

Parent Newsletter
Term 1, 2018

Welcome back to McKenzie Centre!

We hope it has been a chillaxing time for you and your whanau during the summer holiday period.

Dates to Remember Term One, 2018

Term 1 starts	31 January
Premmies Group	8 Feb, 8 March and 12 April
Hori Barton's Hakarimata Fundraiser	17 Feb
Parent Focus week	5 to 9 March
ESW workshop	23 March
Term 4 ends	13 April
Term 2, 2018 starts	Tuesday 30 th April

Parent Focus: During the week of 5 to 9 March, 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 an opportunity for parents to share their knowledge with other parents.

Now and Next Programme: McKenzie Centre is delighted to be the first organisation in NZ to run this programme in collaboration with our colleagues at CCS Disability Action and Plumtree, Australia. Now and Next helps families to achieve positive outcomes for their child, family and self. It was developed by Sylvana Mahmic, CEO of Plumtree in Sydney and Dr Annick Jansen, both of whom are parents of young men who have a disability. They developed the programme because they learnt that a positive vision and a focus on strengths is the best foundation for children and their families, both short and long-term. The programme is being run over 4 full days during February and March. See your Key Worker or Trisha for more information. Spaces are limited.

Volunteer Gardener: we would love some more help with our gardens. The main tasks are trimming the plants and keeping it tidy. Two or three hours each month would do it. Please see Lillian if you are interested.

Specialist Service Review: McKenzie Centre is one of four organisations chosen by the Ministry of Education to pilot the new review system. We will have visitors from Ministry of Education at the Centre April 4,5,6 and some of you may be involved in helping us with this.

Hanen Courses for Term1: Anita will be running It Takes Two to Talk this term. Estelle will be running a More Than Words course. Please talk to your Key Worker if you are interested or need more information. These courses are fantastic learning opportunities but we do need your commitment to complete the whole course.

Advocacy Training Workshops: Ruth Gerzon from Inclusion Aotearoa is running a series of 3 free workshops titled, 'Advocacy Toolkit Introduction Course, during late February and March. Please contact her on 027 4308 149 or at: ruthgerzon@gmail.com if you are interested. Enrolments need to be completed by February 12.

Enrich+ and Spectrum groups for Term1: On Wednesday evenings Enrich+ and Spectrum run groups for Kids+ (5-10 year olds) to develop social communication skills between 4.00-5.15p.m.and others for Youth and Teens. Please contact Karen on 027 836 7694 or check out the website www.enrichplus.org.nz .

CCS Disability Action Toy Library: There is a treasure trove of toys, books and puzzles for families to borrow. For \$20 a year, you have access to hundreds of great resources and can

choose 3 toys, plus a book or DVD, and they can be swapped every 2 weeks. Check them out at CCS Disability Action, 17 Claudelands Road, Hamilton, or phone them on 07 853 9761 or 0800 227 2255. We have strong links with this organisation and we are very happy to promote the toy library.

HOUSE KEEPING

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

Birth Certificates: Please bring your child's/children's birth certificate, and immunisation records, bring in any updated records. This information is a requirement for early childhood regulations.

Security: If you would like to leave handbags in the office area rather than in the cubby holes to ensure valuables are secure, Lillian and Sandra will gladly help you.

Sign In and Out: Please sign the attendance register in the foyer for your child/children at every session. You could make it part of the routine when you are finding the photo of your child for the wall.

Handwashing: Washing your hands and your children's hands, continues to be a vital routine at McKenzie Centre to reduce the spread of germs. Daily routines offer lots of learning opportunities and skill practice and lead to growing independence.

Mouthing of toys: Mouthing of toys is a natural part of learning. To reduce cross infections, please put them in the blue/white mesh bag by the water trough, so they can be cleaned at the end of the session.

Tidying up is a part of the game: Please tidy away a game or activity once you and your child have finished, where possible, so routines can be established. We will all benefit from a clutter free space to access activities and games, as well as safe clearways for moving around the playrooms. *Whakarauri te kemu* - tidy up the game 😊

Fundraising Event

One of our wonderful Dad's, Hori Barton, and his good mate Ricky Wichman, are undertaking a mammoth fundraising event for McKenzie Centre in February 2018. Hori and Ricky will tackle the mighty Hakarimata Summit Track as a way of raising funds for the Centre. How many times will they climb? Well, they are looking for sponsors and donations, and for every \$500 raised, they will complete the track once. If you would like to support Hori and Ricky in this gruelling but worthy task, please make a donation directly to McKenzie Centre: 02 - 0316 - 0466333 - 00; Ref: Hakarimata (Your Name) or (Business), or contact Helen at McKenzie Centre on phone 07 839 5357; email: manager@mckenziecentre.org.nz. Thank you for your support and cheers to Hori and Ricky!



McKenzie Centre Early Intervention term fees: Just a reminder that these are a fee, and not a voluntary donation. We do rely on term fees to help keep the Centre running, so really appreciate it when they are paid promptly. If you want to find out if you qualify for a WINZ Childcare subsidy, and many of our families do, please pop in to see Sandra or Lillian in the office, who will be happy to help you. If you would like to set up an automatic payment to pay off your fees, Lillian and Sandra can help you with this too. Thanks for your support.

Double parking is OKAY: When the carpark is full, pull in and double park. If you let our friendly office staff know then we can ask you to move later, if needed.

Play House from Holdfast

A playhouse is currently under construction by the wonderful team at Holdfast and they are keen to donate this to McKenzie Centre. Please speak to your Key Worker if you have any input to contribute to the process, such as access to a hiab truck or muscle power!

Occupational Therapy Student: Juliana Dirks is a 3rd year OT student from Otago Polytechnic, through Wintec, who will be placed at McKenzie Centre from 19th February to 29th March. She will be working alongside staff with children and gaining valuable knowledge from parents.

Professional Development Opportunities:

There are a number of Internal Evaluations being undertaken at present, including Sensory Processing, Autism, Feeding, our Learning Environment and the updated Te Whaariki curriculum. The use of Te Reo Māori and extending our skills to support Māori culture and identity is also ongoing. Please speak to your Key Worker if you would like to be involved with any of these.

End of Year Party and Raffle

We had a lovely party to finish a busy and happy 2017. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the staff did. We loved seeing graduates who popped back to say Hi - thank you to everyone. The winners of our raffles were: Siobhan Dennis, Tuhouhia, Steph Lugton and Lisa Butler. We hope you enjoyed these special Christmas goodies!



Congratulations Cynthia Ward, True Colours, who has been awarded the Queens Service Medal for her work with seriously ill children. We are delighted for Cynthia and for those of you who know her you will agree she is a real champion at supporting families.

Congratulations Ken Williamson, Hamilton City Council Civic Award: Ken is the Chairperson of our Trust, and has been involved with McKenzie Centre for nearly 25 years. He is also involved in many other community organisations. He thoroughly deserves this recognition as he works tirelessly, selflessly and is dedicated to promoting our community.

Thanks so much to:

- Flooring Xtra (Van Dyks) for donating our lovely new carpet square in the big playroom.
- Dynamic Media: instead of Christmas Gifts for their clients, the Dynamic Media team donated to their favourite charities and McKenzie Centre was a lucky recipient. Thank you Dani, Shontelle, Chris and Kyra!
- Vinnies for the children's puzzles and toys, organised by Mike Rolton
- 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
- Hori Barton's Hakarimata Climb fundraiser

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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