

## Parent Newsletter



### Welcome back to Term 1, 2012!

It is great to be back to enjoy the first term of 2012. Staff are looking forward to meeting up with you and your children to learn about all the exciting changes they have made during the summer break.

There are a few house-keeping items to note as we start the year.

- Umbrellas will be up during the sessions to help with shade but we ask that children are prepared for the sun with **sunscreen and hats** during the summer months. It is important to encourage children to wear hats. If you need help to assist encouraging your child to wear their hat then please ask your key worker if they have any ideas.
- Summer is a great time to be outside and have water play so it may be a good idea to bring a **change of clothes** just in case...
- **Take care** outside if your child has bare feet as the grey matting can get very hot. Feel free to hose it down if you feel it is too hot.
- The playdough is now **gluten free** for any child who is gluten intolerant.
- Please continue to encourage your child to **wash their hands** around eating times. These hygiene routines are important for children to learn to encourage their independence. Please ensure that they use the hand basins in the toilet area not the water trough in the play room.

### Dates to remember are:

- Term 1: sessions begin Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January and ends on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April
- Our parent Focus Group week this term will be 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March; 10.30 am for morning sessions and 1pm for afternoon sessions. We will continue to keep these an informal time for parents to catch up with one another. Staff will supervise your children while you relax! Remember that the session on this day will obviously be different so you may not have the same time with your key worker.
- We would like to thank True Colours for their input and support during the past years and appreciate the support they have given to our families. True Colours will no longer be coming during the term as we are now in a position to be able to offer this support with our own staff. Marcia Ranginui Charlton, our Social Worker, will organise the 'Parents Group' on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March starting at 10.30am. If you do not usually attend this day but would like to attend then you are welcome to do so. It would be great if you let your key worker know so that we can ensure we have adequate staff coverage to supervise the children.
- Estelle is running another Hanen *More than Words* programme this term from 15<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> June. Families are looking forward to the Orientation night on 15<sup>th</sup> February. Thanks Estelle. Talk to your Key worker if you're interested in attending any future programmes.
- **A Day of Fun at Hamilton Zoo 18th March 2012** - see the poster in foyer for details.
- The Education Support Worker Workshop will be 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 1pm.
- The Term Two sessions start on Monday 23rd April

- **The Olde Creamery Café High Tea & High Fashion Show**



- Keep Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 free!

Planning is well underway for 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 workmates or girlfriends. Tickets cost just \$60 each and include a scrumptious High Tea, a complimentary drink and a tempting goodie bag. There are a few things that we are still looking for to help with the event, such as smaller prizes for the raffle wheel, 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. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for more details about this very special event, and thanks so much for your support!

- Congratulations to Yulia Pollock, a Friday parent, for winning the washing powder raffle at our Christmas Party. The winner of the chocolate house was Ruth Michels much to Trisha's surprise!



- Other Upcoming events: 27-29 June, Imagine Better will be holding a conference on Individualised Funding and Self Directed Services at Sky City, 346 Victoria Street, Hamilton. Families that may like to attend this conference can get more information from their web site: [www.imaginebetter.co.nz](http://www.imaginebetter.co.nz)

- **ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS, TEACHER AIDES, SENCOS, 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. Their term 1 seminars are designed to give participants practical strategies and ideas to help set children with an autism spectrum disorder up for a successful year ahead.*

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.

**2012 Term 1 Seminar dates and locations:**

North Shore/Auckland	Monday 5 March 2012	9.30-3.00pm	North Harbour Stadium Function Centre
Rotorua	Tuesday 6 March 2012	9.30-3.00pm	Rydges Hotel
Wellington	Wednesday 7 March 2012	9.30-3.00pm	Rydges Hotel

Early bird registration (\$160) closes on Monday 13 February 2012 (payment after this date is \$180).

Book online at [www.creatingsuccess.co.nz](http://www.creatingsuccess.co.nz), or complete the attached registration form.

For more information please contact Jo Adkins [jo@creatingsuccess.co.nz](mailto:jo@creatingsuccess.co.nz)

- Centre Brochure: Jane Burton of Artworx, has once again generously donated her time and expertise. We now have a lovely updated brochure with some photos of our fantastic children, information about our services and contact details. Winara Levi, 18 year older brother of Potiki, kindly translated our brochure into Maori. Many thanks to Jane and Winara. Brochures have been distributed to the many organisations that families with young children may come into contact with. If you know of someone interested in attending the Centre see Sandra or Lillian for a copy.
- Centre Policies and Procedures: A complete list of all the Centre's Policies and Procedures is in the Yellow 'Licence, Policies, ERO Report folder in the Whanau Room. 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 we do and also so you can contribute to what is done at the Centre. During Term 4 last year we reviewed the Transition to School, Trust Member Selection, Guidelines for Referral to Paediatrician, Teacher in Charge Guidelines, Accessing Specialized Intervention Services other than McKenzie Centre Procedures and the Time in Lieu Guidelines. 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.

#### **Staff news:**

- Ruth Michels, Assistant Technology Specialist, will be in for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday sessions again this term.
- We are very sad to say that this is Andree's last term at McKenzie Centre. Andree is retiring and we wish her well with her exciting plans for retirement. Her position is currently being advertised so we hope to have a new staff member to start in Term 2. But for now we intend to enjoy having Andree here for this term!
- **Missing Loan item:** We are still missing a wobble board and an Australasian signing book. Please just 'double check' that you have returned the copy you had. Many thanks.
- **Car park:** Parking is always 'at a premium' so if the car park is full when you arrive, you are welcome to double park behind someone else. Just tell Sandra so that if a car needs to be moved to allow the other family to leave, she knows who to approach.
- **ESW hours:** Most of you will notice that the hours available to your child have changed. It is an ongoing challenge to try to maintain the hours for children when the funding is decreasing. If any family feels that they would like to discuss the hours then speak with your key worker, Centre Director or alternatively we can give you a contact to send a letter to the Ministry of Education who allocate available hours.

*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

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Hamilton City Council

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KONICA MINOLTA