

Parent Newsletter

Term Two Newsletter, 2013



"To be inspired is great, but to inspire others is incredible". Anon

Meli Tauiliili, a recent past parent, is coming on Tuesdays to help supervise the children of the families participating in a Hanen *It takes two to talk* Program with Anita, Speech language Therapist. Be sure to say hi to her and her young son Terri.



Welcome to Marie Ma who is doing a post graduate Diploma in Early Intervention. Marie and her husband emigrated from China in 2003 and moved to Hamilton in 2010 with their two children, aged 9 and 4. She has a passion for young children and families from a variety of backgrounds. Marie will be with us for terms two and three as part of her practicum. You may have seen her around in term one as a volunteer. She looks forward to meeting you all.

You may have noticed the tree in car park has been cut down. The Westside Kiwanis Club kindly helped to remove the wood. This is part of our plan to extend the building and increase car park spaces.

Staff news:

Annette Hattie, Early Intervention Teacher, has resigned and her last day is Friday 14 June. Annette has enjoyed providing early intervention and meeting with families during her time at McKenzie Centre but has decided to pursue a wider range of personal interests. We hope to see Annette often as she will remain a friend of the Centre. We have advertised the position and it is hoped a suitable person will be appointed as soon as possible. Be assured we will support families during this transition.

Anita Wilson, Speech Language Therapist, is away for the first 4 weeks of Term 3. She is going on an exciting trip overseas. We are currently looking at a locum to work with families while she is away.

Dates for 2013 to diary:

- Sessions start on **Monday 6th May 2013**. Term 2 finishes on Friday 12th July.
- Queen's birthday is on Monday 3rd June.
- **Parent Focus Group 17-21 June**. This is a time for parents to meet up for a chat and a little bit of 'time out'. All the sessions during this week will run differently as staff will be playing and minding the children rather than focussing individually on each child, as typically happens during your 1-1 time together.
- **Parent Support Circle**- will be running again this term. Marcia will facilitate this on Tuesday 2 July.
- **Education Support Worker, ESW, workshop**; this will be happening on Friday 14 June between 12.30-2.30. The focus for this workshop is on using visual strategies which includes the use of Picture Exchange Communication System, PECS. So the topic will be of great interest for ESWs working with your children, especially those with features of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- We will have a 2nd year Occupational Therapy Student with us from 17 June- 16 August, at this time we do not have the students name. Thanks for your acceptance of having other people

working together with you and your child. We feel that it is important that we show some responsibility for training future therapists/ teachers and your input and feedback to them is valued. Many thanks.

- Earthquake Drill will be in the week of June 24th. We will have a practise this term to establish what we need to do if there is an earthquake. **Drop→Cover→Hold.**

This term...

Check out our curriculum planning sheet displayed in the large playroom. We have discussed a number of ideas which we want to incorporate into the sessions.

- We will be endeavouring to make play more interesting on the deck, in view of the weather being 'wet and wild' at times. We plan to set up more physical challenges so that children can practise balance, eye-hand co-ordination activities, activities to encourage increased stability and planning. At times we will encourage children to set the obstacle courses up themselves to add to the challenge of planning and working together.
- We will incorporate Proprioceptive activities into our programmes i.e. 'heavy' workload activities. These activities assist with developing greater body awareness through feedback from muscles and joints; they tend to be calming and 'organising' to help with individual's regulation.
- We have a DVD titled 'Getting Ready for School' which is a great resource for becoming more aware of foundation skills our children benefit from developing. We will have it available for any one that wants to watch it and will have it displayed when we have our Parent Focus week.
- We have set up a 'Science Table' in the little play room. Many children have 'development of concepts' as part of their IP goals. You will find some ideas to start this process and have fun with some simple ideas e.g. to discuss location (under, on top, behind, in, on, off) size (big, little, middle, biggest, smallest) and weight (heavy, light).

