

Parent Newsletter; Welcome back to Term 1, 2011

Hope: Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

Dates to remember are;

- Term 1: Sessions begin Tuesday 1 February
- Parent Focus Group Week: 21-24 February; 10.30 am morning session, 1pm afternoon session. Friday's parent focus will be the following week on Friday 4 March.
- ESW workshop: Friday 1 April, 12.30-2.30 pm
- Hanen 'More Than Words' Programme for Parents with Children with Autism/Social Communication Difficulties, starts 23 February, 6.30 pm.
- True Colours: Wednesday 23 March 10am
- Last session Friday 15 April
- Term 2 commences Monday 2 May 2011

Staff news

From Nan:

I will be finishing at McKenzie Centre on Friday, 11th February. It was a difficult decision but I have decided to study full-time and finish the LLB (law degree) that I started in 2006. I am planning to specialise in disability and not-for-profit law, to support families, adults and children with special needs such as those we support at McKenzie Centre. I will also volunteer at McKenzie Centre whenever possible.

While studying, I will be clerking with Tony Banks, Barrister and Solicitor. Tony's practise encompasses general law (small business transactions, wills, trusts, conveyancing etc) as well as a specialisation in disability and not-for-profit law.

From Monday, 24th January, Helen Gempton is the Business Manager. I will be here in a supporting role for a few weeks. I am pleased to be leaving the role in such competent hands. McKenzie Centre will be hosting a farewell and welcome function at the Centre for myself and Helen. This will be on Thursday 10th February at 4:30 pm. You are invited to attend.

My contact details after 11th February are 07 829 7244 (home), 021 250 0315 (cell) and nanogsoren@slingshot.co.nz or nanogsoren@alumni.upenn.edu

Introducing Helen:

Hello everyone

I am thrilled to be the new Business Manager at McKenzie Centre, but have to admit to being extremely nervous about stepping into the very big shoes left by our wonderful Nan! Talk about a hard act to follow! However, I have a huge passion for, and commitment to, McKenzie Centre, and I'm sure that will stand me in good stead.

I have a background as a lawyer and, prior to coming to McKenzie Centre, worked for seven years in the disability sector for a family support and advocacy organisation, Parent to Parent. My very happy association with McKenzie Centre goes back many years, first as a parent, then a Trustee (for an embarrassingly long time!) and now as an employee. I am married to Brian and am the mother of two teenage daughters, Lara and Marin. Our family first became involved with McKenzie Centre in 1998, when Marin was diagnosed with a genetic condition, which causes epilepsy, intellectual disability and health issues. She is now 13 and a delightful young lady with a head full of dreams for her future, and a wicked sense of humour! Lara,

nearly 15, is also wonderful (yes, teenagers can be lovely!), is an incredibly good sister, and is my IT and fashion guru!

I understand the enormous value of early intervention and how lucky the Waikato is to have the unique McKenzie Centre, and its quality services and support. When I look back on those early years, I have no doubt that McKenzie Centre played a pivotal role in building resilience and strength in our family so that we could look to the future with hope and optimism.

I am looking forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks, and can't wait to get my teeth into my new role to help support the wonderful work that McKenzie Centre does for children and families in the Waikato.

Helen

Ps Just because every mother loves to brag, here are my lovely girls!



Marin

Lara

Changes to staff working days:

Richard Edghill, Psychologist, will now be in Wednesday and Friday sessions and Ruth Michels, Assistant Technology Specialist, will now be in Monday, Wednesday and Friday sessions. Marcia, Social Worker, will be on Tuesday and other times as arranged.

General News

Music sessions: A reminder that music sessions now start at 10.45 am and afternoon music sessions will start at 1.20 pm. We welcome and encourage all parents/whanau and children to attend and get involved, to enjoy the range of learning and social opportunities that our fun filled music sessions provide. If you are unsure why we include music in the session, talk with your key worker.

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

Te Reo: It is important that children experience language of their own and other cultures and that we reflect the dual culture and heritage of New Zealand/Aotearoa. Staff will be incorporating Te Reo Maori into our daily routines, including a few familiar words and phrases you may already be familiar with:

Haere mai ki te kai/Come and eat

Haere mai ki te whariki/Come to the mat

Horoi o ringa ringa/Wash your hands

Health & Safety

Allergies: If your child has a serious allergy please tell your key worker for safety reasons.

Sun safety: Summer is here in full force and the need to keep ourselves and our children safe during these very hot months. Please remember to apply sunscreen and bring your child's sun hat for when they play outside. Staff and parents also need to protect themselves and provide a positive role model for the children. McKenzie Centre provides sunscreen (kept on front entrance shelf and on the shelf outside) and sunhats are kept in a basket by the front entrance door and also provides shaded places for the children to play. It is better to provide your own hat rather than risk sharing hats when little crawly creatures can live for hours on material. We do wash the hats but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Shoes: The grey matting outside gets extremely hot so we suggest you provide shoes for your children while playing outside.

Labelling belongings: Please label/name your children's bags, lunchboxes and bottles. This is important to ensure the staff can support the children at kai time, especially when the parents are busy elsewhere, and also encourages early literacy i.e. recognising their name.

Hygiene routines: Please support your children to wash their hands prior to eating. We would prefer that you use the hand basins in the toilet areas found at each end of the building. This is so the children learn what is expected of them at the early childhood centres where washing hands is done in the toilet area not at water play. We have placed visual schedules of

toileting and hand washing at each area to support these routines and they are great opportunities to encourage a range of skills including; self care, fine motor and language skills. The recommended rule is 20/20; wash for 20 seconds and dry for 20 seconds.

