

# THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2020 | Issue 5 | Date: 12 February 2020



## KEY DATES

**6 Feb:** Rugby skills clinic with NSW Waratah's begins 7.30am & will continue every Thursday morning for Term 1

**18 Feb:** Welcome Breakfast at Kids Cottage from 7:30am-8:30am

**3 Mar:** Yrs 3-6 Swimming Carnival- don't forget to ring or email Cottage if you plan to take your child home straight from the Carnival that afternoon!

**16-20 Mar:** Harmony Week

**3 Apr:** K-2 Beach Carnival- don't forget to let Cottage know if your child's not attending that afternoon

**6-8 Apr:** Stage 3 Camp – if you child is attending, don't forget to cancel their Cottage bookings for those days!

**10 & 13 Apr:** Kids Cottage Closed for Good Friday & Easter Monday

## Director's Message

Thank you to everyone who attended my farewell on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January or who have emailed, rang and stopped me to wish me well in my new adventure. I will treasure these past five years at Kids Cottage. It has been a professional dream come true for me to be a part of this community, get to know your children and help support all of you in your role as parents. Thank you for your support of me in the Director role and your ongoing commitment to Kids Cottage.

I am very proud to announce that Jacqui Merlo will be stepping up into the Director role as of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Jacqui has been at Kids Cottage for six years working in various roles and has been my Assistant Director for the last two years. Jacqui has completed her Diploma in School Age Education and Care and has served as the Educational Leader for Kids Cottage since February 2019. She is very knowledgeable about the out-of-school hours care industry and school aged child development. Jacqui is an empathic educator and a constant professional. I am confident that she will be a fabulous Director for Kids Cottage. Please join me in congratulating Jacqui in her successful appointment to the Director role. Now I hand it off to Jacqui to talk about her excitement in the new role and what she is planning for this year.

This year I'm excited to meet all the new families and children and continue to build great relationship with all families and children here at Cottage. I'm excited to share my passion of creating a sustainable life and workplace, along with my love for teaching and cooking healthy meals for the children at Cottage. I look forward to meeting you all and continuing to create a fun, safe, learning environment for all your children.

# 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 each time your child uses one. If your child refuses to wear a spare hat, they will be required to remain indoors until at least 4:30pm as per our sun protection policy.

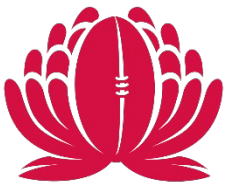
**SIGN IN/OUT:** All parents/guardians/grandparents/carers collecting children from Kids Cottage must be authorised to do so. All authorised persons will have their own sign in/out account and need to use their own account each time they drop off or collect a child. If another parent or a grandparent or someone is collecting just one time, please let the centre know by emailing the office on [info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com](mailto: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 including other Middle Harbour/Kids Cottage parents.

## What to Watch out for in Term 1

We are inviting all Kids Cottage Families to join us on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February from 7:30am to 8:30am for a welcome breakfast. The welcome breakfast allows new and old families to meet our staff and join your child/ren for a yummy breakfast and see how the before school care program runs. If you would like to attend, please let either Jacqui or Imogen know. If your child is not booked in for Before School Care, you're welcome to book them in, or they can stay with you until 8:30am then they will go to school.



On Thursday morning, we now have a footy clinic which is run by NSW Rugby Girls/ Women's Development Officer. The clinic is running for all children booked in to before school care from 7:30am to 8:30am. There is no additional charge for the clinic, your child just needs to be booked for before school care to attend. The clinic will be running all term and we welcome all to join in on the fun. The program focuses on children's sporting abilities.



**WARATAHS**

Harmony Week, this year we will be celebrating Harmony Week from 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March. We will be programming and running different crafts, cooking activities and sporting games from different cultures within Kids Cottage. We are asking all families to have their input, by providing us with any games or recipes or fun facts.



