

Parent Newsletter  
Term Three, 2017

Welcome back to McKenzie Centre!

*So, we are half way through the year already, well and truly past the shortest day and heading to summer - yippee!!*

**Dates to Remember Term Three 2017**

Term starts	24 July
Premmies Group	10 August and 14 September
Parent Focus week	14-18 <sup>th</sup> August
Term Three ends	29 <sup>th</sup> September Friday; Quiz Night Fundraiser
Term Four starts	16 <sup>th</sup> October Monday

**Parent Focus:** During the week of 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August, 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 the McKenzie Centre learning environment and we have Trustees visiting most days for you to meet and learn more about the governance of McKenzie Centre.

**Visitors to McKenzie Centre; Very Important Visit. 16 August from Ministry of Health representatives.** McKenzie Centre is fortunate to receive funding from MoH. This is an important visit so we can showcase our service as there are major changes happening in the way MoH will fund disability support services. We need your help so they can see the good work we do here, but this is also an opportunity for you, as parents, to say what works well for you and what you would like to see brought forward for your own children and whanau and children with disabilities in the future.

**MISSING and needs returning: one of our IPADs.** Sadly this has been missing for several weeks. If you have seen this we would be really, really grateful for its return.

**House Keeping:**

**Emergency Drill:** We will continue with regular practice emergency drills this term and ask that you follow instructions from staff and vacate the building to our evacuation point- outside the gate by the bicycle track. We cycle the days so each session will get their turn.

**Earthquake Drill:** Last term we practised the earthquake drill of 'drop, cover, and hold', just a reminder to practice this at home so your family is prepared.

**Mat time:** Thanks for your great response to being actively involved in the mat time routines. The mat times are more focused without the distraction of other conversations in the room and the children are benefitting from your participation, as they watch you following the routine and enjoying the songs and copying the actions. Have fun with songs and actions at home too!

**Handwashing:** Washing your hands and your children's hands, or encouraging them to wash their hands, is one of the best ways to reduce the spread of germs. Please include this as part of the routine before eating at McKenzie Centre.

**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.

**Slippery Surfaces:** During the winter months, the outside matting, deck and ramp may get slippery. Please take care when using these. Any spills near the water trough also need to be mopped up to avoid mishaps.

**Tidy up routine:** Please continue to pay attention to finishing a game or activity by tidying away toys so routines are learned. The children will also benefit from a clutter free space to set up a game and safe clearways for moving around the playrooms. . Whakarauri te kemu - tidy up the game 😊

**Double parking is OKAY:** When the carpark is full, pull in and double park especially in this wet weather. We can ask you to move if needed later.

**Increase to Early Intervention Fee from Term 3, 2017:** Each year, McKenzie Centre's trustees carefully consider the Early Intervention Term Fee, and whether it needs to be adjusted to help McKenzie Centre cover its costs.

From Term 3, 2017, it has been decided that the fee must increase by \$10 to **\$110 per term for one child** with special needs, or **\$160 Family fee per term for two or more children** who have special needs. Siblings will continue to be enrolled for free. If you receive the WINZ childcare subsidy, this will continue to cover the entire fee.

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. This year we have an income shortfall of about \$270,000 to find, and the Early Intervention Term Fee forms an important part of our fundraising. It is a compulsory contribution that families make towards the specialist services they receive at McKenzie Centre, and without your support with this fee, McKenzie Centre would struggle to continue.

Thank you to everyone who pays their Early Intervention Term Fee on time. If anyone is having difficulty paying their fee, or would like us to help them check their eligibility for the WINZ Childcare subsidy, please come and see Sandra, Lillian or Helen in the Admin office, or talk to your Key Worker.

**Family Evening**, our first evening organised by parents for parents!! Parents of the Wednesday group held a family evening at McKenzie Centre to meet each other and build connections. It was great to see older siblings and Dads come along too. *"It was great to share the McKenzie Centre with our partners and family."*



If any other groups would like to organise this please come and see Trisha.

**McKenzie Centre Quiz Night fundraiser:** Mark your diaries - **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017.** The date has been set for this exciting inaugural fundraiser. One of our parents, Megan Moyes, is the key organiser for this event - a huge thank you to Megan and her wonderful Mum, Leanne. Donations for raffles/ prizes at this event 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. We especially need help with:

- Selling tickets
- Help on the night from someone who is a licensed Bar Manager
- Catering
- Volunteers to help on the night
- Raffle and auction prizes

If you are keen to help us, or have any other ideas, please come and talk to Helen, Lillian, Sandra or Trisha about this.



