

Parent Newsletter
Term Three, 2016

We do not stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing...
George Bernard Shaw

Dates to Remember Term Three 2016

ESW start	25 July
Parent Focus workshops	15-19 August in regular session times
Assistance Dog in session	17 August 10.30am
Term 3 ends	23 September
Term 4 starts	10 October
Premmies group	Second Thursday of each month-11 August, 8 Sept
Race Night Fundraiser	Friday 29 th July 2016
Jason Bourne movie fundraiser	3 August- get a group together!

Welcome back to Term Three. 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- are now available as e-books which can be downloaded and expire after 7 weeks. Check out www.ihc.org.nz/library.

Wills, Trusts and Guardianship

Our thanks to Nan Jensen for the empowering talk on wills, trusts and other matters. Nan spoke about the importance of future planning for ourselves and our families. A copy of the talk is available for those who couldn't make it to the workshop, please see Sandra at the office. Nan's bottom-line message is that a will is essential to safeguard ourselves and our children. Nan is available for consults as she specialises in *Disability Law* and does not charge for the first consult.

Bellyful is an organisation run by volunteers that provides meals for families with new born babies and families with young children who are struggling with illness. It's a service that provides meals based more on a need for emotional support rather than on financial need. There is no financial assessment involved and Bellyful will assess families to see if they are eligible. Three meals, Macaroni Cheese, Bolognese Sauce and Lasagne are available and delivered, frozen, to families. You can contact them yourself or can refer a friend with their permission. <http://bellyful.org.nz/> or 0508Bellyful

Sessions: The sessions are a fabulous opportunity for you to spend quality time with your children. So please do stay for the entire session as there are many benefits to staying alongside spending time with your Key Worker. Some of the advantages are other Key Workers have time to observe your child, you can share ideas with other parents and observe what other parents are doing with their children- you may be able to join in and make new friends too! We enrol your child for the whole session, and we rely on this funding the same as other early childhood centres do. Therefore, you are unable to attend another early childhood centre during the entire time you are enrolled at McKenzie Centre. It is your choice if you leave early but we do encourage you to stay and spend this special time with your child. There is a huge range of evidence on the importance of parent child interactions building foundations that will influence your child's learning and development.

Mike Pero The Mike Pero Foundation would like to make a difference in the life of sick or needy people - both young and old. This could be a special experience or it could be special assistance for those with serious medical conditions. They don't fund medical equipment, vehicles, loans, repayments or debt. Families can apply themselves on <http://mikeperofoundation.com/apply/>

Term fee increase: Each year, McKenzie Centre's trustees carefully consider the Early Intervention Term Fee, and whether it needs to be adjusted. There has not been any change to this fee since 2013, but as from Term 3, 2016, it will increase to \$100 per term for one child with special needs, or \$150 per term for two or more children who have special needs. Siblings will continue to be enrolled for free.

The reason for the increase is that the services McKenzie Centre provides to your child and family are only partly funded by our government contracts. Whilst these contracts have not increased in value for several years, the cost of running our service has. This year we have a shortfall of about \$270,000 and we must find this to enable us to continue to provide our quality Early Intervention support and services. The Early Intervention Term Fee is an important part of McKenzie Centre's income. It is a contribution that families make towards the specialist services they receive at McKenzie Centre.

Thanks to Simon Crowther (pictured on the left), as part of his volunteer day as an employee of Hamilton City Council, he kindly spent a day painting our outside playground blocks and water blasted the slippery deck and steps. Everything looked much brighter after his visit. Thanks also to **Richard Stewart** (pictured on the right) who takes care of spraying our weeds and other gardening jobs for us. And **Thanks** to Richard Bennett for his general assistance and expert repairs 😊



Emergency Fire Drill: We will have a practice in session every 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.

Term focus: Every term break the Early Intervention Team brainstorms together what they would like to focus on during the next term. Several staff members attended a professional development opportunity for children with a vision impairment, which emphasised the need for a clutter-free environment for children to learn and play in. This is also useful for children with other learning needs. The result was making changes in the playroom: you will see we have begun to minimise clutter but maintain an ECC environment for learning. We hope that you will enjoy this change, please feel free to give any feedback to the staff.

Focus on independence: From 8th to 19th August sandwich making will be set up during session at the kai-table to encourage independence for children, alongside the development of other skills such as fine motor and social communication opportunities. Remember the main aim of this activity is to encourage independence and therefore try to provide just the right amount of support to your child. Talk to your Key Worker if you would like to discuss some strategies that will help you to decrease your level of support. Please bring along any special requirement bread or spreads your child may need to be a part of this routine, regular bread and spreads will be provided.

