



## **Term 2 2009 Parent Newsletter**

Welcome back to McKenzie Centre for Term 2 and we hope you had a restful holiday break. Autumn is here, the mornings are much cooler, the leaves on the trees have changed colour and are falling everywhere.

**Term 2 dates: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.**

### **Parent/Whanau Workshops.**

The topic for this term is **A Way Forward** and this will be held from 18-22 May. Remember that during this week there will be a change to your regular session routine as your Keyworker will be unable to provide the typical individual programme. They will either be facilitating the workshop or assisting with supervising your child/ren.

### **Education Support Worker (ESW) Workshop.**

McKenzie Centre holds ESW workshops once a term as part of our staff professional development. Attendance is required of all ESWs and in some cases this will affect your child's ESW support for the afternoon it is held. In most cases children can still attend their centre without ESW support however if this is not the case alternative arrangements will need to be made for your child. If you have any concerns or queries please talk to your Keyworker.

- The topic is Communication Development and will be held 12 June at 12.30 to 2.30pm

### **Introducing Marcia Ranginui Charlton**

Kia ora koutou

My name is Marcia Ranginui Charlton and I am the latest addition to the McKenzie Centre team. As a social worker, my role is assisting families to access community services and making sure you are receiving as much support as is available. I can help with personal or family issues so speak to your key worker about a referral. Look forward to meeting you all ☺

### **Introducing Anna Dekker**

In 2008 I completed a Master of Applied Psychology at Waikato University specialising in behaviour. I am employed as a psychology intern (since February 2009) and feel fortunate to be learning from and working with a very talented team of people at the McKenzie Centre. I am a firm advocate of early intervention to improve outcomes for children with special needs. I have worked with children with autism spectrum disorder and have seen first hand

the gains that can be made with early intervention. I enjoy working with all children and look forward to working with the families at the McKenzie Centre.

### **Term 1 2009 Parent Workshops feedback.**

#### **Looking after yourself:**

In the workshop you talked about how parents look after themselves, we have 2 handouts in the foyer for you to remind you of things that work and do and don't work when looking after yourself.

Below are some ideas to "**get me through**":

Support from friends	Taking some space for me
Getting out	Going to the gym
Fishing	Running
Trail riding	Kayaking
Family support	McKenzie Centre family
Social/alcohol	Card nights
Sense of humour	Accepting help
Support from husband	Technology for communication
Music	Girl Guide leader – meetings with others

#### **Sensory Awareness:**

This workshop presented the 7 sensory systems and the things we all do to keep our selves alert and ready to learn. A handout is available if you were unable to attend.

### **Brainstorming from Parent Morning Tea/Support Group (True Colours)**

**03 April 2009** Kim Hurrell from True Colours facilitated a support meeting.

This support group is held every term so come along and make use of this valuable resource. Our next meeting is...

#### **Parent Morning Tea. Tuesday 30 June at 10am**

An opportunity for all parents to come in and share morning tea, meet each other and swop valuable ideas. Bring some food to share. Staff will be available to supervise the children so you can take a well deserved break. Marcia Ranginui Charlton, Social Worker at McKenzie Centre, will be present.

#### **New Playground:**

We are very grateful and excited about the new playground; although it is not completed we are sure that you agree that it looks great. The children certainly enjoyed the new challenges at the end of last term and the new umbrellas provide much needed shade for sunny days. Please encourage your child to only use the circular track beside the storage shed or the grass area next to it when riding a bike. We need to keep the safety matting clear of bikes to ensure the safety of all children while climbing and exploring other equipment.

#### **Fire Safety and Extinguisher Training:**

During the holidays Anita, Ursula, Estelle, Sandra, Lillian, Andree and Teresa participated in a training session. We are now confident in using a fire extinguisher should there ever be a need. A fire drill is held each term during a session and the evacuation area is the Hamilton West school grounds. Please exit the building and go through the gate beside our storage shed to the school grounds. Apart from the main entrance there are two fire exits; one

is located beside the staff offices and the other in the small play room at the end of the corridor.

### **A few housekeeping things...**

**Sickness:** There are always bugs going around, if your child is unwell we appreciate it if you don't come to sessions to keep other children and adults from also getting sick.

**Front gate:** Please make sure the front gate is shut behind you as you enter and leave McKenzie Centre.

**Shoes:** Thanks with your co-operation with encouraging shoes to be off in the ball pit. This makes it safer for children.

As part of our ongoing planning the curriculum is reviewed each term and evaluated. You will find the curriculum plan on the wall in the playroom.

Have a happy and successful Term 2,  
McKenzie Centre Team.

### **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.



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