

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2023 | Issue 1 | Date: August 2023



Term 3 Updates

OOSH Educators Day: On Wednesday 26th July we are celebrating with a party from 3:30pm-5:30pm come and join the party and thank celebrate our educators.

Sydney FC Clinic: We have a huge response with our Sydney FC Soccer Clinic running on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5pm.

Koori Kinnections: On Tuesday 22nd August Koori Kinnections will be coming in and running a session with the Kids Club Group.

Week 9 Child Protection Week: During Week 9 we will be celebrating National Child Protection Week, with a range of games and activities. This year's theme is "Where we start matters."

Week 10 School Show: During the school show nights we will be provide special show care and will give more details to come.

Spring Vacation Care Dates: Spring Vacation Care will be running from Monday 25th September to Friday 6th October 2023.

Director's Message

How are we already in Term 3. Winter Vacation Care went well, with lots of fun activities that kept us and the kids busy.

This term we have a busy term, with the Sydney Soccer FC Clinic, Koori Kinnections running a session also for Kids Club. We have Child Protection Week in Week 9, the School Show in Week 10.

We have had a lot of recent staff changes over the last two months. With hiring new casuals and a new permanent full time staff member. Here are some of the updates: Lara Sloggett has joined the permanent team and will be working with Pihuka and the Senior group.

Other staff updates are I'm pregnant again with my second baby due in November. I will be finishing up work in late October. We will have a fill in Director for the time I'm on maternity leave and will update you who that is later in the term. I will be back at work in around June 2024.

Reminder about permanent bookings, from 1st July we will no longer be able to swap permanent bookings. We have notice that many families have been swapping their permanent bookings through the week. Unfortunately, we can no longer continue this due to staff cost and arrangements. If you need to add an extra day of care, you will be charged a casual price.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all children and families who wrote lovely thank you messages to our staff for last Wednesday's OOSH Educator's Day. It was a great afternoon, filled with fun and love.

Term 3 Reminders

SEARCH FEE: If you have failed to let us know that your child/ren will be absent before 3pm on the day of attendance you will be charged a search fee of \$10 on top of the normal After School Care booking. You can let us know your child will be absent via email, over the phone or you can inform of their absence via the Xplor Home app. You just head to the bookings tab, select the booking your child/ren will be absent for and then select mark as absent.

HOMEWORK: Did you know you can sign your child up to our homework list for after school care. From 4:50pm we provide a dedicated space and Educator to monitor the children whilst they complete their homework including access to our Windows Notebooks for online learning. If you would like to put your child/ren's name down, please send us an email and we will put their name down.

Kids Cottage Hats: As it states in our policy document all children attending Kids Cottage must wear their Kids Cottage hat. We offer spare hats for children who forget to pack or bring their hat. We have noticed many children either wearing the school hat or not bringing a hat. If you could please remind your child/ren to pack and wear their Kids Cottage hat. Also, if your child/ren has borrowed a spare Kids Cottage hat and not returned it could you please ask them to return it.

July Vacation Care Highlights

Some highlights from our winter vacation care with the K-2 group was Disney on Ice, Reptile Park, Powerhouse Museum.



The K-2 group loved watching Disney on Ice and all the performers and their amazing dancing and ice skating. The groups loved getting to see all the different reptiles at the Reptile Park. The Powerhouse was a huge hit, with some different activities and so informative for the group.



For in-centre days the K-2 group loved the Magic Show, Tie Dye and Pizza Party.

The magician was a hit, with the kids learning some magic tricks and taking home a mini magic kit. Tie Dye was messy fun, with the kids loved experimenting with the clothes and creating their own fun, funky patterns. Pizza party was yummy, with each child making their own pizza to eat and enjoying a treat of a dessert pizza.



The 3-6 group enjoyed Ice Zoo, Flip Out, Tuff Nutterz and Unco Nine for the most popular excursions.

For their in-centre days the group enjoyed Wheelchair Basketball, Kids Cottage Survivor, Skateboard Deck Design.



Ice Zoo was a fun excursion testing the kids, physical skills when ice skating. Flip Out is also a hit with the kids enjoying bouncing and flips. Tuff Nutterz was a great day, with the giant slide being a crowd favourite. Unco Nine was a new excursion which tested the kids balance when bouldering.

