

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2021 | Issue 13 | Date: July 2021



Term 3 Updates

OOSH Educators Day is on Wednesday 28th July which gives us the opportunity to celebrate our fabulous team who work tirelessly to keep your children safe and entertained.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Children's Day will be celebrated at Kids Cottage on Wednesday 4th August with the theme this year being *Proud in Culture, Strong in Spirit* with us cooking using traditional ingredients, learning about traditional totems and reading dreamtime stories.

Science Week is running from the 14th to the 22nd of August and will be celebrated at Kids Cottage throughout week 6 of term 3 with experiments programmed all week!

Are You Okay Day this year is on Thursday 9th of September and will give Kids Cottage the opportunity to raise awareness and have conversations around mental health with the children.

Child Protection Week will be celebrated in Week 9 of Term 3 putting a spotlight on the new Child Safe Standards that came out of the Royal Commission.

Director's Message

Wow, what a change we had over the winter holidays. Huge thank you to all the team here, who helped make vacation care run smoothly and the kids still have a fun, awesome time while in-centre. It was great to see so many children getting involved in the range of activities from the hit sports day for year 2 group, to the year 5 & 6 amazing paint and sip artworks and year 3 & 4 camping day and Kindy and Year 1 Pj's party day.

For this team we are celebrating OOSH Educator's Day on Wednesday 28th July. We will set up our thank you wall, for parents and children to write a message to any educator. Our online part of the day will be myself or Eleanor posting on Xplor staff profiles and parents, or children can write their thank you message to the staff. What OOSH Educator's Day mean to us at Cottage it provides an occasion to take stock of all the invaluable work OOSH Educators do every day with children and families. They are often at the centre of children's lives, building trusting and long-term relationships with children well into adulthood. They can have a truly life-changing impact on children, acting as inspirational educators, role-models, and mentors. It is time to give a shout out to all the great OOSH Educators for their work and to make them feel valued in the profession.

Along with OOSH Educator's Day we are also celebrating National Child Protection Week from 5th September to 11th September. We are hoping by then we can have parents onsite to celebrate, if not we are also working on a way to celebrate with all via online. This year's theme is Every Child, in every Community, needs a fair go to threat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy. Every year we celebrate National Child Protection week by having an event with the children and families. Along with playing fun games and activities and it is a great way to teach your children about child safety.

We hope you are all keeping safe and well, and hope to see you all back in Cottage soon.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Confirming CCS: As part of the new financial year all the primary contacts will need to log into their Xplor Home app and sign their CWA agreement confirming their ongoing bookings at Kids Cottage. Please check the bookings closely and if anything is not correct, please contact us and we will amend your permanent bookings.

Extra Curriculars Term 3: If your child is signed up to attend a music lesson after school or a club before school which is held on school site please send us an email including the day, time and location of the lesson or other activity and we will add them to our extra-curricular attendance list for Term 3. If your child is already on the extra-curricular attendance list from last term this will roll over into Term 3 unless you tell us otherwise. If the day, time, or location of your child's lesson has changed in Term 3 please let us know and we will update our list.

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

Winter Vacation Care Highlights

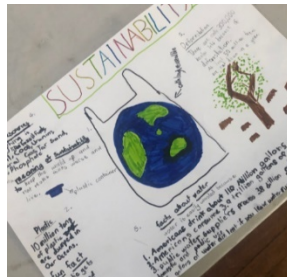
Just as the Covid outbreak in Sydney threw many of your travel plans into disarray overnight it also dramatically changed our vacation care programs. All excursions and incursions had to be cancelled however with the great imagination and quick thinking of our Group Leaders new programs were developed to keep the children happy, having fun during their school holidays.

Kindy + Yr 1 became potters for the day on Wednesday 30th of June using their imagination to create their own sculptures out of clay. The Junior group also got to put on their dancing shoes and warm up their vocal cords on Monday 5th July having a blast at their Karaoke and Just Dance day at Kids Cottage. The children sung and danced the day away working in groups to create their own routines to then perform for the group.

Yr 2 placed on their engineering caps on Monday 28th of June competing in their very own Kids Cottage Lego Masters competition. The children had to work collaboratively in groups to plan and build their creations with great success. They also put on their aprons and became Mini Chefs for the day on Thursday 8th at Junior Master Chef Day. They baked both sweet and savory treats with their favourite part being eating their delicious creations!

Yr 3 + 4 got to participate in their very own escape room at Kids Cottage on their Trapped day on Tuesday 29th of June. The children loved all the different challenges that got them using their problem solving and teamwork skills to get out of the escape room. They got to develop their communication skills having to work collaboratively to be successful in the challenges. The children also became Mini Artists for the day on Monday 5th of July taking inspiration from Vincent Van Gogh when painting their masterpieces.

