

Parent Newsletter
Term One 2017

Happy New Year!!!

Welcome back to McKenzie Centre! We hope that you have enjoyed the festive season and a relaxing holiday with lots of fun!

Dates to Remember Term One 2017

Staff back	19 January
Term starts	31 January, Tuesday session
Waitangi Day	6 February no session
Premmies Group	9 February, 9 March, 13 April, Thursday, 11am
Parent Focus week	13-17 March 2017
ESW workshop	7 April 2017
Term One ends	13 April, Thursday
Term Two starts	1 May, Monday



Hanen – More Than Words: Estelle Pretorius, Speech Language Therapist, will be facilitating another **parent education programme**, aimed to empower parents with skills to encourage development of language, interaction and social play skills in their children who present with a social communication disorder, or a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, ASD. This is a valuable learning experience offered by our Centre for families enrolled here, at no cost. Ask your Key Worker for more information if you are interested.

Parent Focus: During the week of 13-17 March, during sessions, Key Workers will look after the children to enable parents and carers time to connect and get to know other families who attend the same session. There will also be a chance to discuss topics of interest to families.

Emergency Drill: We will have a practice of a fire drill 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. Also a reminder for you to practice 'drop, cover and hold' at home in case of an earthquake. The more you and your child get familiar with the procedure, the better everyone knows what to do in a real emergency.

Professional Development: Professional Development for staff at McKenzie Centre is highly valued. This term staff will focus on sensory processing and how to improve their own practice which in turn will be used to assist you and your children. Several team members are embarking on a Te Reo Maori course to help us with using Te Reo Maori more in sessions and to extend our skills to support Maori culture and identity. Self-review is an important process for improving our service and we have begun to revise how we document our self-review.

Raffles: Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Christmas raffle. Special thanks to the Bennett family for the two hampers from New World Ngaruawahia and Tanners Grandma, Leanne Moyes, who organised a gift basket full of Avon products. Thanks also to Meyer Cheese, for supporting our raffle and all our fundraising events! Thank you also to Felicia (one of our parents) for initiating the idea and to all the parents who donated food items to add to our basket, this was wonderful and very much appreciated. We managed to have 5 prizes and raised \$268.26. Congratulations to all the winners!

We would love some items to raffle off at our next movie night fundraiser. If you have anything you think might be suitable for a raffle, or are happy to approach retailers on our behalf, please let Helen, Sandra and Lillian in the office know. Thanks for your support with this.

Thanks so much to Tamai Howe's grandma who donated the new childrens' picnic table situated in the playground. Tamai started school in May 2015 and his mum, Renee, is one of our Trustees.

House Keeping

- Summer time is here, please be sun wise. Bring your own hats and sun block, but we do have supplies here if needed.
- The outside matting gets very hot on little feet. Wear shoes outside.
- Sign in and out each session. We do encourage you to stay the whole session.
- When the carpark is full, do double park and we can ask you to move when needed.
- Remember to update your Key Worker if you change your child's enrolment at their early childhood centre, or if your address or phone number changes.
- Please bring in immunisation certificates if these have been updated.
- Please remember to pay your early intervention fee each term. We do rely on these fees to keep our service running, and it is an expectation that they are paid. Any problems, please do come and talk to the admin team as we are happy to support flexible payment options. Some of you may be entitled to WINZ support for payment of fees, so talk to your Key Worker about the Childcare subsidy or Child Disability Allowance. These entitlements are very helpful to support your family.
- Your feedback and communication is appreciated, so that we can continue to develop or make changes to our service. Talk to your Key Worker or Trisha about any issues.

Kiwanis Charity Golf Tournament: We are absolutely delighted that Kiwanis Clubs of Division 2 have selected McKenzie Centre as one of the three charities to benefit from their annual charity golf tournament. This year, it will be held on Friday 24th March 2017 at the Walton Golf Club, Kiwitahi Road, Walton. Please support McKenzie Centre by encouraging any golfers you know to take part. See the information on the Parent noticeboard, or Helen, for further details about how to enter this great event.

A Day of Fun at HAMILTON ZOO for people with a disability and their immediate family/ caregiver. Sausage sizzle, soft drinks and ice-blocks provided. Entry is Free. Sunday 19th of March 2017 11.00am - 3.00pm. See info on the Noticeboard.

The Wilson Home Trust is delighted to offer a range of grants that support an initiative, activity or equipment that will enhance the life of a child or young person who has a disability. They also have grants available for the child's family because they acknowledge the challenges that many families experience. The grants may be holidays, counselling, emergencies or funerals. Their eligibility criteria is -the child or young person has a physical disability; the child or young person is younger than 22 years; and the child or young person lives in the northern half of the North Island of New Zealand. Applications will be considered four times a year and you will be notified shortly after that date. Go to <http://wilsonhometruster.org.nz/children-families/grants/> for more information.

TEA TOWELS FOR SALE - MCKENZIE CENTRE FUNDRAISER

Please support us and purchase a fabulous set of tea towels! Beautifully handcrafted by Anita and the children. A set of two quality tea towels is great value at just \$25. We accept cash or payment directly into our bank account with your name and Tea Towels as the reference please. Help us to continue to support 'our children' by purchasing these tea towels and supporting our other fundraising events.



Remember 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 and Fundraising: Although we are very grateful for our government funding we have a short fall each year which we make up by fundraising. We need help with this so McKenzie Centre is available to families in the future. Please talk to Trisha or Helen if you, your extended family or workplace would like to be involved or would like more information.

Best wishes from: Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Suzanne, Teresa, Ruth, Jacqui, Helen, Sandra, Lillian, Steph, Marcia and Richard.

THANK YOU to our wonderful Funders, Sponsors, Friends and Supporters:



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