

Kia ora te whanau

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

Dates to Remember 2019

Term 2 starts	29 April
Parent Focus week	20-24 th May
ESW workshop	Friday 21 st June
Term 2 last session	Friday 5 th July
Term 3 starts	Monday 22 nd July
Quiz Night	Friday 20 th September (please put this in your diaries)

Parent Focus: During the week of May 20th-24th, 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. We encourage you to join this time together as parents talking to other parents is a fabulous opportunity to support each other, share knowledge and experiences with other parents. **If anyone would like to propose a topic for discussion, please tell your Key Worker ASAP.**

FREE COURSES

6th to 12th May, Deaf Aotearoa is organising the **New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Week**, to celebrate one of Aotearoa New Zealand's official languages. NZSL Week raises awareness of New Zealand's Deaf community and provides a platform for Deaf people to proudly promote their language and culture. Free NZSL Taster Classes and dozens of events will be held throughout the country, and there are exciting and engaging resources always available online. Visit the Deaf Aotearoa website to learn more.

Now and Next course 3. Our first course funded by JR McKenzie Trust was completed in March. This course was facilitated by our NZ parents Rebecca and Hori Barton and Steph Wacker, who all did a fabulous job and we are so fortunate to have them on our team. Congratulations to the 4 couples who graduated, we are very proud of your achievements. We were visited by Patrick Cummings, previous chairperson of the JR McKenzie Trust, and he thoroughly enjoyed his time with the group and was blown away with the peer facilitators and the way this course supports and empowers parents. We are planning two more courses this year, dates to be confirmed. Please speak to your Key Worker if you are interested. McKenzie Centre highly recommends this programme.

Hanen courses: two courses are being run currently, both facilitated by Estelle, SLT. Hanen courses are language intervention programmes for parents who have children with language delays. If you are interested in future courses, talk with your Key Worker.

Coreboard Use from a Parent's Perspective

One of our parents is keen to share her journey on the use of the Language Coreboard with her daughter. She will share valuable insights and tips to encourage you along your journey. This will be a great opportunity for new and experienced users to discuss strengths, challenges and experiences in a workshop designed by parents for parents. This workshop will be sometime in June and we will confirm the date as soon as possible.

Internal Evaluation Focus: our Cultural Environment

McKenzie Centre has had an ongoing review of Biculturalism and we are exploring ways to make our outdoor playground more visually appealing so we can see bicultural practices embedded in our environment. We are looking for more large wooden stumps, large river stones, shells, outdoor wall art depicting New Zealand flora, fauna and native plants. If you have access to objects that could enhance our outdoor environment, please let us know.

FUNDING:

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.

The early intervention fee is for any child enrolled who has a disability. It is charged each term for any service that your family receives from us - not just for attending early intervention sessions.

EcoBags are still available: These bags are **McKenzie Centre originals** and they are 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.



Chewy Tubes: To cover an increase in costs from the manufacturer, these are now priced at \$14 each. To make sure we always have a supply on hand, we will sell up to two chewy tubes per family at a time. If you wish to purchase a large number of these products, you can order them through the Sensory Corner website (www.sensorycorner.co.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, and you have access to hundreds of great resources. You 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 borrowed from the library e.g. the ride-on car track in the playground.



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.

Parents of Children with Down Syndrome: A group of these McKenzie Centre parents are getting together on the third Thursday of the month at McKenzie Centre starting at 10.30 am. Their first get together is on May 16th then June 20th. Angela is the coordinator for this group. All parents enrolled at McKenzie Centre who have a child with Down Syndrome are welcome.

QUIZ NIGHT 2019: please mark the date in your diaries: 20 September. We will need help with selling tickets, baking, sponsorship and prizes. If you can help, please see Helen or Lillian in the office. Think about purchasing a table, 8 people; the quiz is a lot of fun and a great way for you to show your support for the work we do at McKenzie Centre.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Anita on her recent marriage to Lincoln. She is now Anita Churchill.

Congratulations to Estelle Pretorius who has recently graduated with a Master of Speech and Language Therapy with Distinction. A big thank you to the families involved with this research.

Congratulations and thank you to Claire, who has worked at McKenzie Centre 20 years. We are so lucky to have Claire on our Team.

Early Childhood Student, Amy York, a 2nd year Early Childhood student will be in McKenzie Centre sessions for 4 weeks from 10th June. Please make her feel welcome.

Trisha Benge, Suzanne Kok and Estelle Pretorius will be presenting at the International Society of Early Intervention conference in Sydney from 25-28th June.

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 Eram Efroze and Mohammed Syed, Michelle Huang, Angela and Koro Amai, Kuljeet Singh, Maia Kawana and Fiona Fu.

HOUSE KEEPING

Fire Drill: We will continue with regular practice of emergency drills this term. We ask that you please follow instructions from staff and ask if you need support with your child/children. We will move to our assembly point on Hamilton West School grounds through the back gate by the bicycle track, as quickly as possible. This term it will be on Wednesday 12th June.

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 😊

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. If your child's attendance at an early childhood centre has changed then please let your Keyworker know ASAP.

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 to make the most of play learning opportunities with your child and networking with other parents and whanau.

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.

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!

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.

Sneezing and coughing: Please encourage the children to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. Tissues are available throughout the building, then put used tissue in a rubbish bin. If they can't reach them in time, encourage and model to them to cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve, not their hands. This strategy will reduce cross infections during the winter months.



Items missing: Towards the end of Term One some technology items were misplaced in the whanau room and we are on a search to locate them. These include; an HDMI cable stored in a thick Ziploc bag as well as a small white box with a USB receiver and iPad connector taped to it. These items belong with the projector that we use when presenting workshops at McKenzie Centre. We are needing some help locating these. If you have noticed them lying around in the whanau room, or perhaps noticed it on the "free to a good home" pile, can you please let the admin staff know. Any information would be valuable 😊

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.

Thanks so much to:

- Ella and Joseph Hoyle, parents of Junior and Theodore, for generously organising donations to McKenzie Centre via Givealittle, in honour of International Down Syndrome Day. An amazing amount of \$800 was raised for McKenzie Centre and we are so grateful for this fantastic support.
- the children and staff at Littlelees Preschool, for their collective donation of \$38 in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day.
- our many volunteers who keep our grounds tidy and our buildings maintained, especially Jim Newland and Richard Stewart.
- everyone who has donated goods and services.

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

THANK YOU to our wonderful Funders, Sponsors, Friends and Supporters:



Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate



Kiwani's Club of Westside



Alexandra Lodge Freemasons



Hamilton Central Rotary Club

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NZCT

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Southern Trust
Trillian Trust

Community Post
Wilson Home Trust
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