

## Parent Newsletter

### End of Year!

### Term Four, 2017

It is the end of another year and I hope you have had many happy experiences at McKenzie Centre and are looking forward to the summer. Please talk to your Key Worker if you have any concerns about coping during the longer holiday break, they can help with strategies or link you to other community agencies who could support you.

Best wishes to all of those who will be leaving us, children starting school, or moving to new places. Please do come and visit us as we love to catch up on your news and progress. If you need any help then we are only a phone call away.

To the familiar faces that are coming back we look forward to seeing you in 2018!

#### DATES TO REMEMBER TERM FOUR 2017

Premmies Group	14 December, Thursday
Final day ESWs	15 December, Friday
Last session	19 December, Tuesday
End of year party	20 December 10.30am - 12.30pm, Wednesday
Term 1 starts	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2018

#### END OF YEAR PARTY

All welcome, siblings, whanau and McKenzie Centre graduates. Bring a plate of food to share.

#### PARENT FOCUS WEEK FEEDBACK

There were lots of really useful discussions at the Focus Week this term and here are the tips from you to share ...

##### Safety

- 'Safe hands' e.g. on the door of the car
- Your body between the child and the car
- Use a buggy
- In the trolley at supermarket
- Use an older sibling to help supervise
- Pushing the button for the crossing and then wait on the 'lego mat'
- Harness/backpack
- Label with contact details at back of pants, attached with Velcro

##### Questions about your child's needs

- Ignore
- Explain the child's needs
- Put the comment back to the person
- Having a phrase that you use
- Asking them how they would feel about someone commenting on your child
- Depends on how you are feeling on the day
- Greet people that are staring
- Give people info e.g. family, books, invite to McKenzie Centre
- Make connections so you don't feel isolated
- Take it as an opportunity to educate
- Make bibs/t-shirts "you don't need to stare-I know I'm awesome"
- Give the right amount of information - depends on the listener

- When meeting someone for the first time, introduce my child's needs
- Why are you asking? Why is that important to you?
- Posting on Facebook
- Try to put their question in perspective
- "Special needs" playground with fences
- Play spaces need to be more accessible e.g. appropriate toys
- Tell key people and trust they will give right information
- Take a breath and calm yourself
- Be cheeky or joke

There is a movie on at present 'Wonder' - the child's older sibling whispers to her brother ***"you can't blend in when you were born to stand out"***

**USB Sticks** There will be a cost of \$15.00 for each child as we will now store your child's assessment videos, photos and reports onto a USB. This will be given to you when your child leaves McKenzie Centre. The one off cost for the USB will be included in your term fee. We prefer this for long term storage, but if you do not want to do this we can store your information on a CD. If this is your preference please tell Admin or we will assume you want the USB. All information is stored confidentially in a locked cabinet.

**Hori Barton Fundraiser** Please support Hori as he tackles the Hakarimata steps, he is fundraising for McKenzie Centre. Posters with details are in the foyer or ask at Admin.

### **HOUSE KEEPING**

**Outside Gate Safety:** You will see we now have the double gate system. But please continue to be very aware of children when coming into the Centre or leaving. We have some children who will sneak through an open gate. So, please ensure that you close all gates instead of letting them swing shut.

**Inside Gates to kitchen and wharepaku -** please open and shut these, do not climb over them.

**Birth Certificates:** The Ministry Of Education requires that once a new enrolment becomes active (the first week a child attends) a National Student Number must be assigned in order for McKenzie Centre to receive funding. Part of that process is seeing a birth certificate/passport and immunisation record. So it is really important that this documentation is brought in as soon as possible once a new family enrolls. Please help us to keep our records up to date and bring these in with you.

**Sign In and Out:** Please sign the attendance register in the foyer for your child/children at every session.

### ***Thanks so much to:***

Alfie Nudd for donating some of his toys.

Hayden Williams' family for donating sheets, clothes and toys.

Hudson Rillstone's mum, Kristin, donated resources to McKenzie Centre including guidebooks and tools for supporting children's social communication skills. Hudson attended McKenzie Centre a few years ago and has now successfully integrated into school.

**Fundraising Raffle, Please get your tickets, it will be drawn at our party on 20 December \$2 per ticket and \$5 for 3 tickets.**

### **Tea Towels**

Available for \$25 for a set of two as a special Christmas gift, made by children from McKenzie Centre.

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

***THANK YOU TO ALL OUR AMAZING SPONSPORS!***