



## **Term 1 2009 Parent Newsletter**

Happy New Year and welcome back to McKenzie Centre for 2009. We hope you had a restful holiday break and are recharged ready to begin a new year.

**Term 1.** From Friday 30 January until Thursday 9 April 2009.

**Parent/Whanau Workshops.** Remember that during these weeks there will be a change to your regular session routine as your Keyworker will be unable to provide the typical individual programme. They will either be facilitating the workshop or assisting with supervising your child/ren.

1. The topic is "Looking After Yourself", from 16-20 February.
2. The topic is "Sensory Awareness", from 2-6 March.

### **Parent Morning Tea. Friday 3 April at 10am**

An opportunity for all parents to come in and share morning tea, meet each other and swap valuable ideas. Bring some food to share. Staff will be available to supervise the children so you can take a well deserved break. Kim Hurrell, True Colours, will also be present.

**Education Support Worker (ESW) Workshop.** McKenzie Centre holds ESW workshops once a term as part of our staff professional development. Attendance is required of all ESWs and in some cases this will affect your child's ESW support for the afternoon it is held. In most cases children can still attend their centre without ESW support however if this is not the case alternative arrangements will need to be made for your child. If you have any concerns or queries please talk to your Keyworker.

- The topic is "Learning Stories", Friday 27 March from 12.30 to 2.30 pm

### **Introducing Lillian Martin, Office Coordinator**

Hi, my name is Lillian Martin and I am the newest member of the McKenzie Centre team. I started in January 2009 as the part time Office Coordinator. I am married to Tony and we have two teenage children, one of whom has special needs. We came to McKenzie Centre when my son was young so I am very pleased to be able to come back now and share my skills.

**Farewell to Vikki Pairaudeau.** Vikki resigned from her position as Office Coordinator in December. We were very sorry to let her go but wish her all the best for the future.

**Congratulations to Ken Williamson and Eleanor Carmichael** who were awarded Queens Service Medals for their service to the community in the New Year Honours List. Ken has been on the McKenzie Centre Trust for 14 years and is a very dedicated trustee. Eleanor was on the McKenzie Centre Trust and many of you will know her as a Paediatrician at Child Development Centre. We are very proud and delighted for them both.

**Access and Engagement Survey.** Thank you to all the families who completed this we do appreciate your comments. We got more responses than last year which may have been because we handed them to you and some of you were able to complete the form at the coffee morning. We were delighted with the feedback. Most of you felt it was easy to refer or have your child referred to the Centre and the wait was not too long. The majority of families were referred by CDC, Children's Clinic or friends. We were pleased to note fees were not a barrier although travel costs are something to be considered. Many of you were told about other early intervention service providers and this is important so that you know that your family has options. The majority of families felt we exceeded expectations in providing support, keeping you informed and meeting your cultural needs. Families report that the Centre is friendly and welcoming and you find it great to be part of an accepting, loving and supportive environment. You felt the staff are approachable, friendly and have a wealth of knowledge. You appreciate that siblings can come in too and valued the opportunities for parents to get together and support each other. The results are discussed with the staff and the trust and we do consider your suggestions. One suggestion is parking lines in the car park and a quiet area inside the building. We are talking with a draftsman about remodelling the interior of the building so have a quiet area on our wish list. We will look into the suggestion about Live in Therapists!!! Sorry no takers so far!! The winners of the chocolates were the Wilson, Foster and Jowsey families.

**New Playground.** We are very excited about getting a new playground, deck extension, and ramp at the Centre. You will see we have made a start and are looking forward to its completion. At the same time we are beginning to look at the feasibility of remodelling the interior of the building so there is a better flow into the playground and through the building.

While the new playground is being constructed we are unable to use the outdoor area, we will try and make it as safe as possible, but please be vigilant about the supervision of all children at all times.

**Thank you!** We are enormously grateful to Richard Winders, Clive Fox, Kevin (Clive's father-in-law), Scott Marshall, Stefan Middleton, Stephen Risi as well as Trustees Nick Smith, Nick Kosoof, Chairperson Kalev Crossland, and Søren and Daniel Jensen who all put in an incredible effort last Saturday to get the outdoor area ready for the playground builders to move in. You have saved us thousands of dollars that we can now spend on playground equipment! Also grateful thanks to Maree Fox and Trustee Louise Swales for the delicious baking that kept the menfolk sustained and able to keep working through to the end. Extra special thanks to Richard who came back on Sunday to fix up a few extra things that needed doing – we are very grateful.

**Round the Bridges.** Another great event on 16.11.08. Thank you to everyone who helped, ran, walked and generally supported McKenzie Centre. The banner the children decorated looked great. Special thanks to Maree Fox who organised the sausage sizzle. Hamilton City Hawks were delighted with the help we provided so here's hoping they will support McKenzie Centre again this year.

**Term 4 2008 Parent Workshops feedback.** In the workshop you talked about parents looking after themselves. Some of the themes and suggestions were; being aware of guilt, putting a sign on the fridge "I am not superwoman", doing something for yourself like losing weight or going for a walk, enjoying the time the children are at kindergarten, having a break and planning use of your respite.

At the parent morning tea Kim Hurrell, from True Colours, encouraged families to think how they would be celebrating the end of the busy year and we shared these ideas with you so you could plan your own celebrations. How did you celebrate?

### **A few housekeeping things...**

**Sickness:** There are always bugs going around, if your child is unwell we appreciate it if you don't come to sessions to keep other children and adults from also getting sick.

**Front gate:** Please make sure the front gate is shut behind you as you enter and leave McKenzie Centre, especially at this time due to the building projects.

**Shoes:** Thanks with your co-operation with encouraging shoes to be off in the ball pit. This makes it safer for children.

**Safety:** while the playground is being constructed we will keep the children out of the area for safety reasons. Please be vigilant. We did try to do as much as possible during the holidays but it was not possible to get contractors coordinated to get the work done while the children were away.



**Sun safety:** Summer is here and hats and sun block are needed to be worn outside. You are welcome to borrow the hats and sun block in the foyer if you forget yours but it is better and more hygienic to have your own. It is important that we also set a good example and model wearing a hat ourselves.

As part of our ongoing planning the curriculum is reviewed each term and evaluated. You will find the curriculum plan on the wall in the playroom.

**Celebrate Children's Day. Sunday 1 March 2009.** The key theme for 2009 is "Listening and Talking". This day is a great way to celebrate positive parenting and the values of giving children time, praise, encouragement, love and affection especially when listening and talking.

*"It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness".  
Charles Spurgeon*

Have a happy and successful Term 1,  
From the McKenzie Centre Team.

## Funders

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



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