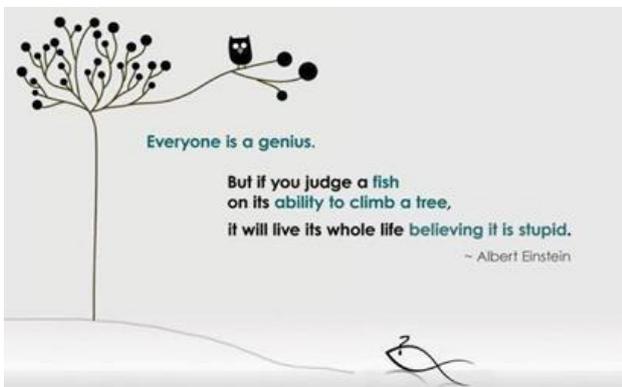


Parent Newsletter

Term Four, 2013



Such an awesome quote from Einstein! Sometimes people are too busy comparing and judging other people, rather than seeing each person for the awesome, amazing individual they are and allowing them to develop according to their strengths! Imagine the effect on society if we were free from comparison and judgement.

Dates for 2013 to diary:

Sessions start on Monday 14th October 2013. Term 4 finishes on Wednesday 18th December.

End of year party: Thursday 19th December from 11-1pm. The theme is Hat Fun and children will have the opportunity to make their own hat creations during the term.

Parent Focus Group 2-6 December 2013. This is a time for parents to meet up for a chat and a little bit of 'time out'. All the sessions during this week will run differently as staff will be playing and minding the children rather than focussing individually on each child, as typically happens during your 1-1 time together.

Parent Support Circle- will be running again this term. Marcia will facilitate this on Friday 8th November at 10.30am.

Specialist Service Review: The Ministry of Education did a Specialist Service review 9-11 September 2013 at McKenzie Centre. We received a fabulous result in all of the eight areas reviewed and there were no recommendations for changes or improvements. Helen Stevens, MOE said that very few places get a full complement of meeting all the requirements in all of the eight areas and no recommendations. A wonderful achievement.

Parent Survey 2013, Thank you to everyone who completed this; we do appreciate your feedback. The surveys are currently with the Trustees to collate and once discussed, we can feedback the results to you. Your Key Worker or Trisha appreciate any feedback you have, so talk with us any time, as we really do want to make sure our service meets the needs of your family.

Rides In Da Park: Saturday 30th November at Innes Common, Lake Front, 2-9pm. This is a fundraiser for one of our past children, Lilly, and another young boy with cancer, Tiago. There will be car, truck and bike rides, market stands and an area where children can be left while mums get some attention. Entry is by gold coin donation. There is a notice in the whanau room.



Early Intervention Fee increase in Term 4: As advised during Parent Focus week last term, the Early Intervention Fee will increase in Term 4 to \$70 per term for one child, or \$120 per term for two or more children. The fee has not changed since 2010, but during that time, our expenses have increased significantly, and it now needs to reflect the cost of the services we provide here at McKenzie Centre.

McKenzie Centre is only partially funded by the government. Each year we must find over \$200,000 ourselves to cover the costs of providing services here at the Centre, and some of this is done through fundraising, such as our Movie nights at the Lido, and other events. The Early Intervention Fee is a crucial part of our annual budget and we are grateful to all those families who pay it. It contributes to operating costs including electricity, resources and equipment for the children, tea and coffee for parents, as well as our extra services such as the Assistive Technology Specialist (Ruth), and our Social Worker and Psychologist services (Marcia and Richard).

For those families who receive the WINZ Childcare Subsidy, the Early Intervention Fee increase will be met by this, and you do not need to do anything further. If you do not receive this subsidy, and want to know if you are eligible for it, please talk to your Key Worker, Sandra or Marcia.

Friends of McKenzie Centre: If you are keen to know more about how you can help McKenzie Centre with its fundraising efforts, please talk to Trisha or Helen about the Friends of McKenzie Centre group. Throughout the year, we run a number of fundraising events, and are always looking for support to spread awareness about these, or to help out on the night, either by providing a plate of food or perhaps an item, or service, for a raffle.



Parent to Parent offers families who have children with special needs a whole range of excellent services, free of charge. The focus of Parent to Parent is to provide support to the mums and dads and siblings of children with special needs. These include researching and compiling information packs about your child's condition, matching you with another parent whose child has the same or similar special needs, family camps, advocacy, training and more. Talking to another parent who is facing similar issues can be very reassuring and helpful, especially when, for example, you have to make decisions such as where to send your child to kindergarten or school, or whether to try a new medication or treatment. When you talk to other parents, you realise you are not alone, and that there are many, many other families out there who are on the same journey as you. Parent to Parent also runs a Sibling Support programme for the brothers and sisters of children who have special needs. If you want to find out more about how Parent to Parent could help you and your family, please talk to your Key worker or contact the Waikato co-ordinator, Carol Maynard, on phone (07) 848 1362 or email cmaynard@parent2parent.org.nz

Parent to Parent are running a Personal Support Course. Sunday 20.10.13 at the CCS Disability Action Building 17 Claudelands Road. 9.30- 4pm. This course is designed especially for families/whanau and looks at stress, grief, how to grow your support networks and increase your family resilience. Lunch is provided and there is no cost. Contact Carol Maynard.

