

Parent Newsletter



Term Three Newsletter, 2013

“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each others life”. Richard Bach

Staff news:

Suzanne Kok



Hi, my name is Suzanne. I am the newest member of the team! I have gained most of my knowledge and experience in The Netherlands. There, I gained my Bachelor's and Master's degree in Pedagogical studies and worked for 5 years with children with special needs and their families. In 2011, I immigrated with my New-Zealand raised partner to New Zealand. Before, I came to McKenzie Centre; I worked for an In-home Childcare agency, which has given me the opportunity to work alongside educators and families from different ethnicities. I feel fortunate to work closely at the McKenzie Centre with the children and their families and help them to achieve new milestones.



During Term 2 we welcomed Claire Jordan, a second year Occupational Therapy student at Otago Polytechnic. Claire was born in South Africa but moved to New Zealand when she was 6 years old, then lived in Whanganui until she finished school. She went on to do a working gap year at a South African primary school. She is working towards developing her understanding and skill level in the area of early intervention with children and their families. She is enjoying her involvement here, learning from and getting to know the staff, children and families that are part of McKenzie Centre. Claire's last day with us is 16th August.

Anita Wilson, Speech Language Therapist, is away for the first 4 weeks of Term 3. She is away on an exciting trip overseas.

Jacqui Kay



Kia ora, my name is Jacqui Kay. I am a Speech Language Therapist who is covering for Anita. I worked at McKenzie Centre 10 years ago, prior to having my daughters Frankie and Coco. I live in Raglan where my husband and I run the local newspaper. I am very much looking forward to rejoining the McKenzie Centre team and look forward to meeting you all.

Dates for 2013 to diary:

- Sessions start on Monday 29th July 2013. Term 2 finishes on Friday 27th September.
- **Parent Focus Group 2nd- 6th September 2013.** This is a time for parents to meet up for a chat and a little bit of 'time out'. All the sessions during this week will run differently as staff will be playing and minding the children rather than focussing individually on each child, as typically happens during your 1-1 time together. We have plans for a Trustee to be at each group, so you can meet them and find out more about the governance side of our organisation. Some of you may be interested in becoming a Trustee as we have two current representatives on the trust at all times.
- **Parent Support Circle-** will be running again this term. Marcia will facilitate this on Monday 16th September @ 10.30am.
- **Specialist Service Review:** This term two representatives will review our Centre. Helen Stevens from the Ministry of Education and Stephanie Hauti from CCS Disability Action in Canterbury will be here from 9th-11th September to review our processes for meeting our obligations under our Specialist Services contract.

Trisha Bengé will be away for the last two weeks of Term 3, as she is going overseas. We wish her a great time!

This Term... Curriculum News

Following on from the 'Getting Ready for School' DVD we saw last term, we have decided to focus this term on developing fun ways for practising foundation skills during the session. If any parents want to view the DVD again or see the complete DVD then speak with your Key Worker.

With foundation skills for children in mind, we will also focus on Pre-Writing skills and look at the stages children progress through before they become proficient writers.

To encourage our children to develop control for holding the crayon/pen, and move through the developmental stages of drawing it is important to remember that children need to scribble and learn what they can do with a pen/crayon etc. This obviously means they will not be drawing pictures until they have moved through the appropriate stages. Take care to respect their attempts at drawing by encouraging and discussing their pictures in a positive and interested way. Try not to draw on their page and draw something complex as this shows them what they can't do. For some children this can put them off trying!

During the term, information will be placed on the wall in the art area to view, regarding stages and grips that children use. Some of our children may not be able to write when they go to school but they will have developed a lot of the prerequisite skills required and had lots of practise.

This term there will be a focus on social engagement, relating to others, and interaction. We will be using strategies very purposefully to develop children's interest and response to adults using our voices as well as our gestures and facial expressions. Staff will model these strategies with children while they play with toys, computer activities, using the ipad, ball play, outdoor and physical play, routine based activities and during people games. We will encourage parents to model these strategies to their children at home. We are very aware of the effect of the 'digital age' on children's ability to share experiences and engage purposefully with others.

Some of these strategies have their roots in the Hanen Parent Programmes, facilitated by Anita or Estelle, Speech Language Therapists, but they also underline and form the basis of our play based, child centred intervention approach.

Along with a child's natural interest in the world comes a special love for the world of human relationships and sharing experiences. These involve:

- A child's anticipation with curiosity and excitement about the reappearance of your face and voice,
- Cooing, babbling and vocalising when being held by a parent or carer,
- Looking uneasy or sad when you withdraw from interaction,
- Responding to your smiles with a big one of their own,
- Following your eye gaze, or looking at where you're pointing,
- Copying sounds and actions,
- Sending intentional messages e.g. asking for help, asking for 'more' of a game etc.

Children learn to use their bodies to seek out a face and touch of a parent, whether through eye contact or snuggling. They learn to scan the world for faces and to pay attention for more than 30 seconds. They also learn to recognise the sound and source of speech. All these skills provide a foundation for later capacity to move, think and talk. Emotional engagement and attachment is important because as your child relates to you and expresses loving feelings, various motor, sensory, language and cognitive achievements are also taking place.

Look out for posters about this topic and ask your key worker for more information!