Education Review Office, ERO, reviewed the Centre in February, and we now have our confirmed report. Please read this report, it is held in the foyer, and linked on our web site to ERO reviews of early childhood services. www.ero.govt.nz McKenzie Centre is "very well placed" to promote positive outcomes for children. The review found that: "Trustees contribute highly relevant skills and expertise to their governance roles". That "a knowledgeable centre director provides professional leadership through coaching and mentoring". And "a team approach to the many services provided by early intervention specialists, and an inclusive learning culture, ensures children and parents receive high quality intervention at all levels". We were pleased the findings include "dedicated early intervention specialists work in partnership with parents to encourage and support individual children".

Remember: when you are looking to transition to early childhood centres and school, the service will be reviewed by ERO, so read the report and see what findings ERO have made about the service and how it enhances children's learning and well being.

- If you do not receive information from us via email check we do have your address. See Sandra in the office.
- Both Estelle and Anita, respectively, will continue to run Hanen programmes this term; *More Than Words* Program and *It Takes Two to Talk*. The feedback from both groups of parents is positive and a lot of fun and learning is happening.

- Anita is heading to Europe during the next holidays in July and will be away from sessions for the first 4 weeks of Term 3. We are currently looking at having a locum to continue to work with her families while she is away.

- **Early Learning Information System (ELI)**

The ELI is an electronic information system for early childhood education. Each child will be allocated a national student number during 2013. To prepare for this we need to ensure we have a copy of an official identity verification document such as; NZ birth certificate or passport or a foreign birth certificate or passport. This will be held on your child's file. **Please bring the information to your key worker so this can be recorded.**

General points to remember.

- ✓ Please remember to name lunch boxes and drink bottles so that staff can also identify children's property when parents are out of the room.
- ✓ A general reminder that, if your child is sick then please stay home rather than coming to the session. If your child is unwell, staff will request that you take them home.
- ✓ With winter here already, please continue to be mindful of the spread of germs. We are all vulnerable but of course have some children who, due to their medical needs, are more vulnerable than most. We are talking about "catching coughs" in your elbow, washing hands and toys regularly to try and control the spread of germs and educate everyone on these practices. Have a look at the posters we have around the Centre to remind us of good hygiene. If your children, or you, are unwell, rest at home and ring the Centre so we know you are not coming in. This also applies to those of you who have an ESW. If your child is unwell we may divert the ESW to other children, so do let us know.

Cerebral Palsy society, membership is \$15 for a family and entitles you to the society's publications, information on the condition, grants and discounts at National attractions e.g. Kelly Tarltons. Have a look at their website www.cpsoc.org.nz

Swimming at Te Rapa pools. Swimming classes can be very useful for children with physical delays or who have special needs. Learning to be confident and safe in the water is important for everyone. Participating in swimming has many benefits. The council have a hydro therapy pool at Te Rapa and they are extending the types of services they offer for children with disabilities. Individual sessions can be offered with a qualified instructor (\$13.50 for 20 minutes) and an IP will be made to work on goals. As the child progresses small group sessions will be offered. Contact Christine Hunger, who is the Learn to Swim co-ordinator/Manager, her telephone number is 07 9585863, 0277472063, or she can be emailed on christine.hunger@hcc.govt.nz let her know your child has special needs as Christine and her team are highly motivated to make swimming a success for the child and family.

SWIM SCHOOL GIFT VOUCHERS:

\$20.....\$50.....\$100.....

What a wonderful gift from the grandparents, or as a thank-you to someone who might otherwise not have the opportunity to learn to swim.....

To

To purchase your Learn to Swim Gift Voucher simply give us a call in the office.

Christine Hunger

Swim Schools Manager

DDI: 07 9585863 | Mob: 0277472063 | Email: christine.hunger@hcc.govt.nz

CCS Disability Action Toy Library; remember the CCS Toy Library. It is a great resource to utilize for your children. Before your initial visit contact Heather first.

McKenzie Centre now has a Facebook page. It's somewhere to see what we're up to and connect everyone when we have an event coming up, such as our next movie fundraiser night. Feel free to like us on Facebook!

