

Parent Newsletter
Term 3, 2019



Kia ora te whānau

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

Dates to Remember 2019

Term 3 starts	Monday 22nd July
Parent Focus week	12-16 th August
ERO Visit	19 th -23 rd August
ESW workshop	13 th September
Term 3 last session	Friday 27 th September
Quiz Night	Friday 20 th September (please put this in your diaries)

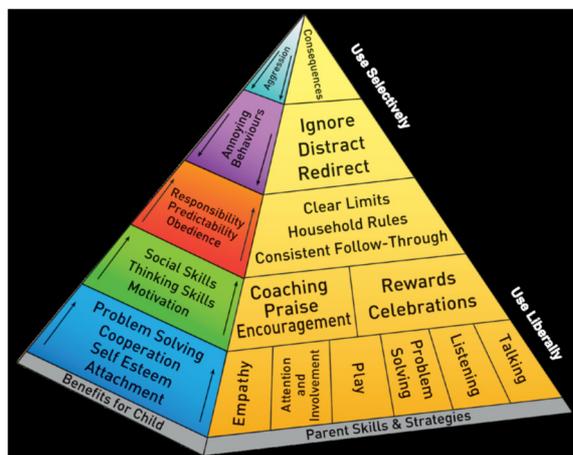
Parent Focus: During the week of August 12th-16th, Key Workers will supervise the children to enable parents and whānau time to enjoy coffee and a treat, and get to know other families who attend the same session. We encourage you to join this time together as parents talking to other parents is a fabulous 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

Family Works Waikato is running a free Incredible Years programme for tamariki 3 - 8 years old, starting on 14.8.19 - their flyer is in the foyer by the sign in board.

The course will go over 14 weeks, always on a Wednesday morning, from 9.30 - 12pm at their office at 100 Morrinsville Rd Silverdale.

To register for this FREE programme phone 07 858 4413 or email admin.waikato@fwn.org.nz



Now and Next course #4. This is a fabulous course run by parents for parents to look at goal setting and how to be the CEO of your family. Parents who have done this course say how life changing it is so do participate- we highly recommend this course, so do not miss out! Now and Next will run over 4 sessions from 9.00am-3.00pm, please see the dates below:

- Session 1: Saturday 27th July
- Session 2: Saturday 10th August
- Session 3: Saturday 17th August
- Session 4: Saturday 31st August

Now and Next course #5. We are also excited to announce there is now an option to complete the Now and Next programme from your home via Zoom technology. Registrations are open for the online Now and Next course will take place over 8 weeks consisting of 2 hour sessions beginning Thursday 26th September and finishing on 14th November 2019. Please speak to your Key Worker if you are interested. Register your interest on <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/now-and-nexttm-new-zealand-mckenzie-centre-registration-64215871400>

Hanen courses: two courses are being run currently, both facilitated by Estelle, SLT and are due to finish this term. Hanen courses are language, play and social communication intervention programmes for parents who have children with language delays and involve a combination of training and home coaching. The current families are enjoying sharing their knowledge about their children and learning from each other. They are learning new ways of interacting and playing with their child, within their home environment. **If you are interested in future courses, speak with your Key Worker.**

QUIZ NIGHT 2019 20 September. We need your help with selling tickets, baking for the supper, sponsorship and prizes. Things you can do to support us: purchase a table - 8 people \$20 per person or ask your families, friends or work colleagues to purchase tickets. Can you, or do you have contacts for businesses that could sponsor the event or donate prizes? The Quiz Night is a lot of fun and a great way for you and our community to support the work we do at McKenzie Centre. If you can help in any way, please see Lillian or Helen at the office. Join us on Facebook to keep up to date!

Our Curriculum

We celebrated Matariki with a special waiata, sharing of kai and a story at mat time. Thanks for joining in the Matariki Macarena with enthusiasm. We saw lots of fantastic star art created during the celebration too!



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. Have you noticed our new wall panels and art work created from beautiful New Zealand shells and pumice? *We would like to continue developing our outdoor space, if you have any non-poisonous native plants you would like to donate, please get in touch with us.*

Please ensure we have a 'Hello' in your language on our welcome board. We would appreciate your help with this.