This Term... Curriculum News

We will be extending our focus on foundations skills and with the warmer weather we have the opportunity to enjoy outside activities to target trunk rotation (e.g. hitting balls with a bat), spinning, rolling, pre-ball skills, cross patterning (crawling, monkey bars). We also will have a focus on activities that developing balancing and coordination as well as body awareness activities.

We will continue to focus on social engagement, in particular around our interactions with children at computers and toys. Our priority is for children to take an interest in, and respond to others while they engage in toys or computer play. Engaging in social interactions with others develops important foundational skills for later learning; children learn alongside and with others. These foundation skills involve:

- Being *aware* of, and allowing others (adults or children) to be present at a favourite activity;
- Being *curious*, and taking an interest in what the adult is doing alongside them;
- *Discovering* that ideas of others' play can be fun, and this leads to *imitating* others' ideas and incorporating them into their play;

- Inviting others to *join in* their play, and requesting a game to continue, or requesting help.

These core/ foundation skills relate very well to one of the strands of Te Whaariki, Early Childhood Curriculum i.e. Contribution - children will initiate, maintain and enjoy a relationship with other including turn taking, sharing, problem solving, conflict resolution, and understanding/ responding to other's feelings or ideas.

Along with this focus, is an opportunity for adults to extend their child's language, by talking to them about what they are doing or looking at. It is important that children learn to label things i.e. giving things names, but also learning action words or describing the things they play with/ see. Therefore, always model a variety of words to your child when they take an interest in a toy or object, using their interest as a starting point.

Estelle is currently running the Hanen 'More Than Words' Program and this will be finishing in December.

Staff news:

Sadly, this November, we say goodbye to a longstanding and valued member of the team, Ursula Rapley, who has been an Early Intervention Teacher at McKenzie Centre for 16 years. She will be missed by the staff, trustees and the families she works with and we wish her all the best for her next endeavours. Her last day is Monday, November 11th.

Stephanie (Steph) Wacker, Early Intervention Teacher, will be starting on Tuesday 5th November 2013, and will work with Ursula's families.

Wintec Research: This project will re commence in Term 4 and we will let you know how you can assist us with this.

Wellness and Health:

Remember that if you, or your child, is sick then please stay at home so that others do not get the 'bugs'. There is a stand down period of 24 hours following a person vomiting or having diarrhoea. If you are unsure then phone and speak to your Key Worker or someone in the office.

Remember:

- Catch you coughs in your elbow
- Throw that tissue in the rubbish bin
- Please don't be offended if, when your child mouths/chews a toy, it is put in the washing bag. We do this to try to reduce children catching each other's bugs. If you could place toys in the bag, too, that would be a help.

If you do not receive information from us via email, check we do have your address. See Sandra in the office.

Early Learning Information System (ELI), if we do not have a copy of your child's NZ birth certificate or passport or a foreign birth certificate or passport please bring this into your key worker so this can be recorded. A copy will be held on your child's file.

General points to remember:

As we spend time more time outside over the summer months, it is important to encourage the wearing of hats and using sunscreen. McKenzie Centre has hats that are available to borrow in the foyer and these are washed after each use. The grey matting in the playground can get very hot in the sun and this may be very sore on little feet that don't have shoes on.

Disabled Car park is now marked to the left of our drive way on Hammond Street. You will need a disability sticker to legally park there, so contact CCS Disability Action to see if you are eligible.

CCS Disability Action Toy Library; remember the CCS Toy Library. It is a great resource to utilize for your children. Before your initial visit contact Heather first. There are many toy libraries available in the community, go and see them as borrowing toys can be very cost effective.

Remember to check our McKenzie Centre Facebook page. See what we're up to and connect everyone when we have an event coming up, such as our next movie fundraiser night. Feel free to like us on Facebook!

Attitude TV has launched a new website for people with disabilities called Attitudelive. It showcases authentic NZ stories for and about the disability community and connects people with useful information and resources. They aim for it to be the most accessible website on the internet, so have some good accessibility features. The link is: <http://attitudelive.com/> There is also a link to parenting a child with a disability: <http://attitudelive.com/information-and-resources/parenting-child-disability>

Building Project. We have our fingers crossed that we are in for exciting times and big changes to the building here at McKenzie Centre, near the end of this term. During the past months we have worked with an architect, Andrew McNally of APG Architects, to design plans for an extension to and remodelling of the building. Fundraising has been occurring over many years for this project, and we have nearly reached our target. The project has been put out to construction tender, and we are now waiting to hear if we can afford to proceed with it - we will keep you posted about developments. If any of you would like to make a donation towards the building project, this would be very welcome and please talk with Helen or Trisha. If it does go ahead, there will be some disruption and noise issues during November and December, and we will do our best to minimise these, but please work with us, as the end result will be fabulous! It is intended that all construction will be finished in time for the start of Term 1, 2014.

Best wishes from; Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Ursula, Suzanne, 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.



As well as these funders too:
 Ministry of Education
 Lotteries Community Fund
 Tidd Foundation
 Grassroots Trust
 DV Bryant Trust
 Foundation
 Sir John Logan Campbell Trust

Ministry of Health
 Hamilton City Council
 COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)
 St Francis Charitable Trust Board
 John Illott Trust
 Talking Tech Foundation
 Stan & Margaret Goosman Charitable Trust

Norah Howell Trust
 WDFP Karamu Trust
 Community Post
 Grassroots Trust
 Alexandra Lodge Freemasons Todd
 Gull Community Grants

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

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