Our first Quality Improvement is to *'Increase the children's agency within the service providing more direct influence on choices and decisions that impact events in their world.'*

Postcards from the Future

Mosman's younger residents are being invited to have their say on how Mosman should look in 2032.

Primary school students are being asked to draw their future Mosman on a postcard, showing what they want Mosman to be like in 2032 for Mosman Council's 'Postcards from the Future' project. There are prizes of \$250 and \$150 gift vouchers to be won for the best entries.

There is a [template](#) for the children to complete their drawings on which once completed can either be uploaded onto the Your Voices Mosman website or emailed directly.

Entries close Thursday 30 September 2021. If you would like more information or upload your child's completed template, please head to:

<https://www.yourvoicemosman.com.au/postcards>



Child Safe Policy at Cottage

A common theme that came out of our Annual Survey is that families are not aware of our Child Safe Policies and Practices at Kids Cottage. As a result, we are going to share with all families over our upcoming newsletters our Child Safe Policies and Practices implemented at Cottage.

Child Safe Policy Statement

Here at The Kids Cottage, we want children who participate in our program to have a safe and happy experience. We support and respect our children, their families, and our staff. All children attending our service are provided with a safe environment.

Children's wellbeing is paramount, and children will be actively involved in decision-making to provide an environment that encourages them to reach their potential. Procedures to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are in place and regularly rehearsed.

At the Kids Cottage Middle Harbour, our policy guides employees, (paid and volunteers) on how to behave when interacting and engaging with children in the service. This policy concentrates on how we can build and maintain a child safe environment which is inclusive, transparent and promotes children's participation.

Kids Cottage Christmas Closure

As per usual Kids Cottage will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas period. As Christmas is falling on a Saturday this year Kids Cottage will be open for Vacation Care up until the 23rd of December and then re-opening on Monday the 10th for January Vacation Care.

Our December and Summer Vacation Care dates are as followed.

Thursday 16th–Thursday 23rd December

Monday 10th–Tuesday 1st February

Our December Vacation Care program will be sent out and bookings opened on Friday 19th of November along with our January Vacation Care program 3 weeks later, the 10th of December.

If you have any questions about our Christmas Closure dates or our Summer Vacation Care program, please contact us via info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

5th-11th September 2021

Here at Kids Cottage, we the staff priorities putting children first. We put the children's safety and well-being before anything else and it is at the forefront of every decision that is made at Kids Cottage. To grow up well children need to feel safe and loved, have a chance to play and explore, have a say in decisions that affect them, and access to essential things like food, shelter and healthcare.

This year National Child Protection Week Theme is '**Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.**' To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.

The 2021 theme for National Child Protection Week is all about the importance of the 'bigger picture' in addressing child abuse and neglect. Children can thrive and be healthy when they have what they need to develop well. But not every family has these resources. This is why we need to support every child, family and community according to their needs. This will create a healthier, fairer Australia for all children.

Due to COVID-19 and restrictions we will be celebrating only with the children who attend cottage that week. Throughout the week we will having discussions with all children about ways we keep them safe and running child protection activities. We will also be discussing as a community how we keep each other safe.

We do encourage all families to have their own discussions about National Child Protection Week and ways to keep them safe. We have also put together a [Child Protection pack](#) for all families at home, this pack includes an art and craft activity getting the children to draw what their neighbourhood should look like. We would like any families who complete this activity to send a picture of their child/ren's artwork and we will print it and display it as part of our Kids Cottage Neighbourhood Community mural at the centre. These activities provide all parents the opportunity to have discussions with their children on Child Protection.

Here at Kids Cottage we would love to hear all about your child's week and any ways you celebrated with your child/ren, so please comment on any of our Child Protection Week posts on Xplor Playground.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:cf04f32e-f0e0-4dde-8306-b82bbabbccdd>



ARTWORK BY: School Plus Worongary, QLD (OSHC, ages 5-12yrs)

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

5 - 11 September 2021

NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Find out more
www.napcan.org.au