

Parent Newsletter

Term 3, 2018

Kia ora te whanau

Welcome back to McKenzie Centre and we hope that you've had a nice break. This newsletter will inform you about events that are planned for this term.

Dates to Remember 2018

Term 3 starts	23 rd July
Premmies Group	No sessions during the winter months
Parent Focus week	27 to 31 August
ESW workshop	31 August
Term 3 ends	28 September
Term 4 starts	15 October
Quiz Night	21 September
EIAANZ Study Day	11 October

McKenzie Centre Merger with Enrich+ (this information is from our press release)

McKenzie Centre and Enrich+ are delighted to announce they have merged and this was celebrated at a special launch event on 23rd May, with drinks, speeches and cake, surrounded by their boards, many of their funders, supporters and staff.

The two well established organisations share many values and a vision of enabling people with disabilities and their whānau to have great lives.



Following the merger, McKenzie Centre will retain its focus on early intervention for children from birth to school age who have a disability or developmental delays, and their families.

Enrich+ will continue to cater for children with autism from five years of age up, and to support youth and adults with disabilities from age 17 onwards. Their services include: support to gain and keep employment, support to live independently, such as finding somewhere to live, learning household tasks, or paying bills, as well as opportunities for disabled people to be part of their community in all its forms, take part in recreational activities, and coaching and mentoring services for people to explore what they want from life and how to work towards achieving these goals.

Maree Haddon, a member of both the Enrich+ board and McKenzie Centre trust, is also a mum to two amazing boys who have received support from McKenzie Centre. Maree spoke at the merger launch about how Enrich+ and McKenzie Centre are perfectly aligned culturally, with each organisation having passionate staff who are focused on supporting people with disabilities to reach their potential. She shared her enthusiasm for the merger: "What is exciting about the joining of these two respected organisations is the ability to expand the reach of each service, and the potential to provide a wrap-around service for our children throughout their lives. As a parent, I am very reassured by the possibility of a service where our children can be supported before school, through their schooling years and all the way through to adulthood".

For Enrich+ and McKenzie Centre, offering families a continuum of services throughout the lifespan of their children will be a key focus of this merger. The opportunities which will arise from the partnership are exciting, from having more capacity to better meet the needs of disabled people and their families, to combining resources and adding value for greater efficiencies, and to strengthening their profiles in the community.

For now, it's business as usual for both organisations, and the people they support. However, Enrich+ and McKenzie Centre retain a keen eye on the future, and the bigger and brighter possibilities their merger presents for the lives of people with disabilities and their whānau.

Hāere Ra Marcia who is leaving us to work full time at Frankton Park. We know that Marcia will be a wonderful success in her new role. Marcia has worked at McKenzie Centre since February 2009 and we have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated her valuable contribution. We are pleased that Marcia's heart remains with us while her feet move in a new direction. Kia ora tōku hoa, ka nui tōku aroha.

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.



Information from Ministry of Social Development, Kevin Moffatt, General Manager, Service and Contracts Management. We gave handouts about this at last terms Parent Focus week. The second part of the 'Families Package' which aims to improve incomes for low and middle income families with children takes effect from 1 July.

- The new **Winter Energy Payment** to help older people and people on a benefit heat their homes over winter. We'll pay it from 1 July to 29 September this year and from 1 May to 1 October from 2019 onwards. Single people will get \$20.46 a week, and couples or people with dependent children will get \$31.82. Everyone who's eligible will get the Winter Energy Payment automatically. To help New Zealanders stay warm and healthy this winter Energywise provide some really practical tips including how to use heating efficiently and reduce energy costs. Also, the Electricity Authority runs an independent website called www.whatsmynumber.org.nz which helps people find the cheapest power deal for them.
- A new **Best Start** payment to help all New Zealand families with a child born (or due) on or after 1 July 2018. Families will get \$60.00 a week for each child until they turn one and for lower-income families until the child turns three.
- The Working for Families **Family Tax Credits** are increasing. From 1 July 2018, the eldest child rate will increase to \$113.00 a week and the rate for other children will increase to \$91.25 a week. The change in Family Tax Credits means people's income has increased. This may affect their other payments like Accommodation Supplement or Temporary Additional Support or their Income Related Rent.
- Not part of the Families Package, but those getting Orphan's or Unsupported Child's Benefit for children in their care will get an increase, and they'll also get a new Clothing Allowance for each child they're looking after.

A very small number of families will get less money through the Families Package because of their particular circumstances. We'll be paying them a transitional assistance payment so the amount they get from us will stay the same until things change for them, or for up to a year.

All of these changes to payments will be made automatically.

Thank you to Martine O'Callaghan and the wonderful **Orphans Aid Opshop Waikato** team at 117 Commerce Street, Frankton, Hamilton, for donating two enormous boxes of goodies and vouchers to McKenzie Centre! We are so grateful that another awesome community organisation has chosen to support us in this way, and will definitely be sharing the love with our families!



Orphan Aid does absolutely wonderful work and helps to rescue children from abusive and unsafe situations all over the world, so a very worthy cause indeed. They are celebrating their 1st birthday at the moment - Happy Birthday! Please do support them by visiting their awesome Op Shop in Frankton.

Parent Focus: During the week of 27 to 31 August, Key Workers will supervise the children to enable parents and whānau 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. We are really keen to continue to develop our Peer to Peer support networks.

