

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2021 | Issue 9 | Date: February 2021



Term 1 Updates

ASC Musical Theatre + Drama Workshops commence on Thursday 4th and continue every Friday for the remainder of Term 1. It will be run from 4pm- 5pm with an additional charge of \$8 per session. Spaces filling us fast so if you are interested in signing your child up please send us an email.

Welcome Afternoon will be taking place this term to welcome all new families to the Kids Cottage Community. An email will be out to all families shortly with the date and times.

BSC Basketball Program will commence on Monday 15th and continue every Monday for the remainder of Term 1. It will run from 7:30am- 8:30am with an additional charge of \$8 per session. Spaces filling us fast so if you are interested in signing your child up please send us an email.

Autumn Vac Care program and booking forms will be out on Friday 5th of March with lots of fun offerings to keep your children entertained. Vacation Care will run from Tuesday 6th to Monday 19th of April.

2022 Waitlist will be opening in March this year for you to put your children down for a 2022 enrolment at Kids Cottage.

Biting Truth is back again for the year with the first session taking place for the Junior group on Wednesday Feb 24th from 4pm-5pm.

Director's Message

Welcome to all new families and returning families. The 2021 school year has started in full force and with our Cottage building freshly renovated and for use. We are excited for the children to experience the new kitchen and cook up a storm in there.

This year we have welcomed 34 new families to our centre this and are excited to meet you all and share our lovely Cottage with you and your family.

This term along with our Before and After School workshops and clinics are also have the Biting Truth returning to run their termly workshop. This term the Junior group will be learning all about fruits and vegetables. The workshop will be running on Wednesday February 24th at 4-5pm. If you would like to book in if you child is not already attending, then please email us. In term 2 and 3 the Seniors and Kids Club group will be learning all about exploring food groups and Hydration.

We would love to see our family input into our program and menu increase this year. Please do not be shy when offering suggestions to our staff about activity ideas and breakfast or afternoon tea suggestions. If you cannot find a staff member for some reason, but have a great idea for us, please feel free to write it down on our programs in the family input or menu sections or you can comment on our menu which is uploaded to the Xplor.

We are also planning a welcome afternoon for all new families and existing families, to come and see what their children get up in in an afternoon. Due to restrictions and covid we are planning a covid safe way to have parents on site and will be keep you informed when we have created our plan. We hope to see you all there to meet and greet and get involved with the kids activities and show you all how much fun Cottage is.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Homework List is back for 2021! If you would like to sign your children up to attend Homework whist at After School Care please send us an email. Our homework takes place each afternoon at 4:45pm Monday to Thursday afternoons with a dedicated area and Educator on to facilitate the children completing their homework.

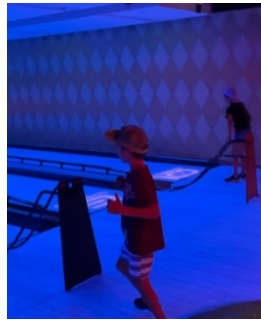
SIGN IN + OUT: Now we are finally back in our Kids Cottage building the sign in and out iPad are out on the deck at the front of Cottage. If your children have not attended Kids Cottage in a while, we have a new third-party software provider called XPLOR. To sign your children in and out of Cottage you will need to create a password for your account and download the XPLOR HOME app. Once downloaded and logged in you will be able to update any personal details, view your statements and view and comment on any observations made about your child during their time at Kids Cottage. To sign your children in or out all you need to do is open the app, click sign in/out, scan the QR code of the Kids Cottage iPad and click sign in/out.

Summer Vacation Care Highlights



On Monday 18th the Juniors went to Wizzy World for a fun filled morning of climbing, jumping and sliding! It was great to see all the new Kindy children creating really great friendships before starting school along with creating buddies with the year one children. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the excursion being very disappointed when we had to get back on the bus back to Cottage.

On Friday 15th year 2 went off to Strike Chatswood for Laser tag and Bowling. The children showed great sportsmanship and competitive nature as they played rounds of bowling and laser tag with their friends. It was great to see all children getting involved with even the team having a go too! It is always a popular vacation care excursion and one that will definitely be programmed again soon.



On Tuesday 19th year 3+4 had the opportunity to head out to Northbridge Golf Club to play a round of Foot Golf. The children described it as a combination between soccer and golf having to their feet like a golf club to kick the giant golf balls through the course and into the hole. The children got really involved and showed great sportsmanship throughout the excursion encouraging their friends along the way.



On Wednesday 20th year 5+6 children headed off to Warringah Aquatic Centre for a swim. The children got to use the indoor and outdoor pools along with the inflatable obstacle course. The children also loved the outdoor water park running through the mists and sprays and showed great coordination and balancing skills on the obstacle course with only a few children hitting the water before reaching the end!



New Kindy Families

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all the new Kindy families to Kids Cottage Middle Harbour! The transition into Primary School can be a daunting prospect for many families but we are here to support you in any way we can. If you have any questions about enrolments, bookings, the program, or payments please send us an email, give us a call, or catch one of our team at drop off or collection.

Our team are here to make your children's time at Cottage is as memorable as possible, so Kindies 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 is 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!

Just a few reminders, we are a nut free service as we have children who attend that are anaphylactic. We also do not share food at Kids Cottage as we have many children with different allergies to certain types of food. We provide breakfast from 7am- 8:15am each morning and afternoon tea at 3:45pm and late snack at 5:40pm each afternoon. Our Kindy children from Before School Care are walked over to class each morning and our Kindy children attending After School Care are collected from their class each afternoon.

We look forward to getting to know all the wonderful new additions to Kids Cottage.

STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

We thought we would 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 second year working with the Juniors as their group leader. Has worked across all year group since starting at Kids Cottage but has found her place withing the Junior year group.

KIDS CLUB – YEAR 4, 5 & 6

Kalani Duff



This is Kalani's fourth year at Kids Cottage and his second year working with Kids Club as their group leader. Kalani built up a great relationship with the Kids Club year groups last year proving himself as a great educator & role model for Kids Club.

SENIORS – YEAR 2 & YEAR 3

Joe Anderson



This is Joe's fourth year at Kids Cottage but first full year being co group leader along with Katrina. He has come up through the ranks as first a junior staff, then casual educator and at the start of Term 4 stepped up to be part of our permanent team as co group leader for the Seniors.

Katrina Sparkes



This is Katrina's first full year back at Kids Cottage after heading over to live in the UK before the year of Covid. London's loss is our gain with Katrina coming back and quickly stepping up into our permanent team once Mickey left to have her second baby. Katrina is an old hand at group leading having been group leader for both Juniors and Seniors throughout her time at Kids Cottage.

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 Kids Club Credits, 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 Thursday 4th 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 15th 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.

Kids Cottage Renovations

Now Kids Cottage has gone through its brilliant new makeover future proofing the service for the future it is time to make the interior fit out as up to date as the renovations.

We are looking for an interior designer to come onboard and completely revamp the inside of Kids Cottage so we thought we would put it out to our community. If you or someone you know has experience in interior designs of childcare facilities and would like to come onboard to reinvigorate Kids Cottage, we would love to hear from you.

We have an open mind and would like to develop the interior of Kids Cottage into an imaginative and engaging place for your children placing the service at the forefront of Outside School Hours Care in Australia. If you are interested or know someone who would be please send us an email.