

Parent Newsletter



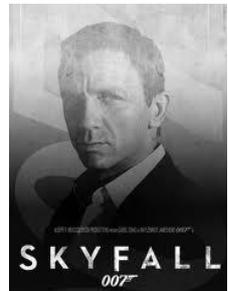
Welcome back to Term 4, 2012!

A quote you may find useful and uplifting... "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." Mother Teresa

Welcome back to Term 4. We are all looking forward to warm weather and long evenings to enjoy outside with the children. We have a busy term so take care of yourselves as we head for the Christmas period!

Dates to remember are:

- Term 4: sessions begin **Monday 15th October**, until end of term on **Wednesday 19th December** (last session for 2012).
- End of year Party! **Thursday 20th December 11am-1pm. Everyone is welcome!**
- The ESW contracts finish on the 14th December so your child's ESW will not be available after this date for support at early childhood centres.
- **Round the Bridges Fun Run** is on again this year so start training!! Keep **Sunday November 18th** free for a 6 or 12km run or walk with family and friends. McKenzie Centre no longer gets a donation from the organisers of this event, but we do encourage people to use it to support our own fundraising efforts. To help us, you can set up your own fundraising page on Fundraise Online and select McKenzie Centre as your beneficiary charity (go to www.fundraiseonline.co.nz to do this). Then encourage everyone you know to sponsor you for walking/running the event, with the proceeds coming to McKenzie Centre. Remember, you also need to register for RTB 2012 through its web-site www.roundthebridges.co.nz. RTB is lots of fun and a great way to get moving and help McKenzie Centre as well! For more information about this, please see Helen, Sandra or Lillian in the admin office.
- **James Bond "Skyfall" Movie Fundraiser** night at the Lido Cinema, Hamilton, **Wednesday 21st November 2012 at 7pm**. We are thrilled to advise that we have secured a special preview screening of the new, highly anticipated 007 movie, "Skyfall". Tickets will go on sale shortly for \$25 each and will include a complimentary drink and nibbles. Come along to the luxurious Lido to be entertained and support McKenzie Centre at the same time. Please see Helen in the admin office for ticket sales or additional information.
- Our Parent Focus Group Week this term will be **5th -9th November**; 10.30am for morning sessions and 1:30pm on Thursday afternoon. This is a great chance to catch up with other parents while your children are cared for by the staff. Remember that the session will look different on this day as Key Workers will not necessarily have the 1:1 time with your child.
- Parent Support Circle this term will be **Friday 30th November at 10.30**, facilitated by Marcia, and is a chance for all parents to meet, share information and support each other. If Friday is not your usual session, come along anyway, and the staff will be available to care for your children.



Dates for 2013 to make note of:

- Sessions start on **4th February 2013**.
- **Lollipops** have kindly offered McKenzie Centre families a free family evening in the new year on **Tuesday 26th February from 5.30 until 7pm**. Families who have recently graduated from McKenzie Centre are also welcome to come and enjoy the fun. Pop this date into your diary as it is a lovely chance for



children to have some fun in a really cool place, and for families to meet each other as well. The cafe will be open. There will be a flyer in the foyer for more details next year.

- **Hanen More Than Words Program**

Estelle is planning to commence with this programme at the start of 2013 with a group of interested families and will be having an introductory session later in Term 4. This is an opportunity for interested families to learn about the program contents, the dates and expectations and make an informed decision before committing to the program. Feel free to get feedback from other McKenzie Centre families who have completed this program or speak to your Key Worker or Estelle for more information. More information available to families later.

- **Parent Survey:** Thank you to all the parents who completed this; your feedback is important to us. Congratulations to the Bragg family who won the box of chocolates. The survey highlighted that the Review step in the pathway is typically meeting expectations. Generally IP goals are linked to learning and all team members, including the family, are involved with the process. Families commented that when praise is given and successes are celebrated, it boosts their confidence. Many families felt that they have benefitted from all of the opportunities provided. We also would love a magic wand to get funding to have a bigger space and more car parks. The Trust, as part of the strategic plan, is seriously investigating increasing the size of the building. An architect has been contracted to provide drawings to look at the feasibility of such a project. We have plans to remove a tree which could give us one or two more car parks. Our team is mindful that as parents you have expertise about your child and working in partnership to share our expertise with yours is what we aim to do, to “realise a child’s potential”.
- **Feedback** please come and talk with your Key Worker, or Trisha, at any time, as we really appreciate your comments and will genuinely use them to make sure your time with us is comfortable and supportive.

