

Parent Newsletter
Term 2, 2018

Welcome back to McKenzie Centre! We hope that you've had a nice break. In this newsletter you will read about events that we are planning, e.g. Quiz night and movie night fundraisers, the outcome of the Specialist Service Review, opportunities for parents to support each other and general information for you.

Dates to Remember Term Two, 2018

Term 2 starts	30th April
Premmies Group	No sessions during the winter months
Parent Focus week	11 to 15 June
Movie Night Fundraiser - Leisure Seeker	21 June
ESW workshop	15 June
Term 2 ends	6 July
Term 3 starts	23rd July
Quiz Night	21 September

Movie night 'The Leisure Seeker' - Thursday June 21st - 8pm screening

Lido Cinema. Tickets \$30

We are thrilled to bring you another fantastic movie fundraiser experience:

Please come and support us with our fundraising as this is essential for McKenzie Centre to continue providing our services. **Your help is needed** to sell movie tickets, we would like to sell 200!



The Leisure Seeker

The film stars Academy Award-winner® Helen Mirren and two-time Golden Globe-winner® Donald Sutherland as a runaway couple - the husband stricken with Alzheimer's, the wife acutely aware - going on an unforgettable journey in the faithful old RV they call The Leisure Seeker.

Tickets cost \$30 and include a voucher for one complimentary treat; either a Rush Munro ice-cream, a small popcorn or a non-alcoholic drink.

- See the movie in a luxurious setting
- Validated free parking available at the Centre Place car park
- Arrive from 7.30pm - the movie will start at 8pm

To purchase, please contact Sandra.

Phone: 839 5357 or email: admin@mckenziecentre.org.nz

Movie Night raffle - we are planning on having a couple of grocery hamper raffles on the night and would love it if you could bring a non-perishable item for the hamper. (Bring it to the office please). Please come and see Lillian or Sandra in the office. \$2 for one ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. You can buy a raffle ticket even if you don't make it to the movie.

Keep the Date Free: Friday September 21st - McKenzie Centre's Fantastic Quiz Night

After last year's fabulous evening the date has been set for this year's exciting fundraiser. We will need help with:

- Selling tickets
- 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.



Parent Focus: During the week of 11 to 15 June, Key Workers will supervise the children to enable parents and carers time to 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 and experiences with other parents.

Evidence Based Practice in early intervention has informed us that family centred practice is the most effective approach to intervention. Part of family centred practice is providing opportunities for parents to support each other, therefore we would like to work towards parents facilitating the parent focus week instead of McKenzie Centre staff. Please talk to your Key Worker if you think that you would like to help us with this.

USB sticks: when you receive your term 2 invoice, you will notice a separate charge of \$15.00 has been added to your fee. This is a one-off charge for a USB stick that will be given to you when your child leaves McKenzie Centre. It will contain reports, IP, video footage and photos from their time at McKenzie Centre.

Now and Next Programme:

Thank you and congratulations to everyone for a very successful programme. This was the first Now and Next Programme held in New Zealand in collaboration with our colleagues at CCS Disability Action and Plumtree, Australia.

Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed; behind the scenes was Hamilton West School who generously allowed us to use their classroom and facilities. This was a huge support so the parents were close by the children who were cared for by staff from McKenzie Centre. Thanks to Claire, Suzanne, Anita, Ruth, Sue, Karen, Stacey, Sharon, Vanessa and Angela who gave up their weekends to help out.

The Now and Next Programme 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. Please let your Key Worker know if you would be interested in attending the programme if the opportunity arises in the future.

The first Now and Next NZ parents have founded an Alumni group and have many exciting projects that they are working towards which will be shared at Parent Focus meetings.

Specialist Service Review:

McKenzie Centre was one of four organisations chosen by the Ministry of Education to pilot the new review system. They reviewed our practices on April 4, 5 and 6. We are very proud to share that they have reported that McKenzie Centre is *'very well placed to continue to improve the quality of their specialist services and outcomes for children and their families'*. They also commented that the staff is *'highly reflective with regard to their own practice and the service as a whole. They have a strong commitment to thorough, ongoing internal evaluation and the continuing improvement of service effectiveness.'* Congratulations to all of us!

Volunteer Gardener: We are very pleased to have Jim Newman join us to take care of our grounds and gardens. Thanks Jim.



Thank you to the Kiwanis who kindly donated beautiful winter pyjamas to the Centre to be distributed to families.

Thanks to The Wilson Home Trust, NZCT and Trillian Trust Inc for funding our playground upgrade. Our lovely safety matting has been upgraded and re-laid!!

Hanen Parent Programs for Term 2: Anita is currently running It Takes Two to Talk. Estelle will start the Hanen More Than Words program in Term 2. 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 program. The It Takes Two To Talk workshops are held on a Tuesday afternoon and the More Than Words workshops will be held on selected Friday mornings in the Whānau room at McKenzie Centre.



Wechat Chinese support group for parents of children with ASD: If you would like to chat via text messages with other Chinese parents of children with ASD then Wechat could be an option for you. You would need to be invited to be able to participate in the group. Fiona would be happy to invite you in the group if you connect with her. Her Wechat number is fiona2423.

