

## Parent Newsletter; Welcome back to Term 4, 2010

### Dates to remember are;

- Term 4: Begins Monday 11 October
- AGM 11 October 6.15pm
- Parent Focus Group Week: 8-12 November
- ESW workshop: Friday 3 December, 12.30-2.30 pm
- True Colours: Tuesday 23 November 10am
- The end of year party will be a teddy bears' picnic on **Thursday 16 December 11am** at McKenzie Centre (there will be no Thursday afternoon session this day). Bring a plate and your teddy! Past and present families are welcome so spread the word.
- Last session Friday 17 December
- Centre closes 20 December and reopens Monday 17 January 2011
- Term One sessions start Tuesday 1 February 2011



### General Notes

To all our parents and caregivers we want to acknowledge the fabulous job you all do and how your dedication to your children really inspires us, and puts you all into a unique class well above the rest. In spite of setbacks you come into the Centre regularly bringing with you courage and fortitude and this is inspirational to us and to others. Something we try very hard to do at McKenzie Centre is support parents so if there is anything we can do please talk with us. We also like to make sure you and your family feel supported after you leave McKenzie Centre, please speak with your key worker who can give more information about other services such as Parent to Parent. We also encourage parents to connect with others in their session or through special groups. If there is a special group that you think would be useful to start, please let us know.

**Lollipops** Thank you to Pru and her team at Lollipops who opened their doors to our families on 30 June, it was a fabulous evening and it was great to see so many families there. We sent Pru some photos of the children as a thank you (with parent permission of course!)

**Car park** as we are short of space sometimes it is necessary for families to park in the driveway. Please come in and ask that parent to move their car rather than run the risk of damaging cars.

**Allergies** If your child has a serious allergy please let your key worker know for safety reasons.

### Policies recently reviewed.

We review policies in a cycle to ensure the content is up to date and relevant. We invite parents/whanau, trustees and staff to review the policies so you are aware of what to do and also so you can contribute to what is done at the Centre. During Term 3 we reviewed the Nappy Changing Procedure, Complaints Procedure, Back Up Procedure (Daily), McKenzie Centre Vehicle Policy, Lockdown Procedure, and Health and Safety Policy and Procedure. Copies of these are on the notice board in the Whanau Room 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.

### Parent Survey

Thanks to those who took time to complete the parent survey. This feedback is very helpful to us. Once the trustees have collated this information, we will give you an overview of what you have told us.

**Handy Manny Competition.** Thanks to Paula Winders and family for nominating McKenzie Centre. We won \$2000 and Children's Handy Manny toys. These will be in the Centre in Term 4. Be sure to enjoy them.

From 27 September 2010 the subsidy rates and income thresholds for **Childcare Subsidy** will increase. Here is the table:

#### Childcare Subsidy and OSCAR rates

| If you have | And your family's weekly income before tax is less than | The subsidy per child per hour is up to |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 child     | \$1,200                                                 | \$3.77                                  |
| 1 child     | \$1,300                                                 | \$2.62                                  |
| 1 child     | \$1,400                                                 | \$1.46                                  |
| 2 children  | \$1,380                                                 | \$3.77                                  |
| 2 children  | \$1,490                                                 | \$2.62                                  |
| 2 children  | \$1,600                                                 | \$1.46                                  |
| 3+ children | \$1,540                                                 | \$3.77                                  |
| 3+ children | \$1,670                                                 | \$2.62                                  |
| 3+ children | \$1,800                                                 | \$1.46                                  |

If you think you may qualify for this subsidy, ask Sandra for a form. It may cover your McKenzie Centre fees. It is in your interest to try for this subsidy to reduce your fees.

**Cam's Dad-** Jason Uden is on a mission and is challenging himself to complete the Bonita Ironman NZ Triathlon in March 2011. Jason is doing this to show Cam, who has ASD, the belief he can do anything. If you would like to follow Jason's journey take a look at his web site: [www.ironmanforcam.blogspot.com](http://www.ironmanforcam.blogspot.com)

**MedicAlert** now covers ASD; this is a 24 hour emergency medical information and identification service for people all over the world with disabilities. Until recently MedicAlert NZ did not include ASD as one of the medical conditions they provide support for. MedicAlert have now changed their policy and if you would like to find out more visit [www.medicalert.co.nz](http://www.medicalert.co.nz)

**Emergency TXT service** for deaf and hearing impaired people. This service is being set up for emergencies, to use the service you must register first. Information about registering is on the poster in the whanau room.

