

Parent Newsletter

Term Two, 2014



Wow, it is May already, where is the year going! We hope that you are all enjoying the bright and fresh McKenzie Centre environment. We have all enjoyed coming back and settling into the new spaces and finding a home for everything.

We seem to have gone very quickly from long hot dry days to wet and cold days so the winter months will be interesting! Remember to look after yourself this term with the cold and wet weather coming to meet us.

Please come in the main door at reception this term so that we know you have arrived and you will find your child's photo on the blue wall inside. The side door, onto the deck, may well be shut some days as the rain comes in that entrance when open.

Dates to Remember

Term Two starts	Monday 5 May
ESW start	Monday 5 May
Parent Focus Week	26-30 May
ESW Workshop	20 June
End of Term Two	Friday 4 July
Start Term Three	Monday 21 July

Parent Focus week, 26-30 May. This term our focus will be on Eating Issues for our Children. During this week we offer this parent meeting at each session, it is an opportunity for parents to get to know each other, discuss any challenges and offer solutions they have found through personal experience. Eating issues can be complex and stressful for families and you may find there is someone else having the same difficulties. Staff will also be on hand to offer information and support as needed.

Curriculum Focus Term 2, our focus areas for the term are represented on a poster in the intervention room. As with all early childhood centres Te Whaariki, the Early Childhood Curriculum, provides the framework on which we plan experiences, activities and events which occur in our learning environment.

Eating; Support Group for children with ASD. During Term 1 a few parents were interested in getting together to discuss eating sensitivities for their child. We would like to continue offering this opportunity for other parents, whose child has ASD, to join in and make the most of having other parents to learn from and support one another. We found the sessions together useful and we all learned something from it. Please speak with your Key Worker if you are interested.

Tuesday Afternoon Session started in Term 1. This is a new initiative with the purpose of welcoming new families to the Centre and enables us to commence intervention, rather than families waiting. This session is proving to be successful and we have met some lovely new families. We have several families who have a premature baby and Sue is offering these families a session each month.

Daily Signing In is now necessary as part of the new session times. Parents/whanau need to sign both in and out every time they come to McKenzie Centre. We hope that you are enjoying the extended time of sessions and making the most of the play environment.

Parent Notice Board. The blue wall in front of the whanau room continues to be the place to find any notices. Please do look at this area regularly as it will have information about the Centre, our curriculum, and community notices.

A focus this term will be on oral health care for our children so check out the information. How are you managing with the daily tooth brushing routine? Does your child prefer sweet foods? Are you having any difficulties with oral hygiene for your child? Check out the notice board and discuss any issues with other parents and or your Key Worker.

Using Technology at McKenzie Centre

Last term's discussion with families and caregivers about the strategic use of technology to support the achievement of IP goals was invaluable. The media have expressed the same concerns about the prolonged and haphazard use expressed by participants in those meetings. To support one another to sift through the deluge of apps for both Apple and Android claiming to be 'top rate' we have started a recommendations list on the wall in the whanau room. You are welcome to write your recommendations and name on the list.

Wellness, Health and Attendance; Look after yourselves during these cold winter months. If you are unsure that your child is well enough to come to the session then speak with your Key Worker or Admin to assist you with your decision. Remember there is a stand down period of 24 hours following a person vomiting or having diarrhoea. It is important to consider that other children attending may have fragile health and not be robust in dealing with some of these winter ailments.

Remember to bring warm, and possibly water proof gear, if the outdoor equipment is a little damp! Outside fun is still important in the winter time, so wrap up warm and enjoy the playground.

Please ensure that you phone in when your child will be absent as Key Workers spend time planning and organising for your time together.

New Building Opening Celebrations. This was a wonderful occasion and a chance for us to thank everyone involved with the building project.

Friends of McKenzie Centre: If you are interested in joining Friends of McKenzie Centre group to assist with fund raising and participating in fundraising events then please speak with either Helen or Trisha to see what this may involve.



Staff News: Suzanne continues to work towards her Early Intervention Diploma and thanks all families for their support during her block courses when she is required to be away from McKenzie Centre. These learning opportunities always strengthen our knowledge to bring back to the staff and families at McKenzie Centre.

General points to remember:

The ESW workshop is planned for 20 June from 1-2.30pm. This is an opportunity for your child's ESW to attend professional development here at McKenzie Centre to focus on learning strategies which can be useful when working with your child. It is an expectation that all ESWs attend; so if this is a time when the ESW is usually with your child then she will not be able to that day.

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 Lion Foundation Whanau Room. We review policies regularly to ensure they are up to date and relevant. Parents/whanau, trustees and staff are invited to review the policies so everyone can contribute to what is done at the Centre. The policies under review are listed on the notice board in the Whanau Room. If anyone has any questions about the policies, procedures or the review process please see Lillian or Sandra in the office.

Library Books; if you have any overdue books please return them to Sandra. We are missing 3 TalkAbility books, does anyone have these??? We would love them returned.

Parking:

If you are unable to find a car park at McKenzie Centre then please come in and double park behind someone here. Tell Sandra, in the office, so that she can alert the person you are parked behind.

Also, remember there is a Disabled Car park just outside the entrance. You will need a disability sticker to legally park there, so contact CCS Disability Action to see if you are eligible.

The parking wardens are active around the streets and monitor the 2 hour zones.

Hanen: Both Hanen programmes, “It Takes Two to Talk” and “More Than Words” are continuing during Term Two. All the families involved have gained knowledge and skills from their attendance and it is great to see positive steps being made for the participants.

Best wishes from; Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Suzanne, Teresa, Ruth, Jacqui, Helen, Sandra, Lillian, Steph, Marcia and Richard.

Building Project Funders and contributors:

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THANK YOU to our wonderful funders, sponsors, friends and supporters who help make it possible for us to provide an affordable and high quality service to families



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