## From Year 1 to Kindies

We have asked some of our Year 1 children who just completed Kindy at Middle Harbour and Kids Cottage what advice they would give to our new Kindy group. Here are some of their answers:

Daniel – “It’s good to find out where your belongings go and remember to put them in your bag.”

Gonzalo – “Try and learn some of the outdoor games and get involved they are so much fun!”

Lilla – “Remember to be quiet at roll call and listen for your name.”

Rosie – “Be respectful of the staff when they are talking.”

Billie – “Remember to share with others.”

Thank you, Year 1, for your important & helpful advice. We would just like to add that all our staff are here for you Kindies so please feel free to come up and speak to any of us at any time. Also, we really want you to have fun while you are at Cottage so if there's a game, a craft or something you really like to cook make sure you tell the staff so that we can get it programmed for you!

# STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

We thought we'd start off the year by introducing our group leaders. For those of you who have been attending Kids Cottage, these will all be very familiar faces and for our new families, your group leaders will become your 'go to' staff for all things Kids Cottage. Our group leaders work tirelessly to plan and implement our before and after school care programs. They can often be found at Kids Cottage during before school care, after school care and the middle of the day problem-solving together, attending trainings on child development and best practices within the out-of-school hours care industry. Our group leaders are here to help as much as possible.

## JUNIORS – KINDY & YEAR 1

### Imogen Faux



This is Imogen's third year at Kids Cottage and her first full year working with the Juniors as their group leader. Imogen has been organizing & leading the Year 1 vacation care program & assisting Mickey with the Seniors but is ready for the challenge of her own group. Fun facts – Imogen has her black belt in Taekwondo, has an amazing singing voice & proud of her Liverpool roots!

## SENIORS – YEAR 2 & YEAR 3

### Mickey Murphy



This is Mickey's fifth year at Kids Cottage and her third year working with the Seniors as their group leader. Mickey is extremely experienced working with Year 2's and 3's and is passionate about helping every child with their development. Fun facts – Mickey is a mum herself, her daughter Kaiyah is 15 months old & a frequent visitor to Kids Cottage, Mickey loves sharing her Māori heritage with the kids at Cottage & has a wicked dry sense of humour!

## KIDS CLUB – YEAR 4, 5 & 6

### Kalani Duff



This is Kalani's fourth year at Kids Cottage and his first year working with Kids Club as their group leader. Kalani was previously the Junior group leader and looks forward to getting know Kids Club. We think Kalani is going to be a great educator & role model for Kids Club. Fun facts – Kalani loves a good dress up, often sewing his own costumes & is an excellent touch rugby coach, his team has won the grand finale 10 years running & he can usually be found in Cottage or on school grounds with music playing nearby.

## KIDS CLUB AT KIDS COTTAGE

We recognise that children in Years Four, Five and Six may have a different set of needs or expectations for before and after school care. We cater for these differences with the privilege of participation in our Kids Club. You may notice that your children in these older years have a few privileges unique to Kids Club such as the ability to go to the Canteen after eating afternoon tea for a small treat, out-of-bounds games such as "Capture the Flag" throughout the entire school grounds, special Kids Club "chill out" areas with self-directed activities and BP points, which they can accumulate for a variety of fun prizes including a staff supervised trip to the local BP station for a small treat or even the chance to be a "Staff Member for the Day!"

One of the goals we have for our older children at Kids Cottage is for the children to feel supported to regulate their own behaviour and learn how to communicate effectively to resolve conflicts with their peers.

At the start of each school year, children in years 4 to 6 and their staff work together to define the Kids Club expectations, consequences and rewards. This year the Kids Club children and staff created a behaviour agreement based on these agreed upon expectations. We believe that this behaviour agreement provides the children with an opportunity to be responsible and accountable for their own behaviour. You received an email on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February from Kalani, the Kids Club group leader with the behaviour agreement. We encourage you to read through it with your child(ren) and return it by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February. It needs to be signed by both a parent and the child(ren).

We are excited to continue to program challenging, fun activities for our older children and are looking forward to a great year with our Kids Club children.

## 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 it's 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.