Estelle will be running the Hanen Program 'More Than Words' and families have already attended the introductory evening. Have fun with this!

We had our earthquake drill during Term 2, and although it may have been an informal practise, it's worth keeping in mind this strategy in view of current happenings in Wellington!
Drop→Cover→Hold.

Wintec Research: Families are at the centre of what we do here at the McKenzie Centre and we are always looking for ways to improve the service we provide. With this in mind, we have invited Wintec to find out more about how our Maori whanau experience the McKenzie Centre. The researchers are Sarah Haldane, from the Centre of Health and Social Practice and Moana Magner, a Research Assistant at Wintec. They are supported by Kuia, Heke Broadhurst. They would really like to meet with you to discuss this research project further and a hui will be arranged during August to give whanau an opportunity to meet the research team and find out more about this important project. We very much hope you can attend.

Hand Sanitizer: The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation is to do hand hygiene by using either soap and water or an alcohol based hand gel (should be at least 70% alcohol content - some supermarkets sell a lesser percentage but this is not effective in killing bacteria). Hand washing should be done regularly throughout the day as part of the daily routine i.e. before eating or handling food, after using the toilet, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, after handling rubbish, changing a nappy, touching animals, and when hands are visibly dirty.

These simple acts will reduce any risk significantly and help keep people healthy.

Wellness and Health during the winter months: remember that if you, or your child, is sick then stay at home so that others do not get the 'bugs'. There is a stand down period of 24 hours following a person vomiting or having diarrhoea. If you are unsure then phone and speak to your Key Worker or someone in the office.

Remember:

- Catch you coughs in your elbow
- Throw that tissue in the rubbish bin
- Please don't be offended if, when your child mouths/chews a toy that it is put in the washing bag. We do this to try to reduce children catching each other's bugs. If you could place toys in the bag too that would be a help.

If you do not receive information from us via email, check we do have your address. See Sandra in the office.

Early Learning Information System (ELI)

The ELI is an electronic information system for early childhood education. Each child will be allocated a national student number during 2013. To prepare for this we need to ensure we have a copy of an official identity verification document such as; NZ birth certificate or passport or a foreign birth certificate or passport. This will be held on your child's file. Please bring the information to your Key Worker so this can be recorded.

General points to remember:

It would be great to remember to turn your mobile phones off during our time together at sessions so that we can all focus on playing and learning together.

Disabled Car park is now marked to the left of our drive way on Hammond Street. You will need a disability sticker to legally park there, so contact CCS Disability Action to see if you are eligible.

CCS Disability Action Toy Library; remember the CCS Toy Library. It is a great resource to utilize for your children. Before your initial visit contact Heather first. There are many toy libraries available in the community, go and see them as borrowing toys can be very cost effective.

Remember to check our McKenzie Centre Facebook page. See what we're up to and connect everyone when we have an event coming up, such as our next movie fundraiser night. Feel free to like us on Facebook!

• **The Great Gatsby movie fundraiser night was on June 6th at the Lido Cinema**

Thanks to Blakes Hire Company, Lido Cinema, New World Rototuna, Subway Greenwood Street, Waterworld and Zumba at The Link who donated goods for the night. Thanks also go to Annette Ah Chee, Nathalie Thomson and Tiffany Wilkinson who volunteered to help us on the night. Some staff and the Death and Hatwell families contributed delicious nibbles. Another very successful and fun evening of fund raising for the Centre.

Building Project. For several years we have been fund raising with the aim to remodel and extend the building- what started as a dream has become a reality and we are planning this exciting project to take place at the end of this year. Final plans and funds are being prepared now. So look forward to a remodelled McKenzie Centre!

Best wishes from; Trisha, Claire, Sue, Anita, Estelle, Ursula, Suzanne, Teresa, Ruth, Helen, Sandra, Lillian, Jacqui, Marcia and Richard.

Funders

As always we would like to acknowledge and thank our funders, who help make it possible for us to provide an affordable and high quality service to families.





As well as these funders too:

Ministry of Education, Special Education

Ministry of Health

Lotteries Community Fund

Tidd Foundation

CJB Norwood Trust

Page Trust

Freemasons

Gallagher Charitable Trust

Gull Community Grants

Sir John Logan Campbell Trust

Hamilton City Council

COGS (Dept. of Internal Affairs)

John Illott Trust

WDFK Karamu Trust

Todd Foundation

ANZ Staff Foundation

Talking Tech Foundation

St Francis Charitable Trust Board

Norah Howell Trust

Trust Waikato

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Frozen Funds Trust

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hr connect

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Business Enabling Systems Ltd

Friends of McKenzie Centre

Pak n Save Clarence St

Blakes Hire Company

The Lawrenson Group

Artworx

X3 Utility Services

Lido Cinema

Crombie Lockwood

BNZ Closed for Good

CF Reese Plumbing

Stragglers Rod & Kustom

The Olde Creamery Café, Kaipaki

Satlan Corp

Les Mills

Ricoh

AON New Zealand

Cooper Aitken and Partners

U-Leisure

True Colours

Novus

Waikato Geely

Ingham

Countdown Te Awamutu

Waikato Diocesan School students

Gilmours

Kiwanis Westside Club

Rotary Club of Te Rapa