

Parent Newsletter
Term 1, 2019

Kia ora te whanau

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

Dates to Remember 2019

Term 1 starts	29 January 2019
Premmies Group	Thursday 14 th February, 14 March, 11 April, at 11am
Parent Focus week	18 to 22 February, Wednesday session will be on 27 th Feb
ESW workshop	Friday 5 th April
Term 1 last session	Friday 12 th April
Term 2 starts	Monday 29 th April

Family End of Year Party. We had a lovely party with both current and some past families joining us too. We love seeing the children and being involved with their progress. Congratulations to our raffle winners; The Hart family, Wood Family and Belinda Cowie. Thanks to everyone who donated to our grocery hamper, it was a fabulous prize and a thoughtful gift to have at Christmas time.

Parent Workshop this term: Rachel Schnauer, ASD Co-ordinator from Child Development Centre is speaking on Tuesday 12th February at 1:15pm at McKenzie Centre. She will be speaking about services available for children with Autism and their families. Everyone is welcome.

Free Course you may be interested in: Advanced advocacy skills and strategies for people with disability or autism and their families.

Disabled people and their families have more rights to quality support and inclusion than ever before. Yet to put these into effect people need to:

- Know their rights, policies and complaints systems
- Ensure their views are heard and taken seriously
- Carefully plan advocacy actions

Hamilton dates: participants attend all 3 sessions 9.30am - 2.30pm. Thursday 7, 14, 21 March 2019 at The Link Centre, corner River Road and Te Aroha Street, Hamilton East. Facilitator: Ruth Gerzon. More details on the flyer on Parent Notice board. Questions phone Ruth on 027 430 8149

EcoBags are still available: The art on the bags is made with our children's finger prints. This is a great way to be environmentally friendly while supporting McKenzie Centre. \$25 for a set of two bags, (one of each design). Come in to the office or email Nola on: admin@mckenziecentre.org.nz. We don't have eftpos but you can do Internet banking: 02 0316 0466333 00. Please add your NAME and BAGS as a reference.



Parent Focus: During the week of February 18 to 22, 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.

Now and Next programme: our third course is running over four Saturdays starting 16 February. Talk to your Key Worker if you would like to attend. Previous parents who have done this programme report it is life changing. We are extremely fortunate to receive funding from

the **JR McKenzie Trust** to support the Now and Next initiative to build parent capacity and leadership.

Staff news

Welcome to all our new team members

Jaime Campbell, Speech Language Therapist, who will be working full time at McKenzie Centre. She has previously been a SLT student at McKenzie Centre and we are excited to have her back as a new addition to the team.



Jacquie Kay-Smith, Speech Language Therapist, is extending her hours and will be working full days on Tuesdays during 2019.

Karen Layton is a Behaviour Specialist doing her registration practicum here and will be working Wednesdays during 2019.

Thank you: there are many parents who assist McKenzie Centre by volunteering their time and this contribution makes a huge positive difference. We are very grateful in particular to Rebekah and Hori Barton, Eram Efroze and Mohammed Syed, Michelle Huang, Fiona Fu and Dean Zhang.

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. This term it will be on Tuesday 12th March.

Birth Certificates and immunisation records: Please make sure we have 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 Nola will gladly help you.

Sign In and Out: Please sign the attendance register in the foyer for your child/children at every session. We do encourage you to stay for the entire session.

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 Nola, Helen 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 Helen can help you with this too.

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!

Thanks so much:

We had a lovely morning tea with our volunteers in December, we really enjoyed the opportunity to express our gratitude for the many ways they support McKenzie Centre.

- Cemac: Steve Mills for the new desk and office chair in our quiet room
 - Christmas presents from Perry Metal Protection and Aqualine, and South Waikato Lions Club
 - Jim Newland for all the work he does keeping our gardens and lawns looking so lovely.
 - Richard Bennett, Richard Stewart and many others for all the occasions they volunteer and help us by doing repairs and maintenance of our Centre and equipment.
 - SBS bank who dropped in a hamper as part of their 12 days of Christmas good wishes to the community.
- PHOTO: John Lewis from SBS bank with Trisha and Helen.



Best wishes from: Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Suzanne, Teresa, Ruth, Jacqui, Helen, Nola, Lillian, Steph, Jaime, Karen and Richard.

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