News Time

We want to hear what you've been up to! We will be trialling "News Time" as part of our mat time sessions. You are welcome to bring a photo along to share a piece of news with your friends at McKenzie Centre. This is a great opportunity for your child to practice sharing news to a group, as well as finding some common interests in our McKenzie Centre families. **Please let your Key Worker know during your session if you have some news and we will make sure you have your time to share.**



ERO Visit: 19th-23rd August

A team from the Ministry of Education (MOE) will be reviewing aspects of our practice here at McKenzie Centre. An ERO (Education Review Office) education review gives an external perspective on an early childhood service's teaching and children's learning. These reviews occur in all schools and early childhood services approximately every 3 - 4 years. The aim of a review is to help an early childhood service improve the quality of teaching and learning in the service. McKenzie Centre will provide copies of relevant documents and a review team will visit our Centre to talk with families and observe our team at work. A report will be published and displayed on the ERO website and will comment on our strengths and if we need extra steps for development. There will be opportunities for parents/whanau to talk with the reviewers as they are interested in your opinion. ERO want to know how well placed McKenzie Centre is to promote positive outcomes for all children. There is a letter from ERO for you to read beside the daily sign in sheet.

FUNDING:

Benefits and Allowances: you may be interested in the **Child Disability Allowance** paid by Work and Income fortnightly. Many families attending McKenzie Centre are eligible for this allowance and it is not income tested. The criteria is that this allowance is paid to the principal carer for the child with a serious disability. It recognises the extra care and attention provided over and above the ordinary care and attention required by a child of the same age. This care must be for longer than a 12 month period.

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. Many of our families qualify for a **WINZ Childcare Subsidy**, and this will

subsidise your early intervention fee. Please pop in to see Henny, 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 Henny 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.



CCS Disability Action Toy Library: There is a treasure trove of toys, books and puzzles for families to borrow. Information flyers available in the sign-in area.



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 with other families in Waikato. They recently had an event at the Fun Shed and will be holding more meetings here at the McKenzie Centre soon. All parents enrolled at McKenzie Centre who have a child with Down Syndrome are welcome, there is now a Facebook page for the group, otherwise speak with your Key Worker for more information.

STAFF NEWS

Thank you and farewell to Nola who has returned to Australia to be with family. Welcome to Henny Kroese who is now supporting the admin team in the office.

Occupational Therapy Student, Leikyn Pahuru, is in her final year of study and will be in McKenzie Centre sessions for 8 weeks from 16th July. Please make her feel welcome.

Congratulations to: Trisha Benge, Suzanne Kok and Estelle Pretorius on their recent presentations at the International Society of Early Intervention conference in Sydney. McKenzie Centre was represented well in 3 fantastic presentations. Have a look on our Facebook!

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

HOUSE KEEPING

Fire Drill: We continue with regular practice of emergency drills. We ask that you please follow instructions from staff and do ask if you need support with your child/children. We all 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 during session time on Thursday 29th August.

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 Key Worker 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 whānau.

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 Whānau Room. Those under review will be listed on the wall in the Whānau 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!



Lost Property: We have a number of items in our lost property box that have been there for a number of weeks. Please have a look the next time you are at McKenzie Centre to see you haven’t left anything behind. *The lost property is located next to the sign in sheets.*

Art Work: There are many wonderful art creations still to be claimed! Please check the art box on top of the cubby holes to see if your child has left a picture for you to take with you.

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:

- Richard Bennett for repairing our fences and all the other building work.
- Everyone who contributed to developing our outdoor play area. We have had lots of community involvement with the changes to our whāre; Melanie Brunton artist, builders Rob Wacker, Richard Bennett and Richard Stewart.
- Liz Becker, a wonderful McKenzie Centre mum, who delivered a fantastic presentation on the use of Core Boards and her own personal journey.
- Sheree Hodges, another awesome McKenzie Centre mum, who has posted a wonderful explanation about Autism on our Facebook page.
- Our many volunteers who keep our grounds tidy and our buildings maintained, especially Jim Newland and Richard Stewart.

Best wishes from: Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Suzanne, Teresa, Ruth, Helen, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Jaime, Karen 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

As well as:

Ministry of Education
Tidd Foundation
NZCT

Ministry of Health
Southern Trust
Trillian Trust

Community Post
Wilson Home Trust
Spike @School