

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Term 4, 2019 | Issue 4 | Date: 22 October 2019



KEY DATES

31 Oct: Halloween! Onsite trick'o'treating for K-3 & local neighbourhood trick'o'treating for 4-6 with parental permission

1 Nov: Kindy Orientation

10 Nov: MHPS School Carnival!

15 Nov: MHPS School Disco-
Dance of the Decades; Christmas
Vacation Care program available

6 Dec: Kids' Christmas Party at
Kids Cottage afterschool; Summer
Vacation Care program available

19-20 Dec: Christmas Vacation
Care

21 Dec to 5 Jan: Kids Cottage
Closed for holidays

6 Jan: Kids Cottage reopens for
Summer vacation Care

Director's Message

Thank you to all of you who completed our Annual Feedback Survey in August. We greatly value your opinions and the comments you provided in the survey as well as suggestions for the program were extremely helpful. Please know that we always welcome your feedback, suggestions for improvements and ideas of activities we could do with the children. Feel free to make speak to any staff member at any time, send us an email or leave a note in our parent communication book, which is next to the sign in/out iPads.

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of our displays in Kids Cottage hopefully to answer some questions that arose in the survey.



PROGRAM WALL: You will find our programs for before and after school care on the wall directly opposite the sign in/out iPads. Staff meet weekly to create these programs. They come up with activities for both the indoor and outdoor environments. On this wall are also our input sheets, this is where staff record children's ideas for our program as well as families. Most of our programmed activities come from children and family inputs with staff filling in any gaps with ideas of their own. We welcome families to have a read of our programs and see what the children are up to everyday as well as add your own inputs for activities to try – a box of pens is located on the wall!

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Every year Kids Cottage creates a Quality Improvement Plan for the centre. We reflect on each National Quality Standard - what we are doing well and what we would like to do better. These reflections along with input from the children and our Parent Management Committee and feedback from our families then form our annual goals for the centre. We monitor our progress on our desired areas of improvement regularly throughout the year. Our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) can be found next to the sign in/out iPads, feel free to have a read if you are interested. If you would like more information about Quality Improvement Plans or our National Standards, visit <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessment/quality-improvement-plans>.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SUN PROTECTION: Children must wear a Kids Cottage hat during Kids Cottage hours. All children will receive a Kids Cottage hat free of charge on their first day of attendance. New hats are available for purchase from the office if necessary. If a child does not have their Kids Cottage hat, we will provide them with a spare hat. Please note that use of spare hats does incur a \$1 laundry fee. If your child refuses to wear a spare hat, they will be required to remain indoors for until at least 4:30pm as per our sun protection policy.

SIGN IN/OUT: All parents/guardians/grandparents/carers collecting children from Kids Cottage must be authorised to do so. All authorised persons will have their own sign in/out account and need to use their own account each time they drop off or collect a child. If another parent or a grandparent or someone is collecting just one time, please let the centre know by emailing the office on info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com. If a non-authorised person comes to collect your child, we will ring you for permission before allowing them to remove the child from our care. Please make sure we are aware of any carpool situations for sports & extracurriculars – we must have permission in writing for anyone other than one of your authorised collectors to pick up your child from Cottage.

Term 4 Events @ Cottage Highlights

Happy Halloween! Join us for a party and trick or treating on **Thursday 31st October** during after school care, 3.30pm to 5pm. Children are encouraged to bring costumes to change into and permission notes for children in Year 4 to 6 for trick or treating in the local neighbourhood will be sent home soon. For Kindy to Year 3, we will have a party and trick or treating at the centre!



Come dance the night away with us at the School Disco on **Friday 15th November**! Look out for more details to come and how to purchase tickets via Skoolbag and from the P&C Small Events Committee!

Kindy & Year 1: 3.30pm to 5pm

Year 2 & Year 3: 5:15pm to 6:45pm

Year 4 to 6: 7-8.30pm (Doors open at 6.50pm)



It's going to be a Monster of good time at our Kids Christmas Party on **Friday 6th December**! The party starts at 3.30pm and will rage until 6pm. There will be fairy floss, snow cones, a bouncy house and more! All families including siblings are welcome to join. Please note that children must be booked into Cottage for the afternoon or have a parent supervising them at the party. There is also a \$5 charge for children not booked into Cottage for the afternoon. Official invitation to come so watch your email!



STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

All our staff are featured on the wall above the sign in/out iPads. We also update this wall daily to indicate the staff that are working that morning or afternoon. All staff who are working with our Junior Group – Kindies & Year 1 are indicated with Red tags with the group leader identified. Our staff working with our Senior Group – Year 2 & Year 3 are indicated with Blue tags with the group leader identified. Finally, our staff working with our Kids Club Group – Years 4-6 are indicated with Green tags with the group leader identified.

