

Parent Newsletter

Welcome back to Term 3, 2011!



Dates to remember are:

- Term 3: sessions begin **Monday 1 August**, and last session **Friday 7 October**
- Term 4: sessions begin **Tuesday 25 October**.
- **Wednesday 17th August at the Lido Cinema, Centreplace, Hamilton.** The Friends of McKenzie Centre have arranged a special screening of the soon to be released "Te Movie", which celebrates the life of iconic New Zealand comedian and entertainer Billy T James. This fundraiser will include pre-movie drinks and a chance to have a fun night out while supporting the Centre. Contact Helen at McKenzie Centre to get tickets for you, your family and your work mates. Tickets \$25
- **Parent Focus Group Week: 29 August -2nd September;** 10.30 am morning session, 1pm afternoon session. Feedback from the last few meetings indicates that most of you want to continue to have time together, getting to know other families in your session. Remember that this will not be a typical session as staff will be available to play and care for the children while you attend the meeting.
- Hanen 'It Takes Two to Talk' Programme for Parents with Children with Communication Difficulties, starts **Tuesday 2 August**.
- True Colours is a Charitable Trust that support children and young people living with chronic, serious or life threatening illness and their families. Kim Hurrell or one of the other True Colours therapists facilitates an informal morning tea at McKenzie Centre once a term where all parents and caregivers are welcome to discuss issues, support and spend time with other parents. If Tuesday is not your usual session come in anyway- you are very welcome. Staff are available to care for the children. **Tuesday 20 September 10:00am.**
- **Makaton Sign Language:** McKenzie Centre will be hosting Makaton sign language training course. Training for parents is on 10 & 11 October and for staff on 20 & 21 October. If you are interested see your key worker.
- **Parent Survey:** this is done annually and provides an opportunity for you to give us feedback. This year the focus is on Implementation and we will release the survey to you this month. Please take time to fill it in as we have had some great ideas from families in the past that have helped to improve our service. As an incentive to get your survey returned we do have some yummy boxes of chocolates!!

Staff news: Ruth Michels, Assistant Technology Specialist, will continue to be in for Tuesday, Thursday and Friday sessions.



General News: **Boston Rohrlach** was a young boy who came to McKenzie Centre from July 2006 until June 2009. Unfortunately he passed away unexpectedly in February this year. The Rohrlach family had a family trust for Boston and have kindly donated funds to McKenzie Centre in memory of him. Mum, Arna, came to catch up with us all and hand over the cheque late last term. We are still thinking of the best way for us to remember Boston and will let everyone know once we have.

Thank you to Molly and Marshall Brown and son Mathias for a wonderful box of toys and large container that they donated to the Centre.

Thank you to the fantastic BNZ volunteers who came during the holidays. Toys, children's chairs and tables were cleaned, gutters emptied and matting water blasted. Their hard work is really appreciated.



TRAKAKIWI: This is a GPS system suitable for children with ASD who run. For an initial set-up cost of \$250.00 and ongoing monthly fee of \$42.00, several *electronic* boundaries are possible around the home, kindy, ECC etc. If the child goes outside the boundary parents/caregivers are alerted by way of mobile phone. Your phone must be set up first. Check out the website: www.trakakiwi.co.nz

Music sessions: 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. It can be distracting when conversations continue while music time is on and we ask that you consider either moving to another space or waiting until music has finished.

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

Intervention Fee - Parent Contribution: as you know, we have a term fee and the Trust is very aware and focused on making it reasonable for families. This fee is your contribution to the costs of intervention and, for the sake of clarity, will now be known as: Intervention Fee - Parent Contribution. As you can imagine, the total cost of intervention is much higher than the current \$65 charged per term for one child. Your contribution goes towards the highly trained staff you see, and all aspects of the service delivery including; assessments, IPs, visits to early childhood centres, resources, etc. We really appreciate your contribution, and it does have an important impact on the services we offer to families. Remember, you may be eligible for a Child Care Subsidy which contributes to the Intervention Fee. Please see your key worker about this if you would like more information about this.

Health & Safety

Sickness: Unfortunately, now that it's winter there are inevitably more bugs and sickness around. We appreciate you keeping sick children at home rather than risk spreading bugs to other families and staff. Please stay away for at least 24 hours after vomiting and or diarrhoea. We have many children who are medically at risk or have fragile health, and no one wants to get sick if they can help it. All illnesses are spread in similar ways and prevention can be as easy as washing your hands and covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Bugs remain on surfaces such as door handles, computers so regular cleaning is helpful in preventing illnesses. If you cannot attend a session because of sickness or other reasons, please let McKenzie Centre know by calling (839 5357) or texting (0273597754).