Support Group for Mums with children with ASD - Courageous Mothers of Cambridge: Cath Hudson has started a support group for mothers of children with Autism. She writes; *“To the strong, courageous, beautiful mothers of Cambridge raising a child with autism, I want to meet you and do life with you! My son was diagnosed at the age of two and what a journey it has been! He is now 5 years old and attends Leamington Primary School. Being his mother will be the hardest job I will ever do, but I also feel it will be the most rewarding. My goal is to create a group of women (the strongest women I will ever know) and partner with them in this life with our quirky, fun, often challenging kids. There is something special that happens in me when I meet another mother raising a child with Autism. I have an instant respect and awe of her! What an amazing women she must be, I want to know her! So if you feel the same way and want to meet with other women living this life and fighting this fight for her child join the “Courageous Mothers of Cambridge” Facebook page and let’s connect and do life together ☺. I am looking forward to meeting you and hearing your story”.*

Enrich+ and Spectrum groups: On Wednesdays Kids+, part of Enrich+, runs a fun group for 5-10 year olds to develop social communication skills between 4.00-5.15pm. They also have other groups for Teens and Youth. 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 \$25 a year, you have membership that covers your family from 1st July to 30th June the following year, you have access to hundreds of great resources and can choose 3 toys, plus a book or DVD, which are 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 confident in promoting the use of the toy library. Some of the toys that your children have loved playing with, or on, were loaned from the library e.g. the ride-on car track in the play ground.

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 that; (1) the child or young person has a physical disability, (2) the child or young person is younger than 22 years, and, (3) 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.

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, as quick as possible. We cycle through the days so each session will get their turn.

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

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. With winter coming along, do be mindful of hand washing.

Mouthing of toys: Mouthing of toys is a natural part of learning. To reduce cross infections, please put toys in the blue/white mesh bag by the water trough, so they can be cleaned. Please give any damaged or broken toys to a staff member.

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 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 😊

All Policies and Procedures are on a review cycle so they always remain current and relevant. A full list is available in the yellow "Licence, Policies, ERO Report" folder in the Whanau Room. Those under review will be listed on the wall in the Whanau Room and families' opinions are an important part of this review process. If you want to know more about any Policy, Procedure or how they are reviewed feel free to ask Lillian, in the office.

Fundraising Event

One of our wonderful Dads, Hori Barton, undertook a mammoth fundraising event for McKenzie Centre in February 2018. Hori completed an amazing 15 circuits of the mighty Hakarimata Summit



Track, in 24 hours, as a way of raising nearly \$2,200.00 for the Centre. Kia ora and thank you Hori and whānau.

Thank you to Simon Rickman, Merv and the team at Holdfast for donating the lovely Whare for our playground. Assembling the Gorilla Playhouse was part of a product training exercise for their sales team during a recent sales meeting. Simon, who is also one of the Trustees at McKenzie Centre said, “Great to see it go to a good home.”



Go Baby Go: McKenzie Centre hosted an event where two cars were donated to children with disabilities in our community, and Rotary donated a car to McKenzie Centre! Thank you Hamilton Central Rotary Club.

McKenzie Centre Early Intervention term fees: Just a reminder that this is a fee, and not a voluntary donation. We do rely on term fees to help keep the Centre running, so we 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 understanding.

Double parking is OKAY: When the carpark is full, pull in and double park. If you let our friendly office staff know about your double parking, then we can prompt you to move it, if the car you are parked behind, is preparing to leave 😊. Absolutely no problem!

Professional Development Opportunities: There are a number of Internal Evaluations which are ongoing, including Sensory Processing, Autism, Feeding, our Learning Environment and the updated Te Whāriki 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.

Congratulations to Meyer Gouda Cheese for winning two category Awards, three gold, five silver and one bronze medal at the recent NZ Cheese Awards and especially to Geert Meyer, Suzanne’s partner, for winning the Champion Cheese Maker Award. This is a fantastic achievement for them. Through Suzanne, Meyer Gouda Cheese has been a very generous and much appreciated sponsor of McKenzie Centre events for the past few years. Try some of their cheese it is fabulous and available at New World.



Car Restraints: To meet legal requirements and keep your child safe, please ensure that they are fastened into their car restraint correctly. Should your child have an issue with the seatbelts you could talk to your Keyworker about some strategies. **Always keep all of our tamariki safe.**

Thanks so much to:

- **Nicola Hart** for donating a Teepee for the children to use in the playroom
- **Richard Stewart and Richard Bennett** for the many occasions they help us doing repairs and maintenance of our Centre and equipment.



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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Kiwanis Club
of Westside



Alexandra Lodge
Freemasons



Hamilton Central
Rotary Club

As well as:

Ministry of Education
Tidd Foundation
NZCT

Ministry of Health
Anstiss-Garland Charitable Trust
Trillian Trust

Community Post
Wilson Home Trust

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

Spike @School

BNZ Closed for Good

Free Masons

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KONICA MINOLTA