

Parent Newsletter

Welcome back to Term 4, 2011!



Dates to remember are:

- Term 4: sessions begin Tuesday 25 October. The last session of the year is **Tuesday 20th December**.
- End of year Party! **Wednesday 21st December 11am-1pm**. The theme is green and red -so dress up and bring along a plate. Current and past families are very welcome so spread the word!
- Parent Focus Group Week: **21-25th November** 10.30 am for the morning session, and 1pm for the 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.
- True Colours is a Charitable Trust that support children and young people living with chronic, serious or life threatening illness. True Colours therapists facilitate 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 Wednesday is not your usual session come in anyway- you are very welcome. Staff are available to care for the children. This term it will be on **Wednesday 7 December at 10.30am**.
- **Our AGM was on 31 October 2011 at 6.15pm**. The Annual Report and end of year Financial Accounts are available for everyone to read. You're welcome to a copy, ask Sandra or Lillian.
- Our ESW workshop is **9 December**.
- **In 2012, the Term One sessions start on Tuesday 31 January**
- **Billy T Movie Fundraiser Night at the Lido Cinema :**



Over 170 friends, family and supporters of McKenzie Centre had a great time on Wednesday August 17th attending an entertaining showing of Billy T: Te Movie. The evening was organised by Friends of McKenzie Centre, a small group of dedicated parents, who did a fantastic job. A glass of bubbly and a wide array of delicious finger food was available to all before the movie started. Four raffles were sold and drawn on the night to help with the fundraising. Including ticket sales, just

over \$3,000.00 was raised for our building extensions fund. We would like to thank all the wonderful sponsors who helped out by generously giving food or items for the raffles, as well as those parents who made food for the event and helped sell tickets. A special thanks must go to parents and Friends' Committee members Justine Grant and Clare Szabo (pictured here with Chairperson Nick Smith drawing the raffles) for their outstanding efforts in getting this very important fundraising night organised.

- **Olde Creamery Café High Tea & High Fashion Show - Keep Sunday April 1st 2012 free!**



After the great success of the Billy T: Te Movie night, the Friends of McKenzie Centre are busy planning our next wonderful fundraising event: a High Tea and High Fashion show at The Olde Creamery Café in Ohaupo. This will be a really nice girls' day out for mums and daughters, or groups of work mates or girlfriends. There are a few things that we are looking for to help with the event, such as smaller prizes for the raffle wheel - 40 in total - three bigger prizes for a separate raffle, 20 cup and saucer sets (not heirlooms!!) and people to help on the

day. If families are able to help with any of these items, you are very welcome to start bringing things in to Sandra and Lillian. Thanks so much for your support!

- Did you know that there are several **Toy Libraries** in Hamilton? They are scattered around the city and open on differing days. The full list of where and when is in your blue Parent's folder which was given to you when you enrolled. See Sandra or Lillian if you need an update. CCS Disability Action has a wonderful toy library and for \$20 annually you get a fabulous range of toys which is much cheaper than purchasing your own. Kathy Walsh is the person to talk with and she has a lot of experience so call in and borrow some toys for the holidays. CCS Disability Action is located on Claudelands Road, Hamilton and is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm and Fridays 8.30am-4.30pm. For your first meeting, ring Kathy to make an appointment so that she can explain how the toy library works. Phone: 853 9761.

Kathy is retiring at the end of the year and a new person will be appointed. Kathy has been at the toy library for many years and has supported a great number of families over that time. Thanks, Kathy, for all your kind and caring help - we wish you much happiness in your retirement.

- **School transitions** often create stress for our families particularly when making the right choices for their child's education and preparing him/ her for the big change. Recently one of our children transitioned to school and this transition went particularly well for the family. Some things that contributed to making the transition to a mainstream school a huge success were; communication, preparation and collaboration/ teamwork. This family had made a great effort in introducing their lovely son to the school staff and families by writing an intro letter from the child's perspective in the school newsletter.

The school arranged an information meeting for their staff to learn about the needs of this child, using the profile McKenzie Centre provided as well as valuable parent report. The Kindergarten was very proactive by taking the child, along with other 4 year olds, to join the new entrant class for a few hours once a week. This can be arranged with most schools to familiarise the child with the classroom setting. Finally, through careful discussion and brainstorming, we were able to set this young man up for success in a mainstream classroom, having made use of the school's existing resources!