- **The Great Gatsby movie fundraiser night: June 6th at 7.30pm at the Lido Cinema**

For just \$25 per ticket:

- ❖ enjoy a complimentary drink and nibbles on arrival
- ❖ see the movie in a luxurious, olde world setting
- ❖ free parking at the Centre Place car park after 6pm

To purchase tickets and support this important fundraising event for McKenzie Centre, please contact Sandra on Phone: 839 5357, or email admin@mckenziecentre.nzl.org

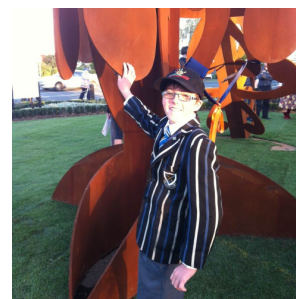
We do need help selling tickets for the movie, so please do help us and pass the word on. We also need help with catering on the night. If anyone is able to provide a plate of nibbles for the evening, or can help pour drinks and/or pass food around, please let Sandra or Lillian know. McKenzie Centre is dependent on fundraising to help provide the many valuable services we have for your child and family. Thanks!

Thanks to:

- Lillian's brother, Eddy de Leeuw, fixed the warped corners of the sandpit and then her cousin Harry van den Berg kindly fixed the children's oven and sink unit in the family play room. Tomorrow's master chefs can get back into producing amazing creations!
- Staff from AON New Zealand who came in during the holidays and worked really hard at giving the Centre a spring clean in Autumn. Inside and outside got a thorough going over. The Centre looks great now and ready for the winter ahead. Huge thanks to Arren, Catherine, Emma, Hayley and Stephen who completed every task they were given with enthusiasm.



- Lollipops kindly offered McKenzie Centre families another free family evening on Tuesday 26th February. It was a lovely, fun filled evening for all the families that came along. Be sure to look out for the next time they invite us back. We'll put a poster in the foyer and send you an email about it.
- Finn McNally, who is one of our graduates, as well as an art enthusiast, and his family, who kindly represented McKenzie Centre last month at the MESH Sculpture Trust's newest sculpture unveiling, up at the Hamilton Lake rose gardens. As neighbours to the sculpture site, McKenzie Centre was included in these celebrations.



- Ashlyn's granddad for making these great scales for us to use in the family playroom.



Best wishes from; Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Ursula, Annette, Teresa, Ruth, Helen, Sandra, Lillian, Marcia and Richard.

Funders

As always we would like to acknowledge and thank our funders, who help make it possible for us to provide an affordable and high quality service to families.



As well as these funders too:

Ministry of Education, Special Education

Ministry of Health

Lotteries Community Fund

Tidd Foundation

CJB Norwood Trust

Page Trust

Freemasons

Gallagher Charitable Trust

Gull Community Grants

Sir John Logan Campbell Trust

Hamilton City Council

COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)

John Illott Trust

WDFF Karamu Trust

Todd Foundation

ANZ Staff Foundation

Talking Tech Foundation

St Francis Charitable Trust Board

Norah Howell Trust

Trust Waikato

Community Post

Frozen Funds Trust

Walt Disney - Handy Manny

And our donors and sponsors (private donors names not published for privacy reasons):

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Stace Hammond Barristers & Solicitors

Proform Plastics

BNZ partners

Lollipop's Playland and Café

hr connect

Countdown Hamilton Central

Business Enabling Systems Ltd

Friends of McKenzie Centre

Pak n Save Clarence St

Blakes Hire Company

The Lawrenson Group

Artworx

X3 Utility Services

Lido Cinema

Crombie Lockwood

BNZ Closed for Good

CF Reese Plumbing

Stragglers Rod & Kustom

The Olde Creamery Café, Kaipaki

Satlan Corp

Les Mills

Ricoh

AON New Zealand

Cooper Aitken and Partners

U-Leisure

True Colours

Novus

Waikato Geely

Ingham

Countdown Te Awamutu

Waikato Diocesan School students

Gilmours

Kiwanis Westside Club