Health Waikato has warned that over the last year there have been several cases of measles in NZ. Also Waikato will see approximately six to 10 cases of meningococcal disease this year. If you suspect either of these or any other serious illness trust your instincts and get medical help.

Turtle Safe DVD:

The DVD is a joint venture between Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and the Auckland City Council. It has been sent to over 6000 early childhood centres and playgroups in New Zealand. McKenzie Centre has a copy. You may have seen one in your child's early childhood centre. Turtle Safe features a cartoon dog called Stan who tells children who are inside when the earth begins to shake, to get under a table and hold on. Stan tells children if they are outside when the earth begins to shake, to crouch on the ground and cover their head, like a turtle tucked up in bed. It is an excellent resource which should be available on line at www.getthru.govtr.nz. but is available in our parent library.

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.

Cleaning Computers: We would appreciate that parents/caregivers use the antibacterial wet wipes, that are kept at each computer station, and wipe any area that may have saliva transferred onto it e.g. screen, mouse and/or keyboard, either after your child has finished playing on the computer, or as needed. We hope to keep the computers clean to reduce the spread of illnesses that may be transferred through these cold winter months. Thank you

Curriculum focus: each term we plan focus areas and this is displayed by the music area. Postural control and Te Reo continue to be areas of the focus areas this term.

Policies recently reviewed: Establishing good policies and procedures sets the ground work for improving our operations: good policy and procedures promote good practice. Review offers a source of information about how things work (or how we think they should work) and are a record of our official position on a number of matters. Lillian ensures policies are reviewed on a regular cycle and she has these available for your comments.

Autism Waikato News: It is with regret that due to a number of circumstances the Board has been forced to put the Waikato Branch of Autism New Zealand into recess. The Board is keen to continue offering the following services: TAYAG social group, Holiday Programmes, Support groups (supported by volunteers). Assistance will still be available to Waikato members through the 0800 number (0800 288476) and staff in other branches will also be available if required through the 0800 number. If you have any queries contact wendy.duff@autismnz.org.nz or Alison on alison.molloy@autismnz.org.nz

Volunteer: we would like someone to come in regularly and do some of the extra cleaning jobs that keep the Centre standards high. If you or someone you know is interested please come and see Lillian. An hour or two weekly or a bigger blitz less often would be great.

Allowances: a range of these are available to families including travel, talk with your key worker about eligibility.

Transitions to Early Childhood Centre/School: 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.

Thank you to Kelly Nelson and Deloittes. The staff at Deloittes, in Hamilton East, had a mufti day and raised \$78.10 by way of a gold coin donation which they have kindly passed on to McKenzie Centre. This is a great idea and could work at other businesses as well. You too can help the Centre by spreading this idea as every bit helps.

Round the Bridges is on again this year so start training!! Keep Sunday November 13th free for a 6 or 12km run or walk with family and friends. New Zealand Home Loans is the principle sponsor and McKenzie Centre the official charity. You can set up a page on Fundraise online www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/fundraise/createpage.aspx to encourage everyone you know to sponsor you with the proceeds coming to McKenzie Centre. It's lots of fun and a great way to get moving and help the Centre as well.

Did you know?

McKenzie Centre is a charitable trust, governed by 11 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, the Billy t Te movie night and solicit donations.

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

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

Funders

As always we would like to acknowledge our funders, who help 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	Ministry of Health Lotteries
Community Fund	Community Post	Tidd Foundation
COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)	Page Trust	CJB Norwood Trust
Norah Howell Trust	Freemasons	Debbie Wilson
Trust Waikato	John Illott Trust	WDFE Karamu Trust
Sir John Logan Campbell Trust	Gallagher Charitable Trust	Todd Foundation
Community Post	Gull Community Grants	ANZ Staff Foundation
Frozen Funds Trust	Ministry of Social Development	Talking Tech Foundation
AXA Hearts in Action		The Tidd Foundation Inc
Walt Disney - Handy Manny		

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
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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	Stragglers Rod & Kustom	Hukanui Body Therapies
bnz Closed for Good	Fonterra Co-operative Group Te Rapa	
Business Enabling Systems Ltd	Harry Middleton	Madison Winders
Ingham	CF Reese Plumbing	Brown Family



KONICA MINOLTA