



Welcome back to Term 1, 2010

Welcome back to 2010, another year is starting and we look forward to an exciting and positive year ahead. We all hope that you have had a relaxing and happy holiday time together as a family.

We are all well rested and looking forward to catching up with families and excited to see what your children are doing now!

Dates to remember this term are;

- **Term 1.** Begins Tuesday 2 February and ends Thursday 1 April for Easter. Term 2 starts 19 April.
- **MOE Audit. February 8-10.** We have two Auditors coming to McKenzie Centre to review our practice and procedures. Mary Smith and Adrienne Tomkins are both verifiers for the Ministry of Education and as part of the review they will be interviewing 2 parents and staff as well as looking at our documentation. Sessions will run as usual while they are visiting and we will share the results of the review with you in next term's newsletter.
- **Week of 1-5 March.** We have renamed our Parent Workshop week to "Parent Focus Week", to better reflect the purpose of the 'get together'. These will commence at 10.30 for morning sessions and 1.30pm for the Thursday session, we schedule in an hour for this. **The Parent Focus this term is on transitions: to schools, to play centres.** This is a challenge that every parent is going to have to face. Our team has some wonderful knowledge and resources to share about the options available, funding available, suggestions for things to look for in potential schools, and how to make the transition work best for you and your child. As usual, the individual times with your key worker will not occur on this day as general supervision is required in the play room. The benefit of this is that another key worker will get an opportunity to play with your child and share ideas from their differing professional perspectives.
- **Sunday 7 March.** This is the 10th celebration of Children's Day. This is a nation wide day of celebration with hundreds of events held around the country and attended by thousands of people. The theme for 2010 is 'Praise and Encouragement'.
- **Free Fun day at Hamilton Zoo** organized by the Dinsdale Lions, Hamilton Zoo and Friends of Hamilton Zoo. **Sunday 14 March 10-2pm.** Poster in the foyer. If you require transport within the city boundary this can be arranged contact Graeme Opie 825 2005.
- **Friday March 19.** ESW workshop on SCERTS.
- **Tuesday 23 March.** True Colours. 10.30am
True Colours is a Charitable Trust that supports children and young people living with chronic, serious or life threatening illness and their families. The Team provides specialist nursing care and counselling/therapy as ongoing emotional support for family members.

A Counsellor from True Colours, Kim Hurrell, facilitates a McKenzie Centre support group for Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers once a term. This forum provides an excellent opportunity for families to acknowledge the personal impact on themselves as carers and to share the celebrations and the struggles with others who have experienced a similar journey with their child. If Tuesday is not your usual session and you want to join the support group please come in. Staff will be available to supervise the children.

- Anita and Estelle are continuing the Hanen programme 'It takes two to talk' during this term with families who began prior to Christmas.

Health and Safety, Centre Routines.

Sun safety. Sunscreen and hats will be needed this term as we are off to a very hot sunny start to the year. Please remember to bring a hat for your child. If you forget, there are a few McKenzie Centre hats. If you use one of these then please put it in the laundry basket when you have finished with it. We have reviewed our Sun Smart Policy which is displayed in the foyer for you to look at and add any comments.

Kai time. Please encourage your child to wash his/her hands in the wash basin prior to eating. This is an essential skill for children to learn in developing self care independence. We have also reviewed our Kai Time guidelines which are also available for you to view in the foyer.

Also we ask that you name your child's bag, lunch box and drink bottle so that we can assist during Kai time and ensure that children have the correct containers.

This will be a great help, thanks.

Medical Students. Will be in the Centre some Wednesday sessions this term.

General Points.

Respite. At workshops many of you have suggested having a regular, planned break; sometimes it is difficult for you to find people to provide respite for your children. One option is Drake Medox, they have a division called Caring Companions. Contact Jo Kendall, Development Manager 0800 MEDOX 9 (0800 633 699). Jo has been into the Centre and is willing to work with families to see if an appropriate solution can be reached. Brochures are available in the whanau room.

Volunteer needed. If you know anyone who could help us do general support duties then please see Lillian. We need help with duties such as cleaning, shredding, scanning, gardening. This would involve several hours each week. Thank you to the Middleton family who regularly pop in and do our lawns and gardens. We really appreciate your help.

Counselling. From time to time we all need someone outside our situation to talk to. At the Centre we have Richard and Marcia but we also know of a range of services in the community. Ask your key worker if you need this type of support.

Anita and Estelle will be supervising a Speech Language Therapy student 2/3/10-24/5/10. The student will be here one day each week.

Remember if you have feedback/ comments about services at the Centre please talk with your key worker or Trisha.

Did you Know?

McKenzie Centre is a charitable trust, governed by 10 volunteer Trustees, which include current and past parents of McKenzie Centre children. About 75% of our funding comes from government, but we work hard to fundraise the remainder so

that we can continue to provide the best possible services, equipment and assessments for the families and children who attend. To do this, we must apply to private trusts for funding, run fundraising events such as Round the Bridges, and solicit donations.

Payroll giving is a new government initiative to make it easier for people to donate. You can help by asking your employer and other businesses you interact with to offer payroll giving to their staff, and by encouraging staff to suggest McKenzie Centre as a local charity to choose as a done organisation. Payroll giving allows donations to be deducted automatically from your pre-tax income, so you do not have to gather receipts and wait until the end of the tax year to claim your tax refund - you get the tax refund immediately. Depending on your personal tax rate, for every 62 - 87 cents you donate to McKenzie Centre, we will get \$1. Employers should already have plenty of information about this, but you can also get more information from Nan in the office.

How you can help - Encourage others to choose McKenzie Centre as their done organisation. Encourage reluctant employers to offer payroll giving to their staff. If they are concerned about having to make payments to too many different charities, encourage them to select one or two "preferred charities" (and suggest us!). Encourage local businesses to choose local charities as their preferred charity.

Other ways you can help - join Friends of McKenzie Centre. This is a group of supportive people who will help with fundraising ideas and initiatives - there is no obligation to help out at times when you are too busy.

Best wishes

Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Ursula, Andree, Teresa, Ruth, Nan, Sandra, Lillian

Funders

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



As well as:

Ministry of Education, Special Education
Ministry of Social Development
Hamilton City Council
COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)

Ministry of Health
Lotteries Community Fund
Freemasons
Community Post

Norah Howell Trust
Trust Waikato
John Illott Trust
Community Post
ANZ Staff Foundation
Gull Community Grants
AXA Hearts in Action
WDFW Karamu Trust

Page Trust
Sir John Logan Campbell Trust
Todd Foundation
Gallagher Charitable Trust
Frozen Funds Trust
Talking Tech Foundation
Debbie Wilson

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

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