How long to be away when sick.... These guidelines are included for new families in your Family folder or find copies in the foyer area.

HEALTH CONCERNS GUIDELINES

Illness	Recommended Recovery Time
Vomiting	Until 24 hours after last vomit, and managed to keep food down.
Diarrhoea	Until 24 hours after last runny bowel motion.
Conjunctivitis	Until eye discharge has ceased.
Measles	For at least 7 days after onset of rash.
Whooping Cough	For five days after antibiotics treatment commenced.
Mumps	For 10-12 days or swelling and temperature has ceased.
Chicken pox	For seven days from the onset of the rash and scabs are gone.
School Sores / Impetigo	Until 48 hours after antibiotics started.
Infectious discharge / uncovered lesions	Until 24 hours after treatment has started and/or discharge has ceased.
Streptococcal Throat	For 48 hours after antibiotics started.
General Anaesthetic	Allow 2 days to be fully alert.
Cold/Flu Symptoms	Until temperature has returned to normal and the nose is clear.
Ears	Until discharge or pain has ceased.
General unwellness / unfit state for learning	Until symptoms cease (e.g. at least 24 hours after last high temperature -above 37.5°) and student is in a fit state to be involved in full school day’s activities.

- **Art supplies:** We are looking for cleaned yoghurt pottles and the lids off round deli/takeaways containers for an art project this term. Also, can we have any ice cream containers with/without lids for another project. If you have some to spare could you drop them off at the office please. Thanks. Look out for the amazing items that will be created.
- **Earthquake Drill:** National earthquake drill was 26th September and we were enthusiastic participators! If you visited us at 9.26am that day you would have found us under tables, chairs and doorframes. Well done to us, remember **Drop-Cover-Hold**, if you are in an earthquake situation.
- **Music time:** Music times are an essential and powerful learning activity for children. We try to keep the mat time short and active so that children's interest can be maintained. We want to focus on encouraging a positive and fun time at mat time. For this term active participation and contribution will be a focus at music time. To assist with your child's enjoyment please join in by sitting alongside them and joining in with the actions. The benefits of this shared enjoyment are many.
 - Modeling of language(English, Te Reo Maori and Signing), making choices and learning routines
 - Sharing of fun activities
 - Learning words so that you can join in with songs at home and in the car etc
 - Increasing opportunities for socializing and taking turns

At music time, please ensure that if you want to chat to other parents or staff then this should be done in the family room away from the mat so that children begin to understand that mat time is for participation. We understand that some children have difficulty coming to the mat and staff will provide support to you and your child as usual.

Thanks:

- Thank you to Erin O'Neill and her family who donated a corral from her toy collection. This helps our children's toys from travelling too far and staying within reach.
- Thanks to Lyn Sainty, another wonderful volunteer, who comes in to clean the toys, equipment and shelves. Her help is invaluable in keeping the Centre looking great.
- **Les Mills Hamilton Charity BOOTCAMP 2012: THANKS!**



McKenzie Centre was incredibly lucky to be chosen as this year's charity for the Les Mills Hamilton's Charity BOOTCAMP event. Fifty hardy recruits braved freezing temperatures at dawn, three mornings a week for a whole month, to raise their fitness levels as well as money for McKenzie Centre. We were thrilled to receive a cheque for



over \$15,000 from Les Mills Hamilton at a special prize giving night in September - an absolutely fantastic result for us!! McKenzie Centre sincerely thanks Les Mills Hamilton for supporting its local community with this really wonderful fundraising initiative for charities. We also want to say a huge thank you to all the recruits for their dedication, commitment and support. You are all AWESOME! Local businesses that supported the BOOTCAMP were: Hamilton Windscreens, Dean Freight, Hamilton City Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Tompkins Wake, so if the opportunity arises for you to support them with your business, please do so.

