

**Parent Newsletter**  
**Term Two, 2016**

***Life is like a camera... Focus on what's important, Capture the good times, Develop from the negatives and if things don't work out, take another shot!***

**Dates to Remember Term Two 2016**

Good in the Hood	Z Energy Anglesea Court, 1 May until 31 May
ESW start	2 May
Parent Workshops	16 and 30 May
Sign Language Course	25 May
Parent Focus workshops	23-27 May in regular session times
Queen's Birthday holiday	Monday 6 June
ESW Workshop	1 July
Term 2 ends	8 July
Term 3 starts	25 July
Premmies group	Second Thursday of each month, 12/5, 9/6, 14/7

*Welcome back to Term Two. What a bonus having the two weeks of brilliant weather during the holidays. We hope you had some great family time in the break and are ready for a fun-filled term.*

**Parent resources:** IHC Library resources for parents- books can be borrowed from Wellington based IHC library on a huge range of topics. Check out [www.ihc.org.nz/library](http://www.ihc.org.nz/library). The resources will be sent out to you free of charge, BUT the return postage must be met by you.

**Housekeeping is part of play:** the beginning, middle and the end of an activity are an important sequence of steps for children to learn. We need family support to model and cue children to pack the game pieces together and return activities to the shelves after they have finished an activity. Clearing the floor space will also reduce trip hazards and provide a more orderly play space which helps many children organise their play and thinking.

**Candace Allan** joined the Trust, in February 2016, as a parent representative.

I am a qualified teacher and have spent the past 9 years working on and off at Berkley Normal Middle School, where I was a team leader and taught in both a mainstream classroom and an accelerate classroom. I also own a dance school where I teach a range of dance styles to children aged from 3 to adults. I have 3 children, Tyson, Kobe and Armani. Our precious boy Kobe was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and we have been going to McKenzie Centre since the beginning of 2015. I feel honoured to be a part of the Trust as I have always wanted to give back to them in some way, for all the help and support they have offered myself, and my family, over the course of our time with them. I love their approach to things and cannot wait to be a part of this amazing team.



**Early Intervention Student Placement:** Louise Albert a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student doing her Graduate Diploma of Specialist Teaching endorsed in Early Intervention will be coming to Tuesday sessions during Term 2 and 3. We are looking forward to her placement with us. Please help her to feel welcome.

*Ko Tainui te iwi*

*Ko Ngaati Hine taku hapu*

*Ko Maurea te marae*

*Ko Louise Albert ahau*

*I am a Mum of three children and work as an early childhood teacher at Peachgrove Prep pre-school in Hamilton East. In my role as an early childhood teacher I am passionate about supporting the needs of children who identify as having special learning needs, and their families. This led me to enrol in the Post Graduate Diploma, Specialist Teaching Early Intervention through Canterbury University. I am looking forward to learning more about the role of an Early Interventionist and how the McKenzie Centre operates, and especially meeting and being able to support the children and their families who I will be working with. I look forward to meeting you all.* Louise Albert

Louise will be working alongside our staff and families on Tuesdays.



**FREE NZ Sign Language workshop at McKenzie Centre:** On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Deaf Aotearoa will provide a free NZ Sign Language workshop. The workshop is from 1pm till 2pm. There are only 20 spaces available, so please let Sandra know at the office if you would like to come.



**Z Energy Good in the Hood:** Z Energy Anglesea has kindly chosen McKenzie Centre as one of the community groups that it is supporting in May as part of their Good in the Hood programme. Every time someone tops up their fuel, or buys something there, they will be given a token to vote with. **Please tell everyone you know to go to Z Energy Anglesea, across from the Court House in Anglesea Street, and vote for McKenzie Centre. The more tokens the bigger our portion of the \$4,000 they are giving away. Thanks Z!**

**Parent Workshops Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May:** Nan Jensen, a McKenzie Centre Trustee and Lawyer specialising in supporting people in the disability sector, has kindly offered to hold two **free** Parent Workshops for McKenzie Centre families. Everyone is welcome to come, even if it isn't your usual day. Staff will be on hand to help look after children. Please RSVP to Sandra or Lillian, so we can arrange a space to suit the numbers attending, also RSVP how many children will be attending. Some families have already attended these workshops and found them extremely valuable so do take advantage of this offer.

**Workshop One:** Planning for the Future – Trusts, Wills, Welfare Guardianship and more **Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 1pm.** This workshop applies to everyone but has a special focus on planning for a family with one or more family members with disabilities. Included are discussions and practical information on Welfare Guardianship, Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Family Trusts and how these legal mechanisms can be used to provide for and protect the rights of your family member(s) with special needs. Helpful for Mum and Dad but also adult siblings and grandparents.

**Workshop Two:** Education Law **Monday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 1pm.** This workshop covers many aspects of Education Law most relevant for families of children with special needs (but applies to children without disabilities as well). Topics include special education, discipline (stand-downs and suspension), how to complain, your child's rights, and discussion of questions on a wide range of topics. A list of resources is included.



