



Oatley OOSH Care Navigator

Contact Us!

Email: enquiries@oatleyoosh.org.au

OPS OOSH: 0447 565 281

OCH OOSH: 0437 419 095 | 95701142

Issue 3, 2023

Welcome to March 2023!

Another month gone by – and another newsletter scrapes through just in time (it's still March!)

2023 is a challenging year for Oatley OOSHCare Incorporated for a number of significant reasons. Those issues are important and a top priority for the parent committee and leadership team at OOSH. While we will touch very briefly on those issues in this edition, this newsletter aims to celebrate the service that we have become.

It's been a massive year so far, but I can happily say that 2023 is feeling like a positive year. In this newsletter my team and I share our thoughts and celebrate the amazing things we've achieved. So much goes on in an Education and Care setting that it's often missed. Our mission this year is to make it all visible!

From Kindergarten to Seniors programs, to staff training, our efforts to engage with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and shameless promotion of our blog and social media, we are extremely proud of the work that we're doing in Oatley and we hope you enjoy in this newsletter.

Got questions? Please reach out!

Darren

www.oatleyoosh.org.au

Committee Meeting

Our Executive Committee:

Co-President

Hayley Lawson

Co-President

Kate Panchal

Secretary

Jane Miller

Treasurer

Dominique Suter

The Parent Committee can be contacted by emailing: committee@oatleyoosh.org.au

We hold 6 committee meetings a year, which are open to our parents and interested stakeholders. Our next committee meeting date will be some time in Term 2. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.

Vacation Care

The April vacation Care program is out now. You will be able to find the forms on our website. We have some exciting activities every day.

Also, for the first time in Oatley OOSH history we have an Oatley Youth program that runs the whole duration of the holiday period. We are super excited for it and hope to get some feedback from students and parents.

[Here is a link to our Padlet which has all of our useful information, and updated Vacation Care forms.](#)

Kindy Program

By Laura Rigon

Recently at OOSH, our lovely Kindergarten class have been having an amazing time making new friends and expressing themselves as they grow as individuals. Transitioning from getting-to-know-you activities into bold and creative tasks, they have grown so much in the short time we have known them. They have easily adjusted to the after-school routine, and are great at coming to pick-up, packing their things away, getting afternoon tea and meeting in one place for the commencement of activities.

We have engaged with a range of topics in various activities over the weeks. The children have told me and shown that they take particular interest in completing science activities, as well as artistic and creative activities. Our Kindergarten program aims to showcase and further develop each child's special skills and strengths. The kindergarten program features a cooking class, held once a week. We have made a range of healthy snacks, as well as plenty of fun treats. As a group, we discuss what ingredients we are using in our recipes, and we take turns adding ingredients and completing the recipe. This type of activity is useful in teaching the children how to follow a recipe, how to be fair and share amongst each other, as well as developing healthy eating habits.

[\[Read More on our Blog!\]](#)



Our Kindy Students engaging with a cooking activity in the Kindy program.

Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation Collaboration

By Darren Brisbane

Earlier in the term Sam and I were invited to go to Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation in Jannali to have a yarn with their General Manager, Wendy.

Having facilitated Cultural Safety Training for us early in the term, this was a good opportunity to really get to know each other and begin what we're hoping will become a long and prosperous relationship focused on contributing to positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our region, and also enabling us to become confident to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in our service and programs (as per the new "My Time, Our Place!")

Our service has recently had our Reconciliation Action Plan published, and engaging with Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation is a significant step on our journey to genuine success together. Our RAP can be found [here](#)

Senior Program

By Joshua Bridger

The focus of my senior program this term was teamwork, communication, and team building, all these kids are talented individuals but I'm trying to twist it into talented team members and leaders. By pairing them up with different kids that they don't normally have association with at school, they start to learn more about themselves and their capabilities within that situation as well as the person next to them. My activities have changed in both my choice of them and the way I run them. The kids respond better to being challenged and rewarded rather than just being told what to do, and the way I deliver the program has

changed also. Rather than telling them and forcing them to join activities they mightn't enjoy, we'll discuss it first, see how they feel about it and then jump in I've also taken to trying to get verbal feedback about what they did and didn't enjoy from each session. Now I know I've made it sound like it's all roses and rainbows, but throughout this term, I have seen an improvement in their abilities and their attitude not only towards myself but also each other and the program. It's not perfect, but it's going somewhere. Next term, we'll be focusing on those same qualities but in more realistic situations.



