

# THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

Term 2 2nd, 2022 | Issue 21 | Date: June 2022



## Term 2 Wrap Up

**July Vacation Care:** Kids Cottage will be open for Vacation Care over the winter school holidays from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of July to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Koori Kinnections:** on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May our Koori Kinnections came to Kids Cottage and ran a workshop on First Nations customs and Histories. They will be back next term to run a workshop for our Senior year group.

**International Day of Yoga:** will be celebrated at Kids Cottage on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of June with our children participating in a group yoga session during after school care.

**The Biting Truth:** Are coming to Kids Cottage on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June to run a nutrition workshop for our Senior year group focusing on healthy lunchboxes.

**OOSH Educators Day:** We will be celebrating OOSH Educators day on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. We will have activities set up enabling the children and families to show their appreciation for the hard work of our Educators every day!

## Director's Message

As we reach the end of Term 2 and halfway through the schooling year for 2022, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the dedicated team of Educators who put their heart and soul into Kids Cottage every day and make it an enjoyable environment to be apart of each day, both for the children and Educators. This dedication has been highlighted with Kids Cottage being listed as a Finalise in the 2022 Local Business Awards North Shore in the Early Childhood category. This is a great honour for all involved in Kids Cottage with the winner being announced at the Awards Evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August at Kirribilli Club.

We have had a busy term at Kids Cottage with lots of highlights along the way. We have had two brilliant extra-curricular activities on offer for the children to get involved with including a Cartoon workshop and Martial Arts. The children have loved both programs with more children wanting to join in throughout the term.

We also had Koori Kinnections come to Kids Cottage and run an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, culture, and customs workshop with our Juniors on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The children's highlight was the teachings on the uses of the plants in the indigenous garden at the front of the school including turning a leaf into a whistle so you could be found out in the bush. Koori Kinnections will be returning in Term 3 and 4 to run a workshop for our Senior and Kids Club year groups.

We have a fantastic Vacation Care programs on offer over the July School Holidays for your children to get involved with. We have excursions planned every second day to get the children out and about around Sydney along with many exciting days planned back at Kids Cottage. Bookings are coming in fast with many days filling up so please get your booking forms in as soon as possible to avoid your child/ren missing out!

Thank you for another great term at Kids Cottage. We hope you have a restful school holiday, and we hope to see you all back in Term 3.

# Term 2 Reminders

**Winter:** As we head into the winter months at Kids Cottage it is getting darker earlier resulting in a dramatic drop in temperature through the afternoon. Our winter policy states that no child can be outside after 5pm without a jumper during the winter months. If your child/ren are going to be at Cottage past 5pm, can you please ensure they have a jumper in their bag, so they do not miss out on the group activities with their friends. When it becomes too dark to be outside the children will be transitioned down to the hall between 5pm and 5:45pm. If you are collecting within these times, please show patience as it can take a bit longer for your child to make their way back up to Kids Cottage to be collected.

**Casual Bookings:** As numbers are picking up for after school care our availability for casual, last-minute bookings are reducing with Tuesday and Thursday afternoons being our busiest. If you are needing a casual after school care booking on either a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, please provide us with as much notice as possible to ensure we have space for your child. If booking in on the day we may not have space available for your child/ren.

## July Vacation Care Highlights

We have a jammed packed Winter Vacation Care program to keep your child/ren entertained these school holidays.

We have the Juniors heading off to Golden Ridge Animal Farm for a day of animal petting and feeding, Berry Island to learn about the First Nation's histories and culture and Qudos Bank Arena to enter the magical world of Disney on Ice! Staying in centre we will be flexing our tie-dye skills taking home a groovy new t-shirt, testing who would be the ultimate Survivor on Survivor Day and seeing who can catch them all on our Pokémon day!

Our Seniors will be becoming ninja warriors for the day as they head off to Tru Ninja Penrith, testing their putt putt skills at Holey Moley and exploring nature and all our native creatures at the Australian Reptile Park. In centre the Seniors will be scootering round the school on wheels day, camping out with tent building, smores and a campfire and using their creativity and taste buds to create their own chocolate bars!

Kids Club are bouncing across Sydney these school holidays. They will be off to test their climbing skills at Clip N Climb, tantalising their taste buds at an all you can eat buffet, having an adrenaline rush speedboating on Sydney Harbour and skating around the rink at Macquarie. Staying in centre Kids Club will be competing in the Hunger Games, having a gaming truck come onsite for an epic gaming day and testing their cooking skills.

If you are looking at booking in these school holidays your can find our full programs and booking forms on our website otherwise, send us an email and we can send the booking forms through to you to complete and return to book in these



## Care Package Drive

Kids Cottage has partnered up with Taldumande Youth Services to put together care packages for vulnerable youths in our local community.

Taldumande supports, encourages and empowers vulnerable children, young people and their families through crisis response, residential care and specialised case work.

We will be collecting items at Kids Cottage until the end of Term 2 to put our care packages together. The items Taldumande have requested to be included are:

- Body Wash (not soap bars)
- Pampering Face Masks (they love these!)
- Skin care items (cleanser, toner, moisturiser)
- Face wipes
- Face scrubs, body scrubs
- Body moisturiser
- Deodorant Spray
- Sunscreen
- Period underwear and cups
- Hot water bottles with covers
- Wheat bags
- Toiletry bags
- Weekender bags and suitcases- often see young people come to Taldumande with their few items in plastic bags

We appreciate all our families help and support with all our charity events.

# STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

Kids Cottage Middle Harbour is currently on the hunt for new Educators to join our close-knit team! We wanted to share this opportunity with our Middle Harbour Community and see if anyone knows someone who would be perfect for the role!

The Kids Cottage Middle Harbour is an Out of School Hours Care service providing care for the community of Middle Harbour Public School along with the wider community over Vacation Care.

The Casual position of **Educator**, works directly with children and with the team to manage the delivery of a high quality, stimulating Out of Hours program that meets the social, emotional and developmental needs of the children attending the centre. Whilst working at the service you will be required to work split shifts 7am-9am and 2:30pm to 6:30pm. During our vacation care programs shifts vary from 8:00am to 6:00pm.

If you know someone who is looking for the opportunity to work in a dynamic close-knit team who support each other daily to run an Exceeding Out of School Hours Care service with flexible working hours, we would love to hear from them!

If you do, can they please send their resume along with a cover letter describing why they would be perfect for the roll to [info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com](mailto:info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com) and we will be in contact.

# We are Hiring!

## BASC Voucher Program

Over the last year the Department of Education has taken steps to increase access to Before and After School Care including the development of the BASC Voucher Program which will offer families a \$500 voucher per child to support the cost of accessing BASC services.

Families can claim the voucher from Service NSW between the 28<sup>th</sup> of February and the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and must be redeemed at a participating Before and After School Care Service by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022. You can claim your vouchers from 28<sup>th</sup> of February through the Service NSW app on your your smartphone or by following the verification steps as outlined on the Service NSW website <http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/basc-voucher>

Once you have received your vouchers redeeming them at Kids Cottage is a simple process. There will be a QR code and unique single use code attached to the voucher much like Dine and Discover. You can either bring the vouchers to Kids Cottage and let us scan the vouchers through our Service NSW Business app or send through your unique single use code on the voucher for us to enter it into the Service NSW business app manually. Once entered and linked to Kids Cottage we will place a \$500 credit onto your account for you to use for future bookings.

This credit can be used for Before School Care, After School Care and even Vacation Care bookings by all families who are enrolled at an Out of School Hours Care Service.



## Child Safe Standard 6:

*Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse (or other concerns) are child focused.*

Through implementing the Child Safe Standard 6, we have embedded a child focused complaint process that supports children who are exposed to risks of harm and encourages them to speak up.

This is reflected in our complaint handling policy that clearly outlines roles and responsibilities, approaches to dealing with different types of complaints and obligations to act and report.

Our management team fosters a culture where complaints are taken seriously and all Educators take responsibility for the safety of children.

We want all children to feel safe to raise concerns about themselves or their friends creating an environment where they feel supported and heard.

## 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.

Part of our QIP development is gaining feedback from families. This term we would like feedback from families on further links into our local community.

If you know a local organisation, charity or community group who you would like Kids Cottage to be involved with, fundraiser or extra-curricular activity please let us know. We are placing a real focus on building our community connections over the next year and we would love input from our Kids Cottage community.

If you know any organisations that you would like Kids Cottage to connect with please let us know by either sending us an email or grabbing on of the Team when you arrive to collect.

## Local Business Awards 2022:

Kids Cottage is excited to announce that we have progressed as Finalists in the 2022 Local Business Awards North Shore in the Outstanding Early Childhood category.

Kids Cottage progressing to Finalists was down to our amazing Community who voted for Kids Cottage and so we wanted to share a wholehearted thanks to all who took the time to vote for us, we wouldn't be here without you!

The winner will be determined against a specific criteria which includes information provided by each Finalist along with their online presence, so please give our Instagram a follow @kidscottagemiddleharbour

The winner will be announced at the Local Business Awards North Shore Awards Evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August at Kirribilli Club. This will be an evening of celebration for all Kids Cottage has achieved over the years and after such a challenging two years it will be a great acknowledgement of the dedication of the whole Team!

# Parent Committee Call Out

The Kids Cottage Middle Harbour is a not-for-profit organisation overseen by a Volunteer Parent Management Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Middle Harbour P&C. We wanted to take the opportunity thank our current volunteers and recruit new members to join the Team!

We hold two Committee Meetings a term on site over wine and nibbles however attendance can also be adapted to suit your availability including via Zoom, phone dial in, tag teamed with another Committee Member or be a Committee Member on speed dial, called on when needed. The Parent Committee recruits the Director, provides the Kids Cottage governance structure, develops strategy and policies along with supporting the Kids Cottage Team with advice and guidance when needed.

Being part of the Kids Cottage Committee allows parents a greater connection to the School and Kids Cottage. It offers the opportunity to have a greater influence on community, having your say on the priorities for the children and implement change. It also presents an excellent chance to make a real impact a Middle Harbour through projects to give back to the school. Past donations have included the large fan in the hall, the weather blinds on the Kindy balcony, the renovation of the Kids Cottage building, and we are currently in communication with the school around Playground development.

Our current Parent Committee members include Sejal McNicol, Inga Gold, Arti Brown, Kim Thomas, and Celina Cross. They would love to tell you all about it. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please email the Kids Cottage [info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com](mailto:info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com).