**Lawrence May's Bike Ride Fundraiser for McKenzie Centre:** A huge thank you to our friend Lawrence (pictured here at the Centre with his daughter Laura and grandchildren Ben and Kera) who successfully completed his epic 8 day charity cycling ride from Cape Reinga to Wellington (a whopping 1100 kilometres) last month, to raise funds to support McKenzie Centre as well as P.O.P.S.I. (supporting families with premature infants), a charity in in North Devon, UK, where he is based. We are really humbled by his efforts and hope his sore muscles improve soon!

**TRIKES NZ is coming to Cambridge:** Come and see what they can do for you. See demos of trikes, hand cycles, recumbents, and discuss adjustments, quotes, and customised set ups for your child. Brian Gilbert and Lisa Horn Monday will be at the AVANTIDROME – 15 Hanlin Road Cambridge, on 9th May between 10am and 4pm. Entry is free.

Contact - 06 36 78272 or 021 485 459

Email [brian@trikesnz.co.nz](mailto:brian@trikesnz.co.nz)



### **Health and Safety Reminders**



**Runny noses and coughing:** Tissues are available in all playrooms and outside on the deck. Please dispose of these after use in rubbish bins and support your child to use the hand sanitiser or wash their hands afterwards to reduce cross infections. The practice of coughing into your elbow or a wad of tissues is recommended by health professionals as best practice rather coughing into your hands.

**Immunisation Records:** A reminder to show your Key Worker and office staff your child's immunisation records to ensure that McKenzie Centre has an updated record. There is a health warning at present regarding measles so it is important to let us know if your child is not immunised.

**Measles Alert in the Waikato:** A recent outbreak has been reported with 8 cases in the Waikato confirmed. The first symptoms of measles are a fever, and one or more of these symptoms, a runny nose, cough and sore red eyes. After a few days a red blotchy rash comes on, usually starting on the face before spreading to the body and lasts up to one week. Measles can be very serious. If you or your child becomes unwell please phone your GP or call Health line on 0800 611 11. It can take up to two weeks from exposure to show symptoms.

**Reminder Nut-free Wednesday morning session:** Any food which states "May contain traces of nuts" is okay. Thank you for your support with this, and please remember to tell your Key Worker if your child has an allergy so that we can ensure steps are taken to manage this.

**Kai Time:** Sandwich making will be set up for the next 3 weeks at kai time, after music time, to encourage independence for children, alongside the development of other skills such as fine motor and social communication opportunities. Parent involvement would be great to encourage your child and also to help tidy up. Please bring along any special requirement bread or spreads your child may need to be a part of this, regular bread and spreads will be provided.

**Bike Shed:** The storage sheds are adult only areas. Only 3 bikes/vehicles will be put out each day, if your child would like to use a different bike/ vehicle, please support them to swap a vehicle/bike by putting one back into the shed. This will reduce gridlock on the track, clear the space and is a great communication opportunity with your child.

**Amnesty on overdue loan equipment:** Please check toy boxes and shelves, CD drives on computers at home for toys or equipment or parts of activities you have borrowed from McKenzie Centre. These resources need to be available for all our families.

**Hanen – More Than Words:** Estelle Pretorius, Speech Language Therapist, will be facilitating another programme to encourage development of language, interaction skills and play with a number of children with social communication disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorder, ASD, and their parents. This is a valuable learning experience offered by our Centre for families enrolled here.

**Parent Focus:** In sessions of the week 23-27 May, Key Workers will take care of the children to enable parents and carers time to gather and get to know other families who attend the same session. We will be discussing 'Where do you want your child to be when they are 5' and Payroll Giving as an opportunity to donate to McKenzie Centre directly from your pay.

**Thank you:** to Richard Bennett for the many repair jobs you willingly do for us, including fixing the sand pit and installing new hooks and latches. We all appreciate your help.

**Thank you:** Elijah's family for the key and latches board. It is a very clever project you did with Aunty Debbie.

**Just a reminder** that we have changed our bank account: McKenzie Centre now banks with the BNZ so we are asking everyone to make all future payments into our new bank account. The number is 02-0316-0466333-00.



**Emergency Fire Drill:** We will have a practice in session this term. Please follow instructions from staff and vacate the building. We gather on Hamilton West School playground using the back gate near the concrete bike track. This is our evacuation place.

**ERO report will be available online shortly.** Thank you to everyone for your contribution while ERO were at our Centre. Have a look at the feedback on the wall of the whanau room.

**PayRoll Giving:** Please check out the video on McKenzie Centres Facebook page to find out about this way of contributing to the ongoing success of our early intervention centre. Please share on social media to promote awareness. Talk to Trisha or Helen if you would like to be involved or if your work place would like more information.

**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:*



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