Yr 5 + 6 got to star in their very own films during our Cottage Oscars on Tuesday 29th June. The children in groups planned, filmed, directed, acted, and edited their own films and once complete then got to see them on the big screen. They were all very proud of their results.



Educational Leader

During Term 2 we had Eleanor our Assistant Director take on the role of Educational Leader from Jacqui who had fulfilled the role for over 2 years.

The Educational Leader has an influential role at Kids Cottage and wears many hats inspiring, motivating, affirming, challenging, and extending the practice and pedagogy of our team. The role is collaborative guiding the team through inquiry and reflection during our two weekly Professional Discussions and each Educator's Individual Development Plans. Our Educator's Individual Development Plans are created during their Annual Reviews and then amended and extended at each Educator's termly check in.

Along with leading the team's Professional Development the Educational Leader also supports educators to effectively implement the cycle of planning at our weekly programming meetings to enhance our programs and practices. They ensure the children's voices are being heard and reflective practices are being implemented to ensure continuation of learning for the children. This also includes making sure cultural and community events are celebrated on the program.

The Educational Leader is an essential role at Kids Cottage, and we could not run successfully without it. If you have any questions about our Educational Leader role, please let us know.

STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

To start off Term 3, we thought we would introduce some of our Educators who are doing great things outside of Kids Cottage in their Sporting fields. We are very lucky to have some extremely successful athletes as part of our Kids Cottage team who are great role models inspiring the children to strive for their dreams.

Kennedy Cherrington



Kennedy started her career in Rugby League as a Junior playing for Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks before signing with Sydney Rooster in October 2020. From there she has gone from strength to strength and after only her first season receiving the Dally M NRLW Rookie of the Year. To top off a brilliant season in November she was picked for the Women's NSW Origin Team for 2021 along with 9 of her teammates from the Sydney Roosters. Kennedy headed up to the Sunshine Coast for a gripping match with the Queensland team just winning with the final score 8-6. We are all extremely proud of Kennedy's achievements and cannot wait to see her progress even further in her career. She is truly an asset on our team and a great role model for the children of Middle Harbour.

Faith Nathan



Our very own Faith Nathan has been named in the Australian Rugby Sevens team and will be representing Australia at the Tokyo Olympic Games. She started her career playing on the AON Uni 7's Series and has just played in the winning team representing Australia in the Oceania Sevens. Faith is one of five debutants joining the Olympic team and will play alongside a host of Rio Olympic champions, including Charlotte Caslick and Co-Captains Sharni Williams and Shannon Parry. The Women's competition at the Tokyo Olympics will commence on July 29th with the whole Cottage team cheering her along from home, please join us in wishing her luck and the hope of bringing the gold medals home for a second Olympics in a row!

Extra Curriculars Term 3

We have two Extra Curricular activities lined up for Term 3 2021 for your child/ren to get involved with. They will both be an 8-week program with the start date yet to be announced due to Covid restrictions. We will be sending out an email when we have a confirmed date as to when our two programs can begin for Term 3. They will still both be an 8-week program and so will roll over into Term 4.

Kids Cottage is pleased to announce that Bring It on Sports will be joining Kids Cottage during Term 3 to run a 1-hour program on Wednesday afternoons from 4pm with the start date yet to be announced. The AFL program will be focusing on the fundamental skills, rules and tactics of AFL playing three modified games plus a final game where the children will get to test their skills in a fun, inclusive, safe environment which encourages high involvement and participation.

We have also lined up an 8-week Art program on Thursday mornings with the start date yet to be announced. These again will be 1-hour sessions from 7:30am – 8:30am where the children will discover fun new processes learning about colour, line, shape, texture, and pattern finishing each lesson with a completed artwork!

We are also currently looking at getting a local sporting club involved in running an extra-curricular activity for Term 4. We are currently contacting Mosman Cricket Club and Mosman Netball Club however if you have any other local sporting clubs that you would like to see running a program at Kids Cottage, please let us know and we will reach out.

Child Safe Standards

Out of the Royal Commission into child abuse Ten Child Safe Standards have been developed to provide framework to making organisations safer for children. The Standards provide tangible guidance for organisations to create cultures, adopt strategies and act to put the interests of children first, to keep them safe from harm.

Kids Cottage is currently working hard to educate the team and embed the 10 standards into the policies, principles, practices, and culture at Kids Cottage making it an even safer and more inclusive environment for all children.

As part of embedding the 10 Child Safe Standards into Kids Cottage we are getting the children's input into the process. We are basing our Kids Committee meetings around gathering the children's current understanding of children's safety and including intentional teaching on their 5 Heroes they can talk to about anything. There are also lots of great resources that we are implementing on teaching the children child safe practices.

If you would like any further information on our child safe policies or procedures or access to any resources, please let us know and we will send them through.