

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2021 | Issue 10 | Date: 23rd March 2021



Term 1 Wrap Up

2022 Waitlist: Our 2022 waitlist will open on Wednesday 31st March to place your child's name down for an enrolment for 2022. The form will be sent out to our 2022 families and be posted up on our website for you to complete.

Biting Truth: visited Kids Cottage on Wednesday 24th February to teach the Juniors all about healthy eating. The Giant Pineapple was a real highlight for all the kids!

Harmony Week: will be celebrated at Kids Cottage throughout week 9 of this term from the 22nd to the 26th of March. Please join us as we celebrate all the different cultures and communities that make up Kids Cottage!

Vacation Care Dates: Vacation Care will be running from Tuesday 6th to Monday 19th April with lots of fun filled activities to keep the children entertained during the holidays.

Director's Message

This week we are celebrating Cultural Week, with the group leader's planning a wide range of activities in before and after school care. Along with Imogen planning a new type of culture dish for afternoon tea each afternoon. We are also sharing staff culture profiles on the Xplor app these profiles give you all a little information on individual staff and their cultural background.

We welcome back Mickey Murphy this week, as she has been on maternity leave since November 2020. Mickey is exciting to see all the children and meet the new Kindy's and their families. Mickey will be working three afternoons a week helping to assist with the team on the floor, along with admin tasks.

This week will my last week before I go and get married on Thursday 1st April. I will be taking 3 weeks of annual leave as I prepare for the wedding and have a trip to Perth for the first time to see my fiancé family and have a honeymoon. Eleanor will be in charge and Mickey will be helping in the office. The team fully prepared for a fun vacation care and hopeful a dry one!

Thank you to all the of the families who have filled in our survey monkey on Care needs and The Parent Management Committee. If you have not already filled in it feel free to fill it in.

In Term 2, Imogen has planned a fundraiser for the Heart Foundation- Do it for hearts. We will be running a bake sale on Wednesday 28th of April. Kids Cottage wants to give back to the community through this fundraiser and our aim is to raise not just funds but awareness to the local community. We would like for all families to be involved by either baking treats for us to sell or buying the baked goods, we hope you are able to make it. Cakes will be sold from 3pm so please come along and donate. If you are unable to come on that day, we also have a page set up for you to donate manually. Here is the link: <https://www.doitforheart.org.au/fundraisers/imogenfaux>

We hope to see you there!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

FULL AVAILABILITY: For the first time in a very long time as of the start of this year Kids Cottage has full availability for both Before and After School Care. We have cleared the waitlist and so if you were looking at adding a day to your permanent bookings or have not used Kids Cottage for a while and thought your place was lost please send us an email and we will get your child/ren back on the roll.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT: Did you know that Kids Cottage is a not-for-profit P&C run service with all the proceeds from our Before, After and Vacation Care fees going back into the school community. Our Kids Cottage Committee is run by a brilliant team of volunteers who are all parents of the school and utilise Kids Cottage on a weekly basis. We hold a Committee meeting twice a term to discuss the daily running of Kids Cottage along with future plans a goals for the year. Our Kids Cottage Committee is currently looking to recruit new members with a strong focus on parents with a background in Law. If you would like to volunteer and join our dynamic Committee, please send us an email at info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com

Autumn Vacation Care 2021



Our **Kindy and Yr 1** program is jam packed full of exciting in service activities including build a bear workshop, Sports Carnival and Princess and Super Hero's Day. We are also getting out of Cottage on some brilliant excursions including Taronga Zoo, Wild Play @ Centennial Park and the Maritime Museum. If you have not sent in your booking forms yet do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out on days.

Our **Year 2** program has something for everyone with a wide variety of days planned to keep all children entertained. From an Amazing Race around Clifton Gardens to a trip out to the new Sydney Zoo and even a voyage of discovery under the sea at the Maritime Museum your children will be spoiled for choice. If you have not sent in your booking forms yet do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out on days.



Year 3 and Year 4 will be setting off on an adventure to Cockatoo Island, joining the year 2's on a trip out to Sydney Zoo and scaling to new heights at Rockhouse Brookvale. They will also be brushing up on their acting skills as they create their own Kids Cottage film and become mini scientists for the day without even leaving Kids Cottage. If you have not sent in your booking forms yet do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out on days.



