

Parent Newsletter
Term Two 2017

Welcome back to McKenzie Centre!

Wow, what a brilliant term break, we hope you enjoyed the unexpected warm weather!

Dates to Remember Term Two 2017

Term starts	1 May
Queen's Birthday	5 June no session
Premmies Group	11 May, 8 June, Thursday at 11am
Parent Focus week	22-26 th May
ESW workshop	23 June 2017
Term Two ends	7 July, Friday
Term Three starts	24 July, Monday

Parent Focus: During the week of 22nd - 26th May, Key Workers will supervise the children to enable parents and carers time to connect, enjoy coffee and a treat, and get to know other families who attend the same session. There will also be a chance to discuss 'Winter Wellness' and independence in self-care tasks.

Emergency Drill: Just a 'heads up' that we have a fire drill in one session each term. It may not happen in your session this term, we will keep that as a surprise! Please follow instructions from staff and vacate the building to our evacuation point- outside the gate by the bicycle track.

Earthquake Drill: During mat time in Week 9, June 26-30, we will practise the earthquake drill of 'drop, cover, hold' during the McKenzie Centre music session. Also a reminder for you to practice at home in case of an earthquake so your family is prepared.

Mat time: Is a great time to be actively involved with modelling of routines, language and actions and how to have fun! If you are the parent, or other adult, accompanying your child please sing, stand and sit as part of the routine so that we show our children what to do. To minimise distractions for the children, let's try to keep the focus on mat time, so if you are having a conversation please take it away from the mat and into another room or have it after mat time. If it is a challenge for your child to participate in mat time, talk with your Key Worker so you have a strategy to support your child for this routine.

House Keeping:

- Winter time is approaching, with the inevitable colds and bugs so please help yourself to tissues and use handwashing facilities to reduce cross infections.
- Toys that are mouthed when children are playing need to be stashed in the mesh bag (where the brooms are stowed), so they can be cleaned at the end of the session.
- During the winter months, the outside matting, deck and ramp may get slippery. Please take care when using these.
- There may be more inside days with a change in weather so please pay special attention to tidying away toys and activities so floor spaces are cleared and routines are learned. The children benefit from the time taken to 'finish' an activity by putting things away.
- The sign-up sheet needs to be filled in at the beginning and end of each session. It is on the cabinet in the corridor. We do encourage you to stay the whole session.
- When the carpark is full, **please double park**, and we can ask you to move if 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.

- Early intervention fees need to be paid each term, as we rely on these fees to keep our service running. Please speak to the admin team if you have any problems with payment, 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.
- We have made mind maps to document our self- review key areas of focus. Have a look as these are on the wall in the whanau room.

Rocking horse

Thank you very much to Colin Bland who has made and donated the very beautiful rocking horse, pictured on the right, for McKenzie Centre. Colin's craftsmanship is superb and we are very grateful to him for his efforts and generosity.



Professional Development:

Professional Development for staff at McKenzie Centre is highly valued. Upskilling of staff in the area of sensory processing is ongoing. A focus on using more Te Reo Māori in sessions and extending our skills to support Māori culture and identity is also ongoing. Self-review is an important process for improving our service and we have begun to revise how we document this process. Have a look at our self-review maps in the whanau room.

Visitors to McKenzie Centre:

In addition to medical students, we welcome other students. This term, an Occupational Therapy student and an Early Intervention Teacher student will be visiting regularly during sessions.

Events:

On Thursday 4th & Friday 5th May, Capital E, a leading provider of high quality theatre for children in Aotearoa, will perform Songs of the Sea - Waiata o Te Moana. This is aimed at children 2 - 7 years old. This magical performance is sure to delight your young learners. Book through: <https://www.capitale.org.nz/songs-of-the-sea-booking/> or Phone: 04 913 342

Lego+

This is a new group organised by Enrich+ and Spectrum Energy for 5 - 12 year olds on the autism spectrum. The sessions are on Tuesdays from 4.00-5.30pm throughout the school term, and cost \$15 a session. Lego+ fosters teamwork, promotes sharing and supports the learning of communication skills in a fun, safe environment. It starts on Tuesday, May 2nd at the following address: 5 Princes Street, Hamilton. For more information contact tanwen@enrichplus.org.nz

Baby Sign Language Aotearoa. Cost \$150 per term. Also those who register for these classes get discounts to The Fun Shed (indoor children's playgrounds) where the classes are held. Contact Adele Sauer admin@seecom.co.nz

Thanks so much to:

Business Enabling Systems for their generous sponsorship of \$2,500.

Kiwanis, who have supported McKenzie Centre in the past, and chose McKenzie Centre to be the beneficiary of their 2017 golf tournament, to benefit our Multi-Sensory Room upgrade.



DV Bryant Trust and Paul Darwall at Heathcote Appliances, Thackeray Street have been very generous. Our old fridge and dishwasher needed replacing. DV Bryant Trust granted us

funds to replace them and Heathcote very kindly sold McKenzie Centre new ones at a very good price, as well as delivering and installing the dishwasher for free.

Holdfast for donating 60 glue sticks for the children to use when creating their amazing art works and a large roll of Velcro. We use this everyday on the back of the children's photos and visuals around the centre.

Thanks to the **Afoa Family** for the donation of wooden magnetic resources from EDUC8. The children will have lots of fun with these! email educ8fun2learn@hotmail.com or they have a facebook page.

Congratulations to Meyer Gouda Cheese for winning Best of the Best and four category winners at the recent NZ Cheese Awards. This is a fantastic achievement for them. Through our wonderful Key Worker, Suzanne, Meyer Gouda Cheese has been a very generous and much appreciated sponsor of McKenzie Centre events for the past few years.



Raffles: Donations for a movie night raffle would be greatly appreciated, please let Helen, Sandra and Lillian in the office know if you have items or contacts for donations of goods or services. Thanks for your support with this.

Mother's Day Treat!!

TEA TOWELS FOR SALE - MCKENZIE CENTRE FUNDRAISER

Stocks are dwindling, so be in quick and purchase a fabulous set of tea towels! A set of two quality tea towels is great value at \$25. We accept cash or payment directly into our bank account with your name and Tea Towels as the reference please.



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 about payroll giving.

Policies and Procedures: A complete list of all the Centre's Policies and Procedures is in the Yellow Licence, Policies, ERO Report folder in the Whanau Room. We review policies regularly to ensure they are up to date and relevant. Parents/whanau, trustees and staff are invited to review the policies so everyone can contribute to what is done at the Centre. The policies under review are listed on the notice board in the Whanau Room. If anyone has any questions about the policies, procedures or the review process please see Lillian or Sandra in the office.

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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Hamilton Central Rotary Club



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