- **ASD Plus and Early Bird Program** are two parent education courses for families who have children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Please see your key worker if you would like more information.

- **CCS Disability Action toy library and other toy libraries:** Remember to check out the local Toy Library in your area. They are a wonderful option for getting access to a variety of toys in a cost effective way! Revisit your Blue Folder, which you got when you enrolled at McKenzie Centre, as it has a list of addresses and contact numbers for Toy Libraries in your area.
- **Healthy Foods:** It is great to see healthy lunches and snacks coming to McKenzie Centre. It is such an important aspect of development to ensure foods offer energy and nutrition.
- **Home based child care:** just a reminder that home based child care may be an option for you to consider when looking at early childhood centres. We were visited by Cherie Julian, PORSE, who said there are advantages of in-home care including space, time, health, environment and learning benefits. She also commented that children form a strong attachment with their Home Educator. Cherie said the ratio is 1 adult to 4 children maximum. PORSE Home Educators, are offered professional development and are supervised by trained early childhood educators. The '20 hours' is available and also the WINZ subsidy, if your family meets WINZ criteria. In some cases family members can support the child in their home and a PORSE subsidy may be available. The PORSE programme offers play groups and outings. If you would like more information, this is in the Family/Whanau area or ring Cherie on 0800 023 456.
- ESW staff may be available during the holiday period to offer respite if parents need some help or time out. This would be a private arrangement, using your carer support package, so if you think you may need a break, ask your ESW if they are available.
- Paterson Burn Optometrists have kindly donated lens cleaners to McKenzie Centre, to help keep the ipads and computer screens clean. Thank you so much to Susie Partington who organised this for us. Paterson Burn do fit glasses for both adults and children, so you may consider them when you need your prescription updated. Remember the Spectacles subsidy- you may be eligible and Paterson Burn is registered with Enable.
- HandyPerson Help: McKenzie Centre always has the odd job lurking which we could use some help with. If anyone is able to help out with the cleaning of our gutters and some other small general maintenance items, we would really appreciate it. Please see Helen or Lillian in the admin office about this.



Personal Advocacy Trust, although a sobering thought this information may be useful to tuck away in your thoughts. We sourced it via the Waikato Webhealth E-News.

- Do you worry about what will happen to your son or daughter with an intellectual impairment after you die?
- Do you wonder who will be there to make sure they are having as good a life as possible?

The Personal Advocacy Trust provide an individual advocate for people with an intellectual impairment after their parents have died or become frail or demented. In exchange for a fee they provide this service for the rest of the Member's life: seeing that their finances aren't being abused, their day time activities are appropriate, their health is being seen to and a host of smaller things that you have kept an eye out for such as appropriate clothing, clean nails etc.

To find out more, contact Verity Doak, National Director of The Personal Advocacy Trust Inc on advocacy@patrust.org.nz, www.patrtrust.org.nz 04) 385 9175 or (04) 569 2708.

Staff News

Annette is currently overseas for the first 2 weeks of Term 4, so Andree McGibbon is relieving for this time. We welcome Andree back!

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

Funders

As always we would like to acknowledge and thank our funders, who help make it possible for us to provide an affordable and high quality service to families.



KONICA MINOLTA

As well as:

Ministry of Education, Special Education

Ministry of Health

Lotteries Community Fund

Tidd Foundation

CJB Norwood Trust

John Illott Trust

WDFK Karamu Trust

Todd Foundation

ANZ Staff Foundation Frozen

Talking Tech Foundation

Ministry of Social Development

St Francis Charitable Trust Board

Hamilton City Council

COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)

Norah Howell Trust

Trust Waikato

Community Post

Funds Trust

AXA Hearts in Action

Sir John Logan Campbell Trust

Page Trust

Freemasons

Gallagher Charitable Trust

Gull Community Grants

Walt Disney - Handy Manny

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

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Countdown Te Awamutu

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Linda Bates