**Horiana Jones, Clinical Psychology student** will be with us this term, Wednesdays and some Fridays. Richard is her supervisor.

**Occupational Therapist student at McKenzie Centre:**

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

**Te Whaariki NZ** early childhood curriculum has been updated, McKenzie Centre weaves its curriculum based on the principles, strands, goals and learning outcomes when deciding which areas to focus on. You will find we use the strands when planning your child's IP. Find out more about Te Whaariki on [www.parents.education.govt.nz](http://www.parents.education.govt.nz)

**Professional Development Opportunities:**

There are a number of topics we are currently focusing at McKenzie Centre, including Sensory Processing, Autism, Feeding, the Internal Evaluation procedures and our Learning Environment. The use of Te Reo Māori and extending our skills to support Māori culture and identity is also ongoing. Please have a look at our internal evaluation maps in the whanau room. Please speak to your Key Worker if you have any input to contribute to the process.

**Supporting Families with Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities: Essential Skills for Developing Trust and Collaborative Relationships:**

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 at the Tamaki campus of the University of Auckland, the Early Intervention Association of Aotearoa New Zealand will be hosting a very special "members and friends" event.

Dr. Barry Prizant and Dr. Elaine Meyer will deliver a special workshop for professionals and parents on "Supporting Families with Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities: Essential Skills for Developing Trust and Collaborative Relationships". Barry (co-creator of the SCERTS model and author of a fabulous new book on autism called "Uniquely Human") and Elaine (world famous researcher and speaker on "being present and not perfect" when working with families) will provide this workshop for EIAANZ.

Family-centred practice is collaborative and relational and it is important that professionals and families know how to engage with each other to achieve the best outcomes for children. Parents are therefore encouraged to attend this exciting workshop and to be part of growing the collaboration between all those involved in supporting children in New Zealand. The cost of the workshop will be \$100 for the day. Please register your interest in attending with Dr. Susan Foster-Cohen, EIAANZ Chair to ensure your place at the workshop: [susan.fostercohen@championcentre.org.nz](mailto:susan.fostercohen@championcentre.org.nz) Two of our staff are going so if parents are interested we could car pool.

**Thanks so much to:**



**Kiwanis Club of Westside**, who have again supported McKenzie Centre. We are the beneficiary of their 2016 golf tournament which has gone towards funding our Multi-Sensory Room upgrade, and they have also donated some lovely warm, winter pyjamas and blankets which we have shared with families at McKenzie Centre.

**Holdfast** for donating 3 refurbished iPad 2s. These will be a wonderful addition to the Assistive Technology Resources here at McKenzie Centre.

**Thanks to Hayden's family** for all the baby items, this snowballed and other families followed suit. We have a swap box for toys and books on the deck to recycle items for other families please check it and take what you need. We also sold some items on TradeMe thanks Nadine!

**Spiros Poros** for the wonderful photos of the children and a lovely piece of art for our upcoming fundraiser.

**Alison Short**, a past parent, from Bin Inn Dinsdale, for delivering the bags of wheat for the wheat trough. Alison has a huge range of goods at her store, check it out!  
**Neil Hintz, Richard Stewart and Richard Bennett** for the many occasions they help us doing repairs and maintenance of our Centre and equipment.

Reminders for ongoing fundraising which you can help us with:

- McKenzie Centres unique tea towels for sale
- Payroll Giving and Fundraising:

Please ask Helen or Trisha for details

*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:**



Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate



Meyer Gouda CHEESE



Kiwani Club of Westside



Alexandra Lodge Freemasons



Hamilton Central Rotary Club



**As well as:**

Ministry of Education  
Tidd Foundation

Ministry of Health

Community Post

**And our donors and sponsors (private donors names not published for privacy reasons)**

Spike @School  
Arrow Linemarking  
BNZ Closed for Good  
Heathcotes Appliances

X3 Utility Services  
Andrew Malcolm  
Hamilton East Rotary Club

New World Rototuna  
A1 Commercial Cleaning  
Lido Cinema