

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2020 | Issue 7 | Date: 3rd August 2020



Term 2 Recap

Term two must have been one of the strangest 10 weeks that Kids Cottage has ever experienced but what got us through was the exceptional team, children, families and community that we had supporting us every step of the way.

We all made the most of the reduced numbers attending each day with children making new friends and the team coming up with new activities and games to keep all entertained. With reduced numbers we were able to think outside the box and run whole service games such as an Amazing Race around the school and Giant Monopoly. These games were so much fun for both the children and team creating a real sense of connection and community.

We cannot wait to see more familiar faces returning to Cottage in Term 3 from both children and educators to our supportive families.

Director's Message

Welcome back to all our children and families! We sure did miss you all in Term 2.

For Term 3 we will be celebrating National Child Protection Week on 6th -12th September. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year's celebration will be celebrated with the children who attend cottage that week. This year's theme is 'Putting Children First'. We will be doing this at cottage by having the children program their own week and pick all their favourite afternoon teas and late snack. We will also be having conversation with the children on how we put them first here at cottage and how we protect them. We encourage all families to do the same over the week, we will love to hear how your conversations went and how your child/ren enjoyed their week at cottage, so please comment on our Kinderloop post during that week. If you have not signed up to Kinderloop please ask our staff or contact the office to sign up.

As you are may all be aware, Kids Cottage has had a going after school care waitlist, currently we have full availability for Before and After School Care. If you are interested in adding an extra day or picking up a few mornings, please contact us and we are happy to help.

During Term 1 we started to run our Waratah's Footy Clinic, as this was very popular, we had decided to bring in Mosman Soccer Club to run a 5-week clinic starting Thursday 20th 7:30am-8:30am at our Before School Care session. If you are interested in joining please contact us to book in, you can book in as a permanent for the 5-week course or a casual week to week.

We are also looking for ideas from the children and parents as to what other activities you would like us to run here at Kids Cottage. Please fill in the survey monkey form using the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W5KQHR5>

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

14 DAY CANCELLATION POLICY:

Kids Cottage has now moved from a 7 to 14-day cancellation policy. This means that if you wish to amend or end your permanent bookings or remove a one-off day you will need to give us 14 days' notice. If you miss the 14-day window to remove your bookings those bookings will be marked as absent and you will still be charged. This increase has been made to align us with other services cancellation policies and assist with rostering on the correct number of staff for the number of children booked.

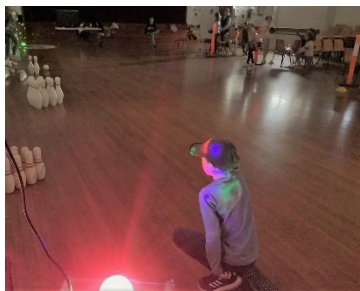
REMOVAL OF TERMLY SUSPENSIONS:

Due to our reduction in booking numbers and subsequently clearing our waitlist Kids Cottage has removed the option for termly suspensions for permanent bookings. This means that if you wish to not utilise Kids Cottage for a term you will either have to end your permanent bookings or email every two weeks to remove your bookings without charge as per our new 14 day cancellation policy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this transition period.

Kids Cottage currently has full Before and After School Care availability in Term 3 due to a reduction in permanent bookings. If you would like to increase your permanent bookings, please contact us.

Winter Vacation Care Highlights

Our Winter Vacation Care although quiet and in centre was still jammed packed full of fun activities to keep all entertained throughout the school holidays with lots of children not wanting to leave at collection! The children were split into two age groups with the programs developed in line with their interests and developmental stages along with providing time and space each day for spontaneous activities and free play dependent of the children's interests at the time.



On 9th July the Juniors embarked on a Treasure Hunt around the school finding clues to decode an encryption which lead them to the hidden treasure. The children had to work together in teams and use problem solving skills to crack the clues whilst having lots of fun along the way!

On the 15th July we had one of our most popular activities Bowling in the Dark where the Hall was transformed into our very own private bowling alley with disco lights and music. The children had so much fun in the lanes that the Seniors wanted to join in too.

On the 13th July the Seniors headed down to Balmoral Beach for their Amazing Race. The children had to complete challenges including navigation, awareness, fitness and collaboration in order to win the Amazing Race with all wanting it to be programmed again!

On the 14th the Seniors got in touch with their inner artist and embarked on a Paint and Sip day with great artworks created by all.



Kids During Vacation Care

After a fun filled Vacation Care we wanted to get some feedback from the children on what was their favourite activity. These were a few of their responses.