We have kept the best for last with **Year 5 and Year 6** heading across Sydney these school holidays from The Sydney Royal Easter Show to showing off their skating skills at Maximum Skating and slipping and sliding at Cable's Aqua Park! Staying closer to home they will be cooking up a storm in the new Kids Cottage Kitchen and competing in their very own Game Show. If you have not sent in your booking forms yet do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out on days.



Kids Cottage Sustainable Practices

Kids Cottage is having a big push this year to embed sustainable practices into our everyday operations. We are having a strong focus on recyclable craft and gardening initiatives building on the children's knowledge and understanding of caring for the planet we call home.

Part of our incentives is to get the families and community involved which is where you come in. If you have any single use plastic bottles at home or cardboard boxes that you would like to see have a second life, please donate them to Kids Cottage and we will utilise them in our recycled craft and gardening programs.

Our children have already come up the with great ideas for using the water bottles as planter pots for seeds and turning them into bird feeders to attract a greater variety of birds into the school.

We are also planning for each of our year groups to create their own collaborative recycled mural to display in Cottage instilling in the children the mantra of reduce, reuse, and recycle.



STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

To wrap up the term and before the commencement of Vacation Care we thought we would introduce some of our long-standing Casual Educators. For those of you who have been attending Kids Cottage, these will all be very familiar faces who have been looking after you for many years now however if you are new or returning to Kids Cottage, they may be unfamiliar faces. Our Casual team work tirelessly each morning and afternoon to make your children's time at Cottage as fun as possible. They can often be found at Kids Cottage during before school care, after school care and the twice a week attending team meetings, training on child development and best practices within the out-of-school hours care industry.

Jake Sagi



This is Jake's fifth year at Kids Cottage starting out as a Junior Staff member and then moving up to casual once he had turned 18. When Jake is not at Cottage, he can be found on the Basketball court both playing and Coaching along with him being an avid rock-climbing enthusiast!

Adam Brown



This is Adam's fourth year at Kids Cottage with him wearing many hats over the years. He is now one of our casual Educators and can be found at Cottage most afternoons. When Adam is not at Cottage, he can be found playing the piano or playing Basketball for his local club.

Maddie Flood



This is Maddie's fourth year at Kids Cottage with her being found with the Junior year group most afternoons. When not at Cottage Maddie can be found flexing her acting skills and spending time with her family. Kids Cottage has been a family affair with both her brother and sister working at Cottage too.

Luke Ellicott



This is Luke's fourth year at Kids Cottage with him also being found when he is at Cottage with the Junior year group. Luke's strength at Cottage is with the Craft or cooking activities with him getting all the children engaged and excited for any activity programmed.

TERM 2 EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have two Extra Curricular activities lined up for Term 2 2021 for your child/ren to get involved with. They will both be an 8-week program commencing week 2 at a cost of \$8 per session totaling \$64 for the entire program. We are offering if your child/ren would like to try out the program a taster class where you will only be charged the one off \$8 for the first session to see if your child/ren enjoy it. If they do, we will then book them in for the remaining 7 weeks of the program. The first trial \$8 charge will be added during week 2 of term with the remaining 7 weeks charge being added the following week if your child wishes to continue with the program.

Kids Cottage is pleased to announce that the NSW Waratah's will be back joining Kids Cottage during Term 2 to run a 1-hour program each Thursday morning from 7:30am commencing week 2. They will be teaching the children the core basic skills of rugby involving catching and passing, attack and defense along with team building exercises.

We have also lined up an 8-week Hip Hop style Dance program on Tuesday afternoons that will commence week 2 of Term 2 for ages K-Yr6. These will again be one-hour sessions from 4pm- 5pm where the children will build on their knowledge and skills of dance developing their rhythmic abilities whilst having so much fun!

If you would like to book your child/ren in for either one of our programs (or both!) please send us an email and we will book them in.

Kids Cottage Survey

Kids Cottage has created a short survey for you all on any upcoming changes in your care needs.

As we understand, businesses are encouraging their employees to transition back into the office over the next 3 to 6 months we would like to help you organise such a transition.

Along with updating your care needs we have explained our Parent Management Committee role at Kids Cottage including information on joining the Committee if you wish. We cannot wait to hear from all our families.

Please find the link to the survey below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HLXQ9JH>