Wheelchair Basketball was a fun activity that the kids enjoyed. Survivor was a challenge day and the kids all survived.

Seniors "Look who's Kicking Goals Wall"

Pihuka Duff our Senior group leader is looking to create a Senior wall to acknowledge all the Seniors achievements inside and outside the Kids Cottage.

This section is designed to appreciate and acknowledge the achievements and talent the senior kids are doing outside Cottage little or big.

This can be anything from sports, school, dance, academics, art, gymnastics, going on holiday, overcoming a fear, or learning a new skill.

Pihuka kindly asking if you can send through a photo whenever your child has achieved these goals from now until the end of term. These photos will be displayed on the wall inside of Cottage with a mini caption underneath.

We are looking to celebrate all the Senior's through this wall.

STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

Staffing Update:

- We have hired new casual staff last term to join our Kids Cottage Team. These are Jasmine, Bryce, Maya, Chloe, Daisy, Emily, Oliver, Jess, Olivia. We are so excited to have them on our team and to see them develop into great Educators.
- Matt has taken the position of Kids Club Group Leader! Matt has worked here for the past 4 years. He started as a junior staff member and has worked his way to where he is now. We are so excited to watch Matt grow in this roll and to make a difference with the Kids Club children.
- Adam and Sarah are both sharing the Group Leader roll for Juniors. We are loving the ideas they are both incorporating to make the Junior program fun and engaging. We look forward to seeing you both thrive in this roll with Kindy and Year 1.

2024 BSC and ASC Expression of Interest Form

If you have a child/ren starting in 2024 and you need Before and After School Care, please fill in our 2024 Before and After School Care Expression of Interest form.

If you are heading back to work in 2024 or needing extra days of care, you can also fill in the form.

Once all current 2023 bookings have been confirmed in October of 2023, we will offer out all spots available for 2024. If you child is leaving Middle Harbour and Kids Cottage at the end of 2023, please reply to the confirmation email for 2024 bookings informing us of your child's end date.

We are looking forward to meeting all our new children and families for 2024.

Here is the 2024 Before and After School Care Expression of Interest form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSex_v8ZhKeL-IsfN25UI2geTNcftGYWWRhifGph3ak_mZo_MBw/viewform

Child Safe Standard 3:

Families and communities are informed and involved.

The Office of the Children's Guardian has developed the SAFE series – four children's books containing personal safety messages for children under six. The books support children's rights and promote the concept of kids having a voice. They help children identify the parts of their body that are private, help them understand their feelings and encourage them to think about five people they trust to help them if they feel cared, sad or upset.

To find out more information check out the Office of the Children's Guardian's website.

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. We will be sending out our Annual Family Survey later this month.

We ask that all families please read and fill in our survey. This helps us to improve, bring in new activities and provide the top care for your child/ren.

Community:

The Kids Cottage Middle prides itself on its connection to its community through excursions, fundraisers, and relationships with families. This year we will be connecting with Koori Connections. This is a company who focuses on the importance of teaching students about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their culture.

Koori Connections aim to teach Activities such as artefact handling, traditional games, and bushfood cooking will give the students a practical, educational experience that compliments what they are learning in class.

We will be doing an incursion each term this year with Koori Connections which we are very excited about.

Extra Curriculars

Music Lesson: If your child will be attending a music lesson from Kids Cottage during a session, we will now require the teacher to pick up the child and sign them out. If the child is then returning we ask that they sign them back in. This is to hand over duty of care from us to the teacher as they will not be in our care for the duration of their lesson. Any question please feel free to ask.

Term 3: In term 3 we will be doing a Soccer Clinic program run by Sydney FC. We are excited to join up with Sydney FC again and have a great program for the kids involved.

Local Connections: We are always looking at expanding our community connections and would love to get in touch with some local clubs, dance companies, performing arts, sporting clubs to potentially set up sessions for vacation care or after school sessions. This can be any activity such as cricket, AFL, netball, jiu jitsu, dance, drama, acting just to name a few. If you have any connections please email us with information.