- **Parent survey 2011**, focus on Implementation. Thank you very much for the feedback. We were pleased to learn that all of the people who responded feel the activities in your child's IP are age, appropriate, motivating and meaningful and that the team around your child is involved in setting the goals and implementing them successfully. We especially appreciate your comments and here are a couple of examples. "The degree of expertise is fantastic all avenues are well covered." "Love the fast regular meetings that take place involving people from within the Centre and those outside that all help to make L's life easier and more fulfilling". Most of the comments were very positive but we appreciate knowing things we could do better, a couple of suggestions were; making sure to introduce new families at mat times, larger areas as sometimes the sessions are very noisy, quiet zones, theme weeks, and extend the roof above the computers for taller people. You will be pleased to know we have already taken action for some of these ideas for example we introduced a theme for the end of year party- red and green! Ruth has changed the table on the mezzanine so hopefully this suits the taller folk. As you know we are looking at the feasibility of extending the building and re configuring it and as part of that plan we will include larger play areas and a quiet zone. Winner of the yummy chocolates is the Henwood Family!
- **Life Unlimited** is now live on the web. LIFE Unlimited services are for people no matter what impairments or disadvantages they, their family, or people they care for may have experienced. There is a wide range of Information available as well as equipment for purchase in The LIFE Unlimited Store. <http://www.life.nzl.org/>

General News:

- McKenzie Centre hosted a Makaton sign language training course for parents and staff over the October holiday break. This was very successful and enjoyable and we hope to incorporate more signing into our routines and play. We are still looking for our Makaton book which went missing in term 2. Does anyone have it tucked away at home?
- Repairs have been made to the entrance gate latch so be careful as it may catch your hands. Please ensure that the gate closes behind you as you come in and out.

Staff news:

- Ruth Michels, Assistant Technology Specialist, will be in for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday sessions this term.

- We have a Speech Language Therapy Student, Lianna Murray, with us in Term 4 from 25 October-2 December :

"Hello! I'm Lianna Murray. I am on my final practical placement of a speech and language therapy degree, having completed four years of study at Massey University. I come from Auckland, but I am staying in Te Awamutu for the six weeks I will spend at here at the McKenzie Centre. In my spare time (when I am not studying) I enjoy photography, snow skiing and painting. I am excited about the opportunity of working with some of the special children here at the Centre, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know the staff and families. "



- **Missing Loan item:**
The Dinosaurs Switch It software program is still missing-please check the CD Rom drive of your home computer.
- We invite families to borrow equipment over the holidays but request that when it is returned it is **clean and well maintained**. Otherwise staff have to spend precious time cleaning equipment and to replace items costs the centre as we have to do more fundraising. A lot of the equipment we purchase comes from donations and grants so once we have purchased equipment we like to look after it so new funding is used for new resources for your children and not to replace equipment.
- We will trialling **Gluten Free playdough** this term from a recipe given to us by a parent.
- **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
- **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.
- This term we are applying for **ESW hours** to support children in early childhood centres. We need to have our request in for this soon so speak with your key worker about any changes of hours/ centres, sessions for your child.
- **Take care** with the heat of the outside grey matting at McKenzie Centre. It heats up and becomes too hot to step on in bare feet; so be mindful of your child's feet. **Remember** hats and sunscreen for the hot months ahead.
- As a parent or guardian of a disabled person you might want more choice about how, when and who provides your government funded support. Individualised Funding (IF) provider Manawanui InCharge offers that choice. They employ the people you want in your lives - people who understand your culture, priorities, preferences and lifestyle choices. Their website, <http://www.incharge.org.nz/>, gives you information about their services and how to access them.
- **NZ Home Loans Round the Bridges Fun Run and Walk** 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. Just to let you know McKenzie Centre does not get a donation from the organisers of this event, it is simply an opportunity for us to increase awareness of our service. To help us fundraise, you can set up a page on Fundraise online www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/fundraise/createpage.aspx and then 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.

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

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

Walt Disney - Handy Manny

Hamilton City Council

Community Post

Page Trust

Freemasons

John Illott Trust

Gallagher Charitable Trust

Gull Community Grants

Ministry of Social Development

St Francis Charitable Trust

Ministry of Health

Tidd Foundation

CJB Norwood Trust

Debbie Wilson

WDFK Karamu Trust

Todd Foundation

ANZ Staff Foundation

Talking Tech Foundation

The Tidd Foundation Inc

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

Southwell School Chapel Fund

Matt Fitzsimmons

New World Te Rapa

Stace Hammond Barristers & Solicitors

U-Leisure

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Countdown Hamilton Central

bnz Closed for Good

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Carlton Party Hire

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Hamilton City Hawks

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Spike @School

Manu Bay Wines

BNZ partners

Fusion Print Group Ltd

Waikato Geely

hr connect

Hunt 4 Lunch Ltd

Stragglers Rod & Kustom

Fonterra Co-operative Group Te Rapa

Clare Szabo - Prenzel

CF Reese Plumbing

Packaging House

The Olde Creamery Café, Kaipaki

Jo Foster - Tupperware

Te Kowhai Automotive

Artworx

Nicola Inglis Photography

New World Te Rapa

X3 Utility Services

Eftco

Andrew Malcolm

Manu Bay

PR Building Services Ltd

Lion

Countdown Te Awamutu

Hukanui Body Therapies

Lido Cinema

Brown Family

Urban Hair

Beverly Andrew

Friends of McKenzie Centre



KONICA MINOLTA