



Parent Newsletter; Term 4, 2010

Wishing you all happy and safe holidays from everyone at McKenzie Centre.

**Dates to remember are;**

- 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. Term One ends 15 April. The terms at the beginning of the year are longer so please note these in your diary.

**General Notes and Catch Ups**

**Parent Survey.** Winners of the chocolates were the Middleton, Ferguson and Paul-Paea families, we hope you enjoyed them and thanks to everyone for the feedback. The focus of the survey was Individual Plans (IP) and we are happy to report that feedback was positive with 30 families out of the 34 that responded saying that IPs are important and a good way to keep up to date with progress. 33 families said they are involved in choosing their child's goals, 34 felt they were fully informed and 24 said that the IP written document was very useful. From this feedback we have created a new IP format that is in use for some families, it is more like fridge notes. Key workers use different styles so if you find your written IP is too long or short or not useful please talk about it with your key worker so we get it right for your family.

We are very satisfied that families feel supported and accepted at the Centre with 22 families saying this exceeds their expectations. Thank you for your ideas on things we could improve, we have lowered the hand towel dispenser in the wheelchair access toilet and try to remember to introduce new families at mat time. Social get-togethers with parents was another suggestion so we have used the Parent Focus times as informal get-togethers so parents can chat and get to know each other. Sorry we can not do much about the suggestions that we come to live with you 24 hours a day!! The survey information was presented to the Trust to keep them informed about your feedback and of course your Parent Reps keep them up to date each month.

**Building Renovations.** We are investigating the possibility of extending the building to give us a better flow in the play areas and to separate the administration area from the play areas. We would also like to have a separate area so families can talk privately as needed. This was one of the suggestions in the parent survey and we totally agree. Changing the building will be a big, expensive project- we have approached the Hamilton West School BOT and they agree we can extend our current building into the area where the cycle track is currently. Next step is plans and funding so if you have ideas or suggestions please see Trisha.

**Round the Bridges.** Thank you to everyone who helped, walked/ran and fundraised in connection with this annual event. We are very pleased to say our Fundraise Online sponsorship scheme worked very well. Many people helped but we need to especially mention the efforts of Louise Williams (Cameron's mum), Clare Szabo (Thomas's mum), Alison Short (Dion's mum) Toby's aunt Abbey Leggett, Janine Middleton (Harry's mum), Mariet Klinkhamer (one of our ESWs), Donna Bregmen, Ana Gray (and Mereana and Kataania), Kim and Ollie Posa, Mike and Barry Hamblyn, Jo Orchard (Maia's mum). Have a look at [www.fundraiseonline.co.nz](http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz) and McKenzie Centres fundraising page. Donations can be made at any time, they do not have to be linked to an event. So please set up a fundraising page and tell your friends (or just send them this link to our direct donation page): <https://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/fundraise/makedonation.aspx?c=323>

Also enormous thanks to Ian Christie at Countdown Te Awamutu, who provided the buns and just about everything else we needed for the sizzle, and to Peter and Lea from Hunt for Food, who supported us with reduced-cost juicies, juices and water to sell.

We are still reconciling the funds but we expect the proceeds to be in excess of \$7,000. We will keep you updated on our progress in further newsletters. **All proceeds will go to our building project.**

Vintage Car Show- Thank you to Dee Jensen (James and David's mum) who secured our position as one of several charities to benefit from the Vintage car show in Cambridge on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. Dee also recruited a number of volunteers to collect donations at the show, a much appreciated effort. This donation too will go towards the building project.

Westpac Waikato Business Excellence Awards 2010. McKenzie Centre was a finalist in the category "Businesses that employ 6-15 full time employees." We are told that to get into the finals on your first attempt is a great honor, so we are very proud. We have our certificate displayed in the foyer. So you can be reassured to know that not only are we providing essential early intervention but that all the things that go on behind the scenes are also very well run.

Nan Jensen, our Business Manager, has resigned and will finish in February. Nan has decided to complete her law degree as a full time student; her goal is to support families of children with special needs. We will truly miss Nan, her contribution to McKenzie Centre has been outstanding. Although she is resigning she has promised to be in regular contact so we will keep you to that promise Nan. We have advertised the Business Manager position and hope a new person can start in January.

Trust news. Kaley Crossland resigned from the Chairperson position at our October AGM, Kaley has held this role for 3 years and done a fantastic job, he continues on the Trust as a community rep. The new Chairperson is Nick Smith and Deputy is Louise Swales. Both are community reps and are highly committed to the Centre. Louise came onto the Trust as a parent rep as her son William attended the Centre. Nick is the Chief Operating Officer at Proform Plastics. Both have a wealth of knowledge and thank you both for supporting the Centre. Ana Gray, is resigning from her role as Parent Rep and two new parents are considering the role. Will keep you posted!

Moray Carr is one of our ESW staff, Moray has worked for McKenzie Centre for 10 years she has been an invaluable support to many children and is highly regarded. Congratulations and thank you Moray.

ESW, Education Support Workers, their contract finishes 17 December and the new contract starts on February 1. There is no ESW support in any of the school holidays.

Tricia Pauley did a short locum for Sue; we thoroughly enjoyed having Tricia on the team. Sue and family had a wonderful holiday in Europe and we were pleased she came back!!

Volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in the Centre and for the Centre this year, you make a huge difference in supporting the staff so we can better support families. Currently we have Katie Steenman in three sessions. Katie is from Holland and is a Physiotherapist, she is also a very keen rower so look out for her on the Dutch team at the Olympics.

**Holiday loans.** We are happy to loan our equipment over the holidays so please see your key worker. We do ask that you look after it and return it clean and in good condition.

**Dad's group.** This has come up several times, mainly by the Mums!! We are keen, so talk to the men and tell Sandra who is interested, we will then arrange a meeting and take it from there.

**Baby news...** Congratulations to Wendy, Jason and big brother Cam on the safe arrival of Lily in November.

**Friends of McKenzie Centre** organized a community meeting in Te Awamutu with the theme- what to do if concerned about your child's development. As well as McKenzie Centre they invited representatives from Parent to Parent, Autism Waikato, Conductive Education, Guide Dogs and parents spoke about what they did and the supports they used in the community. Thanks to Kaz Pollard, Clare Szabo and Dee Jensen for attending and organizing this event.

Other celebrations... during the year many children have left McKenzie Centre and moved on to school. We wish you all the best and hope that you will keep in touch. Check our web site, that will keep you informed of happenings here at the Centre. All children and families who attend the Centre are special so remember to call in as we do enjoy catching up with you.

This holiday break is a long one so think about what you need to support yourself and plan some strategies, it could be respite, or finding out what is free and fun for kids in Hamilton, coffee groups with other Mums!

Take care and best wishes...

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

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

### 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  
Gallagher Charitable Trust  
Frozen Funds Trust  
AXA Hearts in Action

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