



Welcome back to Term 3, 2010

Dates to remember this term are;

- Term 3: Begins Monday 19 July and ends Friday 24 September.
- Term 4: Begins Monday 11 October and ends 17 December
- Parent Focus Group Week: 23-27 August
- ESW workshop: Friday 20 August, 12.30-2.30 pm
- True Colours: Friday 13 August, 10 am

General Reminders:

Policies recently reviewed.

During Term 2 we reviewed the McKenzie Centre Review Procedure, Child Protection Policy, Child Behaviour Management Policy, and Privacy Policy. The Trust, Staff and some Parents, along with the Manager of Child Protection Studies for the child Protection Policy, are being consulted during the review. Copies of these are on the notice board in the foyer while they are being reviewed. If anyone has any questions about the review process or the policies they can see Lillian or Sandra in the office.

Do you receive the 'Child Disability Allowance'?

- The Child Disability Allowance (CDA) is provided by Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) to support families who have a child with an intellectual or physical disability. It is paid in recognition of the extra care and supervision required when caring for a child with a disability.
- Child Disability Allowance is \$42.94 per week, paid fortnightly. It is NOT income tested however it is a reviewable benefit, usually annually. CDA also requires sign off from your GP, Paediatrician or Specialist. Including a report from McKenzie Centre with your application is a good idea as this will provide information on the extra care your child requires. Eligibility for this benefit is dependent on the extra levels of care required and not simply that your child has a diagnosis.
- An additional benefit to receiving CDA is that it increases the number of hours you may be able to receive the Childcare Subsidy.
- To access the Child Disability Allowance, either call WINZ 0800 559 009 or talk to Marcia who can support you through the process.

ERO review: as you may remember we were reviewed by the Education Review Office in May, ERO is an independent, external evaluation agency that undertakes reviews of schools and early childhood centres throughout NZ. Our review was extremely positive with comments like; "high quality intervention and education in a safe and caring environment, staff are committed to extensive professional development, high quality leadership using a collaborative approach to decision making, children and their families are supported to transition into the centre and other services and to school, the centre is governed by an effective trust". The full report and a shorter letter to the parents and community of McKenzie Centre are available in the foyer or look on our website. When you are considering an early childhood centre or school for your child check their ERO report on line at www.ero.govt.nz

Children's belongings

Please ensure that your child's belongings are clearly labeled, especially their bags, lunch boxes and drink bottles. This makes it easier for staff to assist your child with snack time, especially when parents are not present or busy elsewhere.

Children's artwork

Please remember to check the art box for your child's art work. Some ideas on how to use their masterpieces; frame them or put them up in a visible place so your child can feel proud of their work; use them as gift wrap for family or friends; they can also be re used cut out and to make collage pictures; or book covers.

General Notes

Please remember we need your help to involve your child with the daily centre routines like; hand washing before eating, music time set up and tidy up and at the end of the session tidying up. Remember if you or your child are unwell stay at home, rest and get better. We always appreciate a call or txt to say if you are not coming.

Parent Focus Group-23-27 August

This term's topic will focus on parents getting together, having a chance to talk, catch up and meet new families/parents. There will be the opportunity to talk about your child; their diagnosis (if they have one), and share information on their strengths and interests. Leading on from that parents have the opportunity to talk about how they deal with family, friends and others, and what coping strategies they have in dealing with people's questions and comments.

Round the Bridges 2010 This will be on Sunday 21st November. It is an opportunity for McKenzie Centre to raise awareness and generate funds. The event is organised by U Leisure and the entry fee goes towards operational costs, not McKenzie Centre, but participants have a variety of opportunities to donate. We will be fundraising on the day in a variety of ways and we want to encourage corporate teams and individuals to use the event to raise funds for us through sponsorship, for example. Think about getting your friends/work mates to sponsor you to walk or run and donate the proceeds to McKenzie Centre. Please save the date and give us your fundraising ideas.

Woogie: Autism Dog

Sonya Ewens has kindly offered to bring her family's service dog, Woogie, into the Centre on Tuesdays. Woggie is a trained assistance dog, she is big and fluffy and very aware of how to behave around children. Sonya thought that Woogie would be great for the children as assistance dogs have been shown to have a calming influence on children with autism. So we thought we would give this a trial and see how it goes.

Parent Survey This term we will begin our annual survey, last year we asked for your feedback about our assessment process and this year we will target Individual Plans.

Students Thank you for your patience and consideration towards our students. We try to support students as the more they understand the more support children with special needs will have out there in the community. This term we will have a second year Early Childhood Student, Lisa, in the Centre for 4 weeks from 9 August.

Relicensing All early childhood centres have to comply with the relicensing requirements. We will have a visit on 31 August for the Ministry of Education to audit our compliance.

Website Lillian does a great job of updating the website. Take a look!

Visiting Specialist Role From the beginning of this term Teresa Blake, Early Intervention Teacher, will visit all of the children on the paraprofessional contract, which is all of the children who have ESWs. She will visit the children and their ESWs at the early childhood centre and the child's key worker will make at least one contact each term. Teresa will still be in Monday and Friday sessions. We hope she enjoys her new role. So this means that your key worker will be at your session most weeks and not out visiting as they did in the past. We hope this change will make things smoother for everyone. If you have any feedback about your ESW please contact your key worker who will pass any messages on to Teresa.

FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

Term fee increase You have probably heard on the news about some law changes that will affect the Centre financially. GST is increasing in term 3, which means we will unfortunately have to increase our parent fees. **The new fees starting TERM 4 will be: \$65 per term for one child. \$110 for a family, \$40 for assessment or up to two initial sessions.**

Fee payment The GST increase takes place on 1 October. Any fees paid after that date will incur the new 15% GST rate, and will therefore cost us more. Because of this, we will be issuing term 3 invoices early. **PLEASE pay your term 3 invoice before 1 October** to ensure McKenzie Centre avoids additional GST cost. As a charitable trust we do not have extra money to cover this and will have to fundraise to cover any loss.

Changes to early childhood funding - This is another topic that has been in the news. McKenzie Centre, like many other early childhood centres, will lose funding as a result of this change. We will NOT be passing on this cost to you, instead we will have to fundraise elsewhere to bridge the gap.

Did you Know?

McKenzie Centre is a charitable trust, governed by 10 volunteer Trustees, which include current and past parents of McKenzie Centre children. About 75% of our funding comes from government, but we work hard to fundraise the remainder so that we can continue to provide the best possible services, equipment and assessments for the families and children who attend. To do this, we must apply to private trusts for funding, run fundraising events such as Round the Bridges, and solicit donations.

Payroll giving is a new government initiative to make it easier for people to donate. You can help by asking your employer and other businesses you interact with to offer payroll giving to their staff, and by encouraging staff to suggest McKenzie Centre as a local charity to choose as a donor organisation. Payroll giving allows donations to be deducted automatically from your pre-tax income, so you do not have to gather receipts and wait until the end of the tax year to claim your tax refund - you get the tax refund immediately. 33% of the donation amount is retained by you, so for example you pay \$2 but McKenzie Centre receives \$3. Employers should already have plenty of information about this, but you can also get more information from Nan in the office.

How you can help - Encourage others to choose McKenzie Centre as their donor organisation. Encourage reluctant employers to offer payroll giving to their staff. If they are concerned about having to make payments to too many different charities, encourage them to select one or two "preferred charities" (and suggest us!). Encourage local businesses to choose local charities as their preferred charity. Join Friends of McKenzie Centre. See their notice below.

Remember if you have feedback or comments about services at the Centre please talk with your key worker or Trisha.

Best wishes, Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Ursula, Andree, Teresa, Ruth, Nan, Sandra, Lillian, Marcia, Richard

Introducing Friends of McKenzie Centre

Dear McKenzie Centre Families,

You will already be very aware of the fantastic support offered to our children and our families.

In order to further support the great work done by the Centre we are forming a voluntary group called 'Friends of McKenzie Centre.'

This group has three main purposes:

- Fundraising
- Support
- Awareness raising

Friends of McKenzie Centre will work on fundraising throughout the year in order to support the Centre to maintain its continual improvements.

McKenzie Centre offers all our families great support already. Friends would like to set up additional support to the families involved in the centre. This could be anything from a pampering session for Mums to a soccer match for Dads! (We are open to ideas.)

Finally, it is always important to ensure the community knows about the Centre and the work it does in order that we can encourage on-going support from all the generous local businesses and families. We will ensure that we raise awareness whilst always maintaining the great reputation of the Centre.

So where do you come in? We are looking to set up a database of people who would be willing to be a 'Friend of McKenzie Centre.' Being a Friend can mean a number of things. We know that everyone has busy lives and as a Friend you can offer to do as little or as much as you can. For example, you may be able to help out once a year at a fundraising event, or you may have a skill or a service and are willing to donate your time.

To become a Friend just complete the slip below and give us an idea of what you could offer your support with. Remember every little bit helps and is appreciated.

You may also know of someone in your circle of family, friends or work colleagues that might like to be a Friend. If so then please pass on a copy of this and ask them to return it.

The wider we can reach into the community the more we can achieve for the Centre.

We would like to thank you in advance for any support you are able to give.

*Clare Szabo for the
Friends of McKenzie Centre Committee*

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Name:

Contact number:

E-mail address:

I would like to become a Friend of McKenzie Centre and would be able to offer the following:

Funders

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



As well as:

Ministry of Education, Special Education
Lotteries Community Fund
COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)
Norah Howell Trust
Debbie Wilson
Freemasons
Sir John Logan Campbell Trust
Todd Foundation
Gallagher Charitable Trust
Frozen Funds Trust
Talking Tech Foundation
Ministry of Social Development

Ministry of Health
Hamilton City Council
Community Post
Page Trust
Trust Waikato
WDFK Karamu Trust
John Illott Trust
Community Post
ANZ Staff Foundation
Gull Community Grants
AXA Hearts in Action

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

Southwell School Chapel Fund
Artworx
Cooper Aitken and Partners
New World Te Rapa
Stace Hammond Barristers & Solicitors
U-Leisure
Manu Bay Wines
Proform Plastics
Andrew Malcolm
Fusion Print Group Ltd
PR Building Services Ltd
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