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 4 last year we reviewed the Backup Procedure, Lockdown Procedure, Media Policy and Safety Guidelines for Home Visiting. Copies of these were on the notice board in the Whanau Room while they were being reviewed. This term we will be looking at policies and procedures around the ESWs, Conflict of Interest, and Non Teacher Vetting Procedure. If anyone has any questions about the review process or the policies they can see Lillian or Sandra in the office.

Congratulations to David Henshaw, the artist who drew all our lovely pictures on the web site and who has donated many sketches and cards to the Centre. David received an ONZM - Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, in the New Year's honours list. We are very pleased for him and grateful for his support.

ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS, TEACHER AIDES, FAMILIES AND ASD SERVICE PROVIDERS

Don't miss popular and inspirational speaker on Autism Spectrum Disorders, SUE LARKEY, in an informative and empowering one-day seminar.

Sue Larkey is a highly qualified special educator and has authored several books and resource material. She is a truly inspirational speaker and not only is her one day seminar informative - it is also a lot of fun! She has a remarkable ability to captivate her audience for an entire day, and attendees come away fuelled with strategies and ideas to teach children with autism and aspergers syndrome. **2011 Term 1 Seminar dates and locations:**

Wellington	Monday 21 March 2011	9.30-3.00pm	Holiday Inn City Centre
Tauranga	Tuesday 22 March 2011	9.30-3.00pm	The Sebel Trinity Wharf Tauranga
Auckland	Wednesday 23 March 2011	9.30-3.00pm	Hotel Grand Chancellor Auckland Airport

Early bird registration (\$145) closes on Monday 28 February 2011 (payment after this date is \$165). Spaces are limited - book your spot today!

Book online at www.creatingsuccess.co.nz

For more information please contact Jo Adkins jo@creatingsuccess.co.nz

Some of our staff have been on Sue's courses and found them very valuable

You may be eligible for the childcare subsidy, so 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.

Computer gear on loan

Bob is back. We are thrilled that the missing Bob the Builder software has been returned. We are still looking for the Switch It Dinosaurs and a switch adapted mouse and switch that are still out on loan so please check your CD-Rom drive and shelves at home.

Parent to Parent are running an advocacy course Saturday 19th -Sunday 20 March 2011 9am - 4pm Learning advocacy support skills enhances self advocacy as well as providing important skills for helping others. Parent to Parent Office, 28 Dinsdale Road, Hamilton. RSVP: 8481362 or lindab@parent2parent.org.nz

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

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

Parent Focus Group February 21, 22, 23, 24 and Friday 4 March- from the feedback we received it seems that most of you want to have time together, sharing a coffee and chatting. So that is what we will provide- remember the staff will care for the children so sessions are a bit different this week.

Round the Bridges Fundraising Results- Thank you again to everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts in connection with this event. We don't have a final figure yet, but we anticipate a net result of about \$9,000, a fabulous result! The funds will be put towards the building revamp, which we hope to complete by the start of 2012. Fundraise Online turned out to be a useful and easy way to raise funds, and we can still take donations that way, even though the event is finished. Please see www.fundraiseonline.co.nz and McKenzie Centre's fundraising page <https://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/fundraise/makedonation.aspx?c=323>

Thank yous... to all the people who help around the Centre. We have several volunteers who continue to come in and help with admin, gardening and maintenance tasks. **Audrey Durose** often comes in on Thursdays to look after our gardens. Check out the sunflowers along the far side fence. **Richard Stewart** does our lawns and clears the carpark of leaves. **Ivy Zhang** will come in to help with some sorting and organising of the toys and general admin. **Graeme Park**, an extremely handy man, fixes many things for us. Sadly one of our volunteers, Manford Barber, passed away on 3 January, we sent our condolences to his family.

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

FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

Changes to early childhood funding - This is a topic that has been in the news. McKenzie Centre 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, Helen, 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

Lotteries Community Fund

COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)

Norah Howell Trust

Trust Waikato

Sir John Logan Campbell Trust

Community Post

Frozen Funds Trust

AXA Hearts in Action

Tidd Foundation

Hamilton City Council

Community Post

Page Trust

Freemasons

John Illott Trust

Gallagher Charitable Trust

Gull Community Grants

Ministry of Social Development

CJB Norwood Trust

Ministry of Health

Debbie Wilson

WDFK Karamu Trust

Todd Foundation

ANZ Staff Foundation

Talking Tech Foundation

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

Southwell School Chapel Fund	Hamilton City Hawks	Artworx
Matt Fitzsimmons	Cooper Aitken and Partners	Nicola Inglis Photography
New World Te Rapa	Spike @School	New World Te Rapa
Stace Hammond Barristers & Solicitors		X3 Utility Services
U-Leisure	Manu Bay Wines	Eftco
Proform Plastics	BNZ partners	Andrew Malcolm
Crombie Lockwood	Fusion Print Group Ltd	Manu Bay
Lollipop's Playland and Café	Waikato Geely	PR Building Services Ltd
True Colours	Wiggins Family	hr connect
Everest Airconditioning Ltd	Hunt 4 Lunch ltd	Countdown Te Awamutu
Countdown Hamilton Central	Business Enabling Systems Ltd	
Hukanui Body Therapies	Fonterra Co-operative Group Te Rapa	

Paper for this newsletter was kindly supplied by:



KONICA MINOLTA