

Parent Newsletter



Term Four, 2014

Yipee, we are starting to have warmer days and that means it is sun hats and sunscreen time! Please try to make sure your children wear appropriate sunhats when they are at their early childhood centre and when they come to McKenzie Centre as our little friends can quickly become sunburnt in our harsh New Zealand sun. If you do forget, McKenzie Centre has a supply of hats that can be borrowed during the sessions and our sunscreen is always hanging on the hooks outside the front entrance to the admin office. Once used, please place the hats into the laundry basket.

This term, the side door to the playroom will open on sunny days, please ensure you speak to the ladies at reception, so that we know you have arrived. You will find your child's photo on the table in the corridor to be placed on the blue wall.

Dates to Remember

Term Four starts	Monday 13 October
ESW contracts start	Monday 13 October
Parent Focus Week	17th-21st November
ESW Workshop	Friday 12th December
End of year party	Wednesday 17 December
End of Term Four	Friday 19 December
Term One 2015 starts	Monday 2 February

Parent Focus week, 17th-21st November: This term our focus will be on 'Ideas for Free Activities for the Holidays'. During this week the staff are available to play with your children while parents meet, get to know each other, share and discuss ideas for activities to do over the summer Holidays. Many parents have discovered, through personal experience, some great solutions and places to take children for cost effective outings and McKenzie Centre sees this week as an opportunity to share your ideas.

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.

Curriculum Focus Term 4: Our focus areas for the term are written up on a poster in the music space. We are focusing on providing a range of fine motor experiences, sensory and messy play opportunities, our Hanen course and loads of other interesting plans. As with all early childhood centres Te Whāriki, the Early Childhood Curriculum, provides the framework on which we plan experiences, activities and events which occur in our learning environment. If you want to know more about our planning, please talk with your Key Worker.

Toy Swap: Christmas is quickly sneaking up upon us and therefore we are organising a toy swap opportunity at McKenzie Centre. Many families will have toys in their garage or somewhere else hidden away, that they don't use anymore because their children have outgrown them. These toys can be a perfect Christmas gift for other families. Therefore, we would like to welcome you to our 'Toy Swap' afternoon on Wednesday 5th November between 1pm and 2.30pm. It will be held on our outside deck.

Children End of Year Party: We are planning to have the Children's End of Year Party on 17th December from 11.00 am -1.00pm. Please bring a plate for a shared lunch. We are excited to be able to have a party this year. Last year, with all the building alterations, we couldn't have a party therefore this party is all the more special as it is the first one in our new building. The typical session will not run on this day.

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.

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 2nd 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 at 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.

Tricycle: Does anyone have a trike they would like to donate to a family at McKenzie Centre? Unfortunately the family's trike was stolen from their property and they would like to replace it. The family is not in a position to replace it and trike was very much loved and enjoyed by the child.

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 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 30th Anniversary: - 1984 - 2014: It's McKenzie Centre's 30th 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 1st 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. Tickets can be purchased from reception. We would love to have your support for this important event for McKenzie Centre. If anyone would like to assist in the setting up on the night, or to help us find auction items or sell tickets, please let Helen or Trisha know.

Tea Towels; Anita and the children have made some designer hand print tea towels which will be for sale from November. They are beautiful and celebrate McKenzie Centre's 30 years. We think they will be great Christmas gifts and keepsakes. The price will be one tea towel for \$12.50 and a mixed bundle of two for \$20.

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.

Parent Survey Thank you to everyone for your feedback. Overall it seems families are very satisfied with our assessment processes: out of 40 responses, 35 felt they were comfortable and 36 felt the process was useful. We had 38 responses indicating there were a range of setting and sources of information used. We got some lovely comments about the building alterations and Helen will be able to use these to show our funders their investment in McKenzie Centre was well justified. We had some comments about increasing car parking spaces. We agree with you, but have a limited area. We do plan to remove the tree stump and get one or two more spaces in the future.

Funding for children with physical disabilities to participate in sport may be available through the Halberg, AllSports Activity Fund which enhances the lives of physically disabled young people by providing financial support and removing barriers to enable them to participate in sport for equipment, coaching or camps. Go onto the website for more information and the application process.

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.

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

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 Four with 4 evening workshops and some home visits. The Hanen workshops will run again in 2015. If you are interested in attending please inform your key worker.

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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