#### Reminder for conditions with software loans

We lend software to families whose children would benefit from extra practice at home. This is only possible if you follow the loan conditions you agreed to:

- Return the software/toy to the McKenzie Centre within 2 weeks. Take the utmost care and return items in the condition you received them. ( negotiable with key worker )
- Not lend any items to any other persons.
- Supervise the loading and storage of the software and extras to carefully minimise damage.
- Return equipment in good working order and discuss charges for lost or damaged toys and switches, pay any agreed costs for replacement or repair (scratched CDs can become unusable)
- Uninstall the software from your computer after 4 weeks (essential for copyright)
- Not to copy the CD/ DVD while it is in your care. (essential for copyright)

We would like to continue this service and appreciate the support of all families who follow these agreed conditions.

#### Amnesty on all loans

We are always grateful for returns - so please check your CD-Rom drive and shelves. We have one software title missing - Bob the Builder.

#### Jill Weidenbohm

It is with sadness that we share that Jill died on 21.9.10. Jill was the Principal at Patricia Avenue School and was passionate about education for all children. She was a good friend to McKenzie Centre and our thoughts are with the staff, trustees, students and families at this sad time.

**Parent to Parent** are running personal support training to help parents/caregivers/whanau cope. The topics covered are; grief, stress, support, family resilience. Parent to Parent Office, 28 Dinsdale Road, Hamilton. Sunday 21 November 2010 9am - 4pm RSVP: 8481362 or [lindab@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:lindab@parent2parent.org.nz)

**Do you receive the 'Child Disability Allowance'?** Some families will be eligible for the **Child Disability Allowance** or **Disability Allowance**, if you do not receive these please talk with your key worker.

- 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 \$43.81 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.

**Transitions to Early Childhood Centres and Schools;** we facilitate this process and need to know if you are enrolling or changing sessions. Some times children are eligible for support in their early childhood centre/school so let us know so we can have the appropriate supports in place.

### **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. Name recognition is also a good literacy skill for children.

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-8-12 November**

Last term parents enjoyed getting together, having a chance to talk, catch up and meet new families/parents. The feedback from families indicated people would like to do this again so this will happen again in Term 4. As well as being together, parents have the opportunity to talk about ideas for the holiday break. Remember that sessions are a bit different this week.

**Round the Bridges 2010** This will be on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 event costs, 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 Fundraise Online or their own efforts. 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 have a look at [www.fundraiseonline.co.nz](http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz) and McKenzie Centre's fundraising page <https://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/fundraise/makedonation.aspx?c=323>

**Waikato Business Excellence Awards-** we entered this and got shortlisted. We think that is great and it was a good opportunity to compare our skills managing McKenzie Centre compared to other businesses in the region.

**Gluten free playdough** During Term 3, we had many unsuccessful attempts to make gluten free playdough for the sessions. Unfortunately, we don't have the kitchen resources to make usable gluten free playdough. If this is important for your child, please bring some in and we can store it to use in their session.

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

**Thank you...** to all the people who help around the Centre. We have several volunteers who come in and help with admin, gardening and maintenance tasks. **Audrey Durose** often comes in on Thursdays to look after our gardens. Watch out for the sunflower seedlings she will be planting soon. **Alex Wang** and **Ivy Zhang** have come in to help with some sorting and organizing of the toys and general admin and **Dawn Kunnenders**, now a past parent, comes in to help with scanning and shredding. This is a great benefit to us as it decreases our costs and the staff can focus on other tasks. **Graeme Park**, an extremely handy man, has been in and fixed many things including painting the easel, putting up hooks and repairing the shed. The team from **Crombie Lockwood** came on 7 October and did many tasks including clearing the gutters, water blasting, general repairs and cleaning.

**Volunteer**, Katie Steenman will be in 3 sessions starting mid November until December 15<sup>th</sup>. Katie is a Dutch Physiotherapist who is pursuing her Masters in Paediatric Physical Therapy. She also rows and while in NZ rowing has volunteered to help at McKenzie Centre.

### 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 increased on 1 October, 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.**

**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.

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*

### **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  
Hamilton City Council  
Norah Howell Trust  
Trust Waikato  
Sir John Logan Campbell Trust  
Community Post  
Frozen Funds Trust  
AXA Hearts in Action  
CJB Norwood Trust

Ministry of Health  
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