Under 5's Program at The Peak, Rototuna High Schools: This is held every Wednesday during school terms from 9:30-10:15am. During this time they set out various types of equipment to encourage cognitive and fine motor skill development within children, ranging from different types of sport equipment (basketball, tennis, tee-ball, soccer etc.) to a soft play obstacle course. These are also integrated with a structured approach for those who are interested, with each week focusing on a different area of development (cognitive, basic throwing/catching, ball control etc.). The session is then finished off with the kid's favourite 'parachute'. They encourage family to get in on the action, with a staff member on hand as well to encourage and engage with the children. The cost for this program is \$6 casual entry per child, or \$40 per term per child (which comes with an attendance certificate which the children choose a sticker for each week).

'Take a Break' weekend away: 'Take a Break' weekend away is a programme run by IHC. You don't need to be using an IHC service to be eligible. One parent nominated herself on-line for the weekend and she said it was an easy process. They are accepting applications up until July 31st and between 1 September and 31 October 2018. : <https://ihc.org.nz/take-break-us>

Hanen Parent Programs for Term 3: Anita is has finished It Takes Two to Talk. Estelle will finish the Hanen More Than Words program in Term 3. 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.

EIAANZ Study Day: McKenzie Centre will host the next EIAANZ Study Day on Thursday 11th October! EIAANZ stands for Early Intervention Association Aotearoa New Zealand. More details to follow, but tentatively the programme will include a range of informative sessions on feeding, sensory issues, AAC, the 'Good start in life' project and on the new Now and Next parent education programme.

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. You can try this group for free during Term 3 as a special offer! 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.

Music time: Music time is held daily at McKenzie Centre, it is a learning opportunity for children to become familiar with routines, follow instructions, copy actions and words to songs,

etc. Children care more likely to learn and copy if they see you joining in and having fun! Therefore, don't be shy and do join in!

We were wondering if there are any guitar playing parents amongst our families and whether they would be interested in guiding music time with the guitar or another instrument? Please talk to your Key Worker if you would be interested in helping.

This term, you might notice a change in waiata. The following waiata will be included during Term 3, make sure you learn the words so you can sing along at McKenzie Centre, at home and even in the car:

- E rere taku poi
- I can bang on my drum
- Paki paki
- Te Reo Māori colour song..."Ma is white..."
- Mahunga, pakihwi, puke, hope, waewae
- A new version of the lycra song

Repairs to battery operated toys: We have had a volunteer, Rob Forrester, doing minor repairs on battery operated toys but Rob will be studying this term. Are there any parents/whanau who have skills in this area who have some time to volunteer? Please contact Ruth.

Occupational Therapy student: In addition to medical students, we welcome other students. This term, an Occupational Therapy student will be visiting regularly during Tuesday morning sessions, her name is Hayley Mills.

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 quickly as possible. We cycle through the days so each session will get their turn. This term it will be on Friday 7th September.

Earthquake Shake Out: The Shake Out is held across the world to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake, Drop, Cover and Hold. The Earthquake drill will be part of our music session on Friday 19th October.

Birth Certificates and immunisation records: 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 and any changes to your early childhood centre enrolment.

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. We do encourage you to stay for the entire session.

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 lead to growing independence. Winter is a very important time to 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 or white mesh bag by the water trough, so they can be cleaned. Please give any damaged or broken toys to a staff member.

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.

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!

Phones: We would appreciate if you could switch off the sound of your phone during your time at McKenzie Centre so that you and your child can focus on play without being distracted.

Medication: We would appreciate it if you could place any medication that you carry with you out of reach for our children, so either give your bag to Sandra or Lillian or leave any medication in your car. We have not had an incident but want to avoid the possibility.

Internal Evaluation at McKenzie Centre: There are a number of Internal Evaluations which are ongoing, including Sensory Processing, Autism, Family Centred Practice, Hanen, 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. We would like to tell you about our progress with evaluating our Learning Environment.

We noticed that there is a need to demonstrate honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and bicultural partnership in our outside learning environment. We are investigating options of how to achieve this. Currently many early childhood centres are developing playgrounds that incorporate natural resources and links to the bicultural heritage in their area. We have visited other Early Childhood Education Centres for information on Tainui history and links to the area for cultural identity and are currently brainstorming ideas of what we would like to change for our outside space. The next step will be getting a quote of the costs and fundraise to make it happen. If you have any ideas please see Steph as we would value the thoughts of parents.

Thanks so much to:

- **Neil Hintz, Richard Bennett and Jim Newman** for the many occasions they volunteer and help us by doing repairs and maintenance of our Centre and equipment.
- **Annelee and Mike Horsburgh** for arranging critical roof repairs for us. We haven’t had any leaks since!
- **Enrich+** for the donation of the Lego table in our playroom.

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:



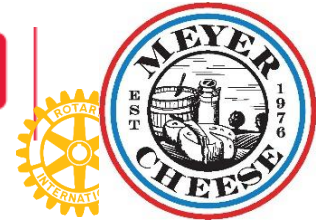
Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate



Kiwanis Club of Westside



Alexandra Lodge Freemasons



Hamilton Central Rotary Club

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Spike @School BNZ Closed for Good Free Masons

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KONICA MINOLTA