Each afternoon, we also have one experienced staff member who is managing the afternoon as the Senior Assistant. This staff member is identified with a Pink tag. We also have at least one staff member managing the office each afternoon & they are indicated with orange tags.

Finally, everyday there is one staff member onsite who is the Responsible Person in charge. This is indicated on our staff wall with a magnet underneath the staff members profile information. There are only a limited number of our staff who can be this person & that is because they have completed all the training required for the role – first aid, CPR, anaphylaxis, asthma & child protection. They have also worked at the centre for over one year and are either part of the management team or a group leader.



HEAR FROM OUR YEAR SIXES

We love asking our year sixes this time of year about their favourite things about Kids Cottage and advice they'd have for new children starting at Kids Cottage.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE KIDS COTTAGE MEMORY?

Rashi – My favourite memory at Kids Cottage is making friends.

Aidan – My favourite memory at Kids Cottage is the adorable ducks.

Aliya – My favourite memory at Kids Cottage is when I made my friends.

Eleanor – My favourite memory at Cottage is being able to meet new staff and making great relationships.

Anton – I liked going to Luna Park.

Mizuki – I liked going to Wet'N'Wild.

Charlie – I liked going to Archie Brothers' Arcade.

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE A NEW CHILD STARTING AT KIDS COTTAGE?

Eleanor – The older kids at Cottage have been here a long time and can happily welcome you to your new start at Cottage and show you around.

Rashi – To not care about what other people say about you if they hurt your feelings.

Aidan – If you're feeling down, always remember Kids Cottage is here for you.

Aliyah – If you feel sad or lonely go hang out with some people that are around as you never know they might become your new best friend.

Mizuki – Try to not get any warnings or strikes!

Anton, Sam and Charlie – Try to get on the good side of the staff!

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU FEEL YOU'VE LEARNT AT KIDS COTTAGE OVER THE YEARS?

Rashi – To be friendly to others

Aidan – To enjoy the time

Aliya – That no matter what, your friends and the staff all care about you and have your back.

Eleanor – To have a positive attitude to all staff members and kids and remember to treat others the way that you want to be treated.

Charlie – To appreciate the staff more because as you get older, the little kids can be hard to deal with and they must deal with them. Also, I've learnt how to build social skills.

Sam – I learned that I can make good friends and how to make crepes.

Anton – I learned in kindy how to be away from your parents during the day and how to be patient.

Mizuki – I learned how to make brownies.

ANY FINAL COMMENTS ABOUT YOUR TIME AT KIDS COTTAGE?

Rashi – I have loved the time I spent at Cottage.

Aidan – Thank you!

Aliya – It has been a fun; memorable place and I have learned a lot.

Eleanor – That I have really enjoyed learning new things and have been excited to come to Cottage when the school day is over. Thank you, Cottage!

Charlie – It's ok if your best friends don't attend Cottage because you can make other friends.

Anton – Try to make friends as soon as you can because sometimes it can be trickier to find a friend group later.

Sam – This is a great after school care compared to others out there, we're lucky!

PLANNING FOR 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Believe it or not it is time to start planning for next year! Soon we will be giving out before and after school care places for the 2020 school year. You should have received an email from us on 1st October confirming your bookings for next year. You only need to respond to the email if you have any changes to your current bookings. If you do not need to make any changes, we will automatically roll over all your current bookings to next year. If your child is changing schools, please ensure you have let us know this in writing so that we do not roll your bookings over. If your child is in Year 6 and moving on from Middle Harbour at the end of this year, we will automatically end their bookings for you. All bookings for next year need to be confirmed by Friday 25th October. We have several new families starting at Middle Harbour next year who are anxiously waiting to hear whether they will receive any before and after school care places next year! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com or when you're next in the centre.

Also, please ensure that we have updated contact details, address, dietary requirements, medical needs and list of authorised collectors. If you are unsure of the details we have, please send us an email and we can check for you.

HELP US OUT WITH DONATIONS!

As you can imagine, we go through a lot of resources at Kids Cottage. We have had several parents ask us if we take donations of toys and other resources. The answer is YES! If you have any toys, games, puzzles, sports equipment or craft supplies that you are looking to rehome please let us know. We ask that anything you offer to us be in good working condition and have all its pieces. Below are a few things that we are especially always looking for:

- Paper – white, coloured, patterned, fancy & any size
- Paint & Paintbrushes
- Beads, Embroidery floss, thread, string & wool
- Textas, pencils & rubbers
- Scrapbooks, magazines & newspapers
- Playdough
- Home corner supplies – dressups, play kitchen food & dishes
- Construction – Lego & Building blocks

Thank you in advance for your generosity & thinking of us before you throw away or recycle unwanted toys & supplies.