This is the before shot of an activity that the seniors were doing where they got to decide unanimously what an educator of their choice did, for 10 minutes.

Juniors Program

From the start of this year, we have been running a Juniors Program, which involves children in Years 1 – 4. These activities are quite varied from cooking, to sports, to yoga, to switch games like Just Dance or Mario Kart. We have implemented 'year meetings' every week. This is where we ask children from specific years about what they have liked, haven't liked and what they would like to do at OOSH. This is how we get all our wonderful suggestions to our program, and how we find out what your children do and don't like! We would love to be able to cater for all interests, wants and needs.



Some students have built a base to rest after a hard battle!

In the warmer months we have been playing in the sand pit as it has been super heavily suggested by our students, as well as the water play trough. It's been a good release for the kids after a hot day at school. Sadly, the weather in the last few weeks has been a bit too wet for either activity. It looks like it's ready to start warming up for the holidays!



Students crowding around the water trough and dipping their hats after a hot day.

If you have come into OOSH and seen what may look like a pile of trash... That is actually our pile of loose parts! This is just a bunch of bits and pieces that the students can take, and build, use and play with however they want. We get a lot of our loose parts from Reverse Garbage, in Alexandria. I would 100% recommend you check it out! We intend on growing our loose parts pile throughout term 2. Pictured below is just one of the many amazing creations that the children have made.

Darren loves a good loose part, so maybe he'll talk more about this in the newsletter or the blog.

We will be finishing off the term with the Easter break and are planning a few easter egg hunts! So, I hope everyone gets ready for that 😊



A few students using our loose parts to make, what looks to be a house!

Malarkey Play Work: Play Cycles Workshop

By Darren Brisbane

Right at the end of this term we had a visit from a personal mentor of mine, Marc Armitage. Marc is a consultant, researcher, and writer in play, playing, and Playwork. He's also an exceptional teacher.

I had invited him out to the service this year after some of the team met him in Canberra in October to learn about the history of play theory – the team were more energised than I'd ever seen them after that visit and so hoped for more of the same. I was not disappointed.

This training aimed to open our eyes to the anatomy of the play cycle – and I have demonstrated proof from my team's reflections that they seem to have understood. Why's it important?

You can find out by reading our [blog](#)



During our visit with Marc Armitage on the play cycles.

Emergency Drills

This term we have stated to highlight the importance to the children on our emergency drills, which include a lock down, and evacuation drill. These procedures are mandatory to be completed every few months. We have gotten a lot of practice especially in the last few weeks, this is to help all our children, particularly the younger ones to become aware, and comfortable with the process to be able to know what to do. Some parents were lucky enough to get involved one of our lock-down drills!



Photo during one of our lock down drills in an afternoon session.

Lost Property

Is your child missing a hat or jumper? Our services have dozens sitting in lost property. Come and have a look if you are missing anything 😊

Food

We like to ask the children a lot about what they have liked about the menu. This tells us if we should keep having things like Apple Crumble, or fried rice. We have retired some afternoon teas, but that's alright because it gives room for new ones!

We have also begun cooking items and recipes in the afternoon within our program, to have for breakfast the following morning. We had scones with jam and cream this week, and it was super successful! The Children in the evening also enjoyed making them, and they got to take some home with them.

If you or your children have any suggestions on the breakfast or afternoon tea, I would love to hear it!

Follow us on social media!

Oatley OOSHCare Incorporated has a Facebook page – [come follow us!](https://www.facebook.com/oatleyooshcareincorporated)

<https://www.facebook.com/oatleyooshcareincorporated>



Students making Banana Bread for breakfast the following morning.

War and Pizza!

Although some might say the community get together has a controversial name, I genuinely feel that the name lived up to itself in this month's meeting. A number of parents came down to have a chat and enjoy some pizza, and we also welcomed a representative from nearby service Connell's Point BASC who had heard about our parent project and was interested to see what it was all about.

We had a robust conversation on some controversial topics – including our current space situation and the plans for what happens at the end of our lease. As a consequence of this discussion Sam and I have realised and agree that there needs to be a lot more communication around what this means specifically for OOSH. Stakeholders can expect to see more communication on these topics in the coming weeks – in the meantime, please ask questions directly to OOSH.