Anja – “The scavenger hunt around the neighbourhood as we got to use our direction skills to find our way round”

Sophie – “Loved the Paint and Sip day as we got to have yummy drinks and do some great artwork”

Lilla – “My favourite day was PJ Day as we got to wear our pyjamas to school!”

Ethan – “Having our very own private bowling alley with disco lights in the hall”

Billie – “Getting our face painted on Colour Day”

Hopefully we will be able to incorporate some of their favourite activities into our next Vacation Care program for the spring school holidays. The Spring Vacation Care program should be finalised and sent out to all Middle Harbour parents by the end of Week 6 of Term 3.

If you or your children have any suggestions on what they would like to see on the program next Vacation Care, please let one of the team know and we will pass it on to our group leaders. Hopefully it will include some more excursions!

STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

We thought we would start off term 3 by reintroducing some old casual faces that you have not seen around Cottage for a little while. For those of you who have been attending Kids Cottage, these will all be very familiar faces however they have been on hiatus for Term 2. Our casual team work tirelessly each shift to make the children's time at Kids Cottage as engaging and fun during both our before and after school care programs. They can often be found at Kids Cottage during before school care, after school care and at team meetings and Professional Development Training sessions and we could not run the centre without them.



My Name is Gabe and I am 18 years old. I have been working at the Kids Cottage since February of 2020. I am from Liverpool in the UK and many of you may know my sister Imogen who works at Cottage too. I love working at Cottage as I get to put my passion for sports into my job and pass on my skills and knowledge to the children we care for. I am glad to be back at work, please come and say hi if you see me around Cottage.



My Name is Jasper and I am 18 years old. I have been working at the Kids Cottage since February of 2020. I attended Middle Harbour myself and went to cottage every week for the 7 years I attended the school. I love working at Cottage as the Team gets along well and have very similar interests. Working with kids reminds me of my time at primary school and how much fun I used to have being there. I am currently studying a Bachelor of Property Economics at UTS.

SEEKING FEEDBACK

Thank you for your support of The Kids Cottage. We greatly enjoy having the opportunity to look after your children and highly value your feedback.

It would be much appreciated if you would please take a few minutes to answer our survey. It's completely anonymous and the more responses the better, so we are happy to have the feedback of more than one carer per family. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SR9XS2G>

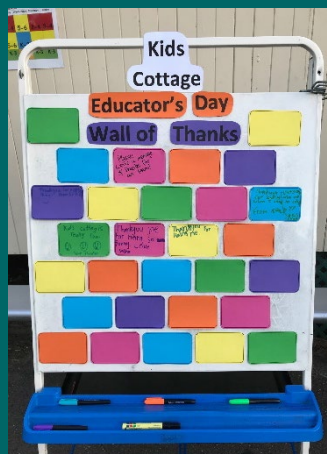
National Educators Day 2020

On the 29th July we celebrated Educators Day which gave us the opportunity to say thank you and show our appreciation for the amazing team of educators we have working at Kids Cottage.

Leading up to the day we created the 'Kids Cottage Wall of Thanks' which gave the children and families the opportunity to write a message of thanks to our wonderful team for all they do each day. The wall was a huge success filling up each afternoon with more wonderful comments. A curated selection of messages has been chosen and placed up as a permanent fixture in Cottage to remind the team of how appreciated they are. If you missed out on completing a brick on the Wall of Thanks, we will have some spare bricks around Cottage for the next few weeks for you to complete.

On the day we held a team lunch to show our appreciation for all the educators who do each day and shared the messages from the Wall of Thanks. Throughout the afternoon we continued the celebrations with a large Educator verse Children game of Bomb the Bin which was a crowd favourite with all joining in.

We want to take the final opportunity to do a big shout out to our amazing team, we could not run such a successful service without your dedication and commitment.



KIDS COTTAGE P&C COMMITTEE

The Kids Cottage is a non-profit organization managed by a volunteer Committee of parents and school community members running as a sub-committee of the Middle Harbour Public School P&C.

With several members of the committee finishing up at Middle Harbour at the end of the school year they are actively recruiting new members to join the Committee and be a part of running of Kids Cottage. Our Sub-Committee meets once a month over wine and nibbles to discuss the operations, budget and day to day running of Kids Cottage.

The Sub-Committee are looking for new members who are interested in being part of a close nit team that that gives back to the Middle Harbour Community.

If you are interested in joining this dynamic team, please contact Kids Cottage and we will pass your details onto Mandy our Kids Cottage P&C President.