Parent Focus: In sessions the week of 15-19 August, 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 'Encouraging Independence'.

Assistance Dog instructor visit: Thank you to Claire Dowsett, parent, for organising Susan Clark to visit to speak about what assistance dogs do and to bring a dog along. Even if this is not your usual session you are welcome to attend on Wednesday 17 August at 10.30. Tell your Key Worker if you are interested so we have an idea of numbers.

Parent Survey this term, please take part as we welcome and value your feedback.

Vision checks: Spec Savers is offering free vision checks to children under 16 and free glasses for those with a Community Services Card.

Altogether Autism - Your Doorway to a World of Support: Thursday 11 August 10am- 2pm at The Verandah, Hamilton Lake Domain. Learn about all that Altogether Autism can do to support you. Be upskilled on autism from both a professional and a lived experience

viewpoint. Have your questions about autism answered. Enjoy a light lunch with others living and working with autism. There is no cost for this event. Contact waikato@altogetherautism.org.nz or phone 07 848 1362, 027 808 3944 to find out more and for catering purposes to let them know that you'll be attending.

Empowering Positive Change 3 Day Programme: August 23/24/25 2016: Arrive 8.30am for a 9am start, finish at 4.30pm at The Café, Salvation Army, 94 London Street, Hamilton. Register online at www.kiwifamilytrust.org Nelson Soper presents this 3-day programme. He has extensive experience in working with and mentoring families and individuals throughout New Zealand. He is currently facilitating nine different programmes and has delivered these throughout the country.

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 than 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 in the Waikato: 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 and Friday morning sessions: 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.

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**.

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.

Students: The Early Intervention team will support 3 students during Term 3. Louise Albert, a 2nd year student doing her Post-Graduate Diploma of Specialist Teaching endorsed in Early Intervention, will continue her practicum here at McKenzie Centre on Tuesday mornings. Debbie, a 2nd year Occupational Therapy student, will commence her practicum on 25th August and she will finish on 9th September. She will attend Monday to Friday sessions. Jamie, Speech Language Therapy student, will start her practicum on 29th August, attending McKenzie Centre sessions for 12 weeks from Monday to Friday. The students will be working alongside our staff and families.

Paediatrician feedback: It is always positive and affirming to be mentioned by those we work alongside e.g. a recent clinic appointment stated 'He (child) is receiving excellent support from the McKenzie Centre, and his parents are clearly providing him with an optimal environment to enable him to flourish'.

Welcome to our new OT student, Debbie:

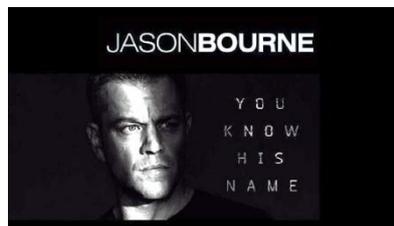
Hi, my name is Debbie. I am currently a student with Otago Polytechnic studying to become an Occupational Therapist. I am in my second year of study and this is my third placement so I am very much looking forward to getting some hands on experience over the next seven weeks, and getting to know everyone.



McKenzie Centre has two important fundraising events coming up which you may like to be part of. Get a group together and come and have some fun to support McKenzie Centre!

Movie Night at the Lido:

We are thrilled to bring you another fantastic movie fundraiser experience, featuring the next, highly-anticipated segment in the *Bourne* franchise:



**Wednesday 3rd August 2016,
at the Lido Cinema, Centre Place, Hamilton.**

- Enjoy one of the following complimentary treats upon arrival: a Rush Munro's ice cream, small popcorn, or non-alcoholic drink.
- See the movie in a luxurious setting
- Validated free parking available at the Centre Place car park
- Arrive from 7.30pm - the movie will start at 8pm

Tickets are \$30 each.

To purchase, please contact Sandra at McKenzie Centre:
Phone: 839 5357 or email: admin@mckenziecentre.org.nz

Race Night Fundraiser:

**Hamilton East Rotary Club's
Race Night Fundraiser**



Friday 29th July 2016

**St Andrew's Link Community Centre
Te Aroha Street, Hamilton**

**\$25 Entry
(includes gourmet finger food buffet)**

An exciting and fun-filled virtual horse-racing experience!!

To purchase tickets, please contact McKenzie Centre:
Phone 839 5357 or email: admin@mckenziecentre.org.nz

Please feel free to forward this information to your contacts and networks, to help spread the word about these important fundraisers for McKenzie Centre.

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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