

Parent Newsletter Term Two, 2020

“Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder” E.B White

Kia ora whānau

We are certainly having a time of uncertainty! We have found that moving into lockdown, then into level 3 and now into level 2 has been a time of reflection and learning some of life’s lessons. We worked together well as a nation, everyone played a very important role, and so we are all grateful to each other. Keep hanging in there. As staff we are looking forward to seeing you all again.

This newsletter will intentionally have a strong focus on preparations for McKenzie Centre being open during Alert Level 2. Please read it carefully as the changes to the way we do things are necessary and important, and will mean new routines for everyone. We need to work together and ‘play it safe’ so we all get through this safely together.

DATES FOR TERM 2 2020

Re-opening in Level 2	Monday 18 May 2020
Now and Next course	Online course starts 4 June and runs for 8 Thursday evenings 8pm - 10pm
ESW Workshop	Friday 19 June, 1pm
Term 2 ends	Friday 3 July

Attending McKenzie Centre: Safety procedures under Alert Level 2.

We all need to work together to reduce risk, so help us by reading the responsibilities below. These public health requirements are directed by the Ministry of Education.

When you arrive you must sign in and sanitise your hands before going inside.

We will have the main reception door open to come in. Going out, use the playroom door.

Sign in sheet - this will now be on the deck. You must record who is at McKenzie Centre with your child on the sign in sheet. Write in the names of everyone who comes with your child so we have a contact trace record.

Make sure your phone and address details are up to date.

Guidelines regarding visitors - please bring only immediate family. Visitors must be restricted at this alert level.

Hygiene requirements at Level 2:

If you, or your child, are sick, stay at home. We can reschedule or arrange an online or phone session. If you arrive and staff observe that you or your child are unwell, we will ask you to go home.

Wash and dry your hands often and thoroughly. This is our number one defence! When you come inside after being outside washing hands thoroughly is a must!
Sneeze or cough into your elbow.

Tidy up and cleaning - we have plenty of supplies, so please do help us to keep our Centre clean and tidy.

Celebrations - these are important, but at this alert level we cannot share food. We can celebrate in other creative ways like making a party hat for the birthday girl or boy!

Music time and kai time - these routines are important so will continue, but we will spread out more to increase our social distance from each other. No sharing of food or utensils.

Suspected or Confirmed case of COVID 19. If this occurs, we will follow the directions of Health Authorities. This may mean McKenzie Centre will be closed for 72 hours to allow for contact tracing and, potentially, for another 14 days. If this occurs, our online services can be resumed.

If you have any concerns about your health, talk to your GP or Healthline 0800 358 5453. There is lots of information on the COVID 19 website (www.covid19.govt.nz).

We will keep you informed by email, Facebook or Key Worker contacts. If you have ideas or suggestion to help us, please talk to your Key Worker, Trisha or Suzanne. Remember these alert levels are new to all of us.

Things we are doing as staff:

- Cleaning and using disinfectant on our high touch surfaces and equipment at least daily.
- Our cleaners are working with us and have an upgraded health and safety cleaning procedure.

Some Golden rules of things we can all do, from Ministry of Health:

- COVID-19 is still out there. Play it safe.
- Keep your distance from other people in public.
- If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise.
- If you have symptoms of cold or flu call your doctor or Healthline and get tested.
- Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow, regularly disinfect surfaces.
- If you have been told to self-isolate you must do so immediately.
- Keep a track of where you've been and who you've seen.

ESWs- Education Support Workers are working.

Thank you message from Trisha: During lockdown, and returning up the alert levels, McKenzie Centre has had tremendous support from the Ministries of Health and Education. They have kept us informed by daily panui and have been very reassuring to us about our funding. I would like to thank them and the many other people and organisations who supported us, and each other, during the past few months. I would also like to thank our staff who quickly adapted to online services and for being so responsive. Ngā mihi nui koutou.

Welcome to our new Early Intervention Teacher Rachael Simpson who started in February:

Kia ora te whānau! My name is Rachael and I am an Early Intervention Teacher. My background is in early childhood education and I have worked in various teaching roles over the last 20 years. Last year I completed a Post Graduate diploma in Early Intervention and I am excited to begin my new role here at McKenzie Centre. I am married to Scott and together we have two children who are 12 and 10 years old, and our cat Kashmir. We love to spend our family time water skiing, mountain biking and exploring outdoors. I am really looking forward to meeting you all as I settle into this new role.

Nga mihi nui, Rachael



Welcome back to Maria Man, Speech Language Therapist, many of you will know Maria who has worked with us before and we are so glad she is back. Maria works Mondays.

Workshops including Parent Focus will be delayed until we are more confident about group gatherings. Do check out the **Families Empowering Families** Facebook page who run a Virtual Coffee Group. Become involved by joining other parents on their Facebook page.

Families Empowering Families: have become very active and since lockdown have posted on their FB page every day. Check it out and join- parent to parent support is invaluable. If you have any questions speak to Eram, Fiona or Steph.

Now and Next programme we are hosting our second course for 2020, it is a free online course, so you can join from the comfort of your own home. Mohammed and Eram will be the lead facilitators. Starts Thursday 4 June 8pm - 10pm and runs for the next 8 Thursdays to finish on 23 July. We encourage you to register, as families who have done this programme say it has changed their lives and made their family a happier one. For more information, talk to your Key Worker, Steph or Eram.

Health and Safety. In the event of an emergency, this is what you should do:

Follow the directions from the staff we practice these drills. **FIRE:** evacuate by the nearest fire exit and assemble in the area beside the bike track (in the Hamilton West School grounds).

EARTHQUAKE: Drop, Cover and Hold. Drop to the ground, get under cover and hold on. Do not evacuate unless staff tell you to. Wait for the shaking to stop and then follow the instructions of the staff.

Practice these important emergency procedures at home too.

Early Intervention Fees, which are paid each term, are not a donation and cover all of the services we provide, which include: visits to home or early childhood centres, assessments, IP's, for the work that goes on behind the face-to-face meetings, and for sessions. Families who do not attend sessions, or who may be transitioning, will still receive a termly invoice. During this uncertain time, you may be experiencing financial hardship, and if you need to talk to someone about the payment of this fee, please see your Key Worker or the Admin team - we are happy to help. The WINZ Childcare Subsidy is available for many families, and covers the entire cost of the Early Intervention Fee. We can help you apply for this, or find another option for you, so that your financial burden is eased.

Parking: we are so sorry that we cannot do a lot about this, but double parking is ok! Do see if you are eligible for a Mobility Parking Permit to park in a disabled carpark - check this with CCS Disability Action. Your child may fit the criteria of "you have a disability that requires you to have physical contact or close supervision to get safely around and cannot be left unattended".

Thanks so much to:

Ben Cronin-Kneebone and the team at CK Treework for running a free firewood deal and delivering some free cubes to one of our families. Thank you to Jethro from Templeview for nominating McKenzie Centre.

Everyone who has donated stainless steel items for our play areas, we are trying to promote the use of sustainable materials with our equipment. Thanks to Paige Neho and whānau and to Margaret Dutton, sister of Teresa Blake, Early Intervention Teacher.

All our volunteers and sponsors, they do an amazing job for us in many areas, including gardening, general maintenance and repairs, helping us at our fundraising events and helping our admin team. We love looking after our volunteers as they contribute so much to us and their support means we can deliver more services to your family.

Best wishes from: Trisha, Claire, Sue, Rachael, Laury, Leona, Estelle, Jaime, Suzanne, Teresa, Ruth, Helen, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Maria, Marcia, Amanda and Richard.

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



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