

## Parent Newsletter

### Term Three, 2014

Yahoo, we have had the shortest day so we must be heading to summer! A few bugs are around still, so take care.

This term, please come in the main door, at reception, so that we know you have arrived. 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 it is open.

#### Dates to Remember

Term Three starts	Monday 21 July
ESW contracts start	Monday 21 July
Parent Focus Week	11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> August
ESW Workshop	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> September
End of Term Three	Friday 26 September
Term Four starts	Monday 13 October

**Parent Focus week, 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August:** This term our focus will be on 'Getting Together'. During this week the staff are available to play with your children while you meet and get to know each other, discuss any challenges and offer solutions you've found through personal experience.

**Monday sessions,** Lottie, a community dog, comes in to assist her with coping in social settings. This also helps the children to get more experience with animals.

**Managing Problem Eating Workshops:** On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September from 1.00- 2.30 pm, therapists will be running workshops at McKenzie Centre. Eating issues can be complex and stressful for families. In these workshops you may find others facing the same challenges along with some helpful suggestions. Please contact your Key Worker to discuss this option.

**Curriculum Focus Term 3:** Our focus areas for the term are written up on a poster in the music space. We continue to focus on providing a range of sensory experiences, oral hygiene, our Hanen course and loads of other interesting plans. 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.

**Volunteers in the Centre:** Grace will be interacting and playing with the children in the Tuesday playgroup. Richard our long standing lawn man, Audrey our hard working gardener and Joyce who joins the Friday tidy up are vital people in our team and we appreciate their contribution to the smooth running of the Centre.

**Occupational Therapy Student:** Kloe Aitken (pictured right), a second year student from Wintec, is here on placement for seven weeks. She is looking forward to the learning experience and getting to know everyone.



**Tuesday Afternoon Playgroup:** This playgroup is proving popular with children and families who are on the waiting list for a McKenzie Centre Key Worker, this group offers a valuable introduction to the benefits of early intervention.

**Premmies playmates:** This is a group that meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month to provide opportunities for families of pre-term infants to support each other in a casually structured playgroup environment with input from McKenzie Centre therapists. Babies who would benefit from on-going monitoring and support are enrolled in the McKenzie Centre and pay term fees. Spread the word to others who may need support.

**Daily Signing In:** It is now necessary, as part of the new session times, for parents/whanau to sign both in and out every time they come to McKenzie Centre. We encourage you to stay for the full session and hope that you are enjoying the extended session times and making the most of the play environment.

**Absences:** We do appreciate you ringing or sending us a text when you are going to be absent, this is helpful as Key Workers do prepare resources for you in advance.

**Parent Notice Board.** Please check out the noticeboard regularly.

**Wellness, Health and Attendance:** 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.

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

**McKenzie Centre's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: - 1984 - 2014:** It's McKenzie Centre's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, and don't we look good for our age!! To help celebrate 30 years of awesome service to Waikato children and families, we will be holding a gala dinner and charity auction on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 at Southwell School Performing Arts Auditorium. This special event will be a fun night of celebration, and also a very important fundraiser for McKenzie Centre. There will be fabulous food, wonderful entertainment and exciting auction items! We encourage you all to set aside this date in your diaries. We will have more details about how to purchase tickets over the coming weeks and would love to have your support for this important event for McKenzie Centre. If anyone would like to assist in the planning of this event, or to help us find auction items or sell tickets, please let Helen or Trisha know.

**Staff News:** Teresa will be away for one week in August and Suzanne will be attending a block course for her Early Intervention Diploma and will be away for the week beginning August 24<sup>th</sup>. Learning opportunities always strengthen our knowledge to bring back and share with staff and families.

**Andree McGibbon, Early Intervention Teacher,** will act as a reliever when Teresa and Suzanne are away.

**Autism NZ Conference,** Estelle is planning to attend this in Nelson 22 & 23 August.

**ESW Workshop:** The ESW workshop is planned for 12 September 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 on that day.

**Policies and Procedures:** Thanks to all those parents who take a few minutes to help review the policies and procedures that are under review. It's important to us that families are included in this process. The current ones being reviewed 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.

**Parent Survey,** Trisha will be preparing this annual survey this term, we really appreciate your comments. If you have comments, they are always welcome, so we encourage you to talk with your Key Worker or Trisha at any time.

**Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point:** If there is a fire or fire drill everyone is to go through the back gate and assemble in the Hamilton West School grounds.

**August Amnesty for Loan Items:** It is easy to overlook borrowed toys, books and resources as you rush out the door. To encourage you to stop and grab it, we are declaring an amnesty on all over due library books, toys and resources. We would love to have them returned 😊.

**Parking:**

If all the spaces in the car park at McKenzie Centre are full please double park behind someone already here and let Sandra, in the office know, so that she can alert the person you are parked behind. Also, remember you will need a disability sticker to legally park in a Disabled Car park just outside the entrance. 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:** “More Than Words” will be happening during Term Three and Four.

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

**Funders**

*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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