



TERM ONE 2023

Whānau Newsletter.



WELCOME TO TERM ONE WHĀNAU

Happy New Year from everyone at McKenzie Centre.

Welcome back to those who have been with us previously and a warm welcome to any new families that are joining us this year. We are looking forward to introducing you to the extended McKenzie Centre whānau.

As usual there is a lot going on this term. Here are some important dates for your calendar...

TERM 1 DATES

Parent Focus Week	Mon 20 Feb - Starts (Week 4)
Term 1 Ends	Thur 6 Apr - Last session
Good Friday	Fri 7 Apr
Term 2 Starts	Mon 24 Apr



CHECK OUT OUR NEW MCKENZIE CENTRE WEBSITE!

Thanks to our physiotherapist Susie Nyika and Stacey Baker, one of our past parents and team members, we now have a gallery of beautiful photos on our newly-launched website. View [here](#).

Our McKenzie Centre website is the primary way we communicate

with our community of whānau and supporters so using photos and videos is an essential part of that communication.

The front page now features a stunning photo of Oliver (above) and we hope to rotate other photos of our children regularly.

Another new feature on the website is the Events page which has details of upcoming workshops, celebrations, hang outs etc.

And because we have so many funders and sponsors who generously help us in so many ways, we now have a Support Us section on the website.

We will continue to use Facebook to promote McKenzie Centre but we are aware many of our whānau no longer use social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

Please let us know your feedback on our website, we are always interested in any suggestions on how to improve it. Just go to the Contact part of the website and let us know what you think.

A warm welcome to...



Diana Montgomerie

Kia ora koutou!

I am so excited to introduce myself as the newest member of the McKenzie Centre whānau.

From my early days working as a nurse, I have always enjoyed working as a team and look forward to learning alongside you all as we nurture each other and our mokopuna.

After having my family, I retrained as an early childhood teacher and as a kindergarten teacher for the last 12 years. I have worked hard to ensure children had every opportunity to stretch their learning through play. Having recently finished my specialist teaching training I can't wait to begin my early intervention journey with you all.

Growing up on a farm in Cambridge fostered a love of nature and I cherish time spent exploring papatūānuku, riding my mountain bike, river walks with my dog and connecting with friends and family.



Tania Tawhara

Tania joins our team as a tuakana in the Tuesday session. Tania has had three children attend McKenzie Centre and is very happy to be able to support other whānau with her knowledge and experience. Welcome Tania.



Kia ora

I'm John Brooker.

I'm privileged to be working at McKenzie Centre as an Early Intervention teacher for the next six months.

I have been teaching in primary schools (junior levels) for 25 years. I have six kids including Stan who attended McKenzie Centre, and I'm married to Linda, who also works here! Looking forward to it.

Congratulations to...

Stephanie Wacker who has taken on the role as acting service manager. We are delighted that Steph has stepped into this role, and we wish her all the best in her new position.

Suzanne and Chrissy who've have had their babies. Suzanne had a daughter (Lily), and Chrissy a son (Kahurangi -Kahu). We are happy to report that so far, new parenthood is proceeding as it should – sleepless nights, but incredible moments of joy and delight too!

Farewell to...

Cath Hudson, Early Intervention teacher, finished with McKenzie Centre at the end of 2022. We will miss her cheerful smile and steady hand. Cath has decided to find work closer to home to help support her growing boys.

Janne Nottage was with us briefly during term four helping to support our team in a service manager role. She has moved back to her previous role in Enrich+.

Margaret Crawford, Psychology intern, has finished her studies at McKenzie Centre and continues her work for Enrich+. It was lovely getting to know Margaret and thank you to Richard for supporting Margaret while she was at McKenzie Centre.

Tricia Pauley, occupational therapist, will be leaving us on 17 March. She has brought a wealth of knowledge that she freely shares with both her workmates and with the families. We will all miss Tricia's obvious delight in achieving positive interactions with children and families.

BUILDING WORK NEXT DOOR

Our neighbour is building 11 units next door to our centre. There will be machinery, dust and noise.

We apologise if this is difficult for your child, or you, but we have not been consulted about this.

We hope the work is finished quickly!

We will be making changes to our fence to increase our privacy.

LOAN ITEMS

Please remember to bring back any toys or items that your whānau borrowed last year or over the holidays.

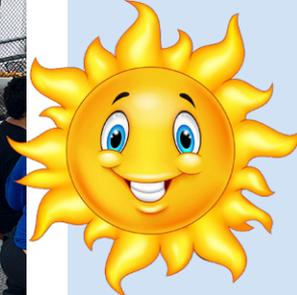
If you're still using them, touch base with your contact person.





END OF YEAR PARTY

Thank you to the wonderful whānau that attended the end of year party in 2022 and made it such a special event. It is always fantastic to see our families together, smiling and having fun to celebrate the end of a busy year.



BE SUN SMART IN TERM 1

As our intermittent summer continues, we hope to have more fine days ahead, please remember to be sun smart. "Slip, slop, slap and wrap" your children to ensure they remain safe while having fun in the sun. Please bring your own hats and sunscreen.

McKenzie Centre will have a supply of fresh sunscreen and hats available for whānau should they need them. Place the used hats in the washing baskets at the end of the session and they will be washed and made available again in the next session.



For more information about how you can keep yourself and your tamariki safe in the sun visit www.sunsmart.org.nz

WORKSHOPS & Hangouts

There will be a fresh lot of workshops and hangouts on offer through the term. Please take advantage of them as they are a great way to extend your learning and support your whānau. We advertise these events on our McKenzie Centre website, email, flyers and Facebook page. Keep an eye out!

EARLY INTERVENTION FEES

Eftpos: We have an Eftpos machine at McKenzie Centre, so you can make payments when you are here. Please see Henny or Lillian who are happy to help you.

Thank you for supporting McKenzie Centre with your payment of the Early Intervention fees. They are essential to the running of our service.

The WINZ Childcare Subsidy is available for many families and may cover 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. Please see your contact person or the Admin team – we are happy to help. Some people pay us a smaller amount every week – talk to Henny or Lillian and they will help you with this.

If you're a MSD/Work and Income client, you can now apply for Childcare Subsidy using RealMe on the SmartStart website. Or if you prefer, you can continue to apply through MyMSD or on paper if you wish. You may also be eligible for the CCS to assist with your intervention fees.



DEVELOPMENTAL PLAYGROUP

McKenzie Centre, in partnership with The Neonatal Trust, will be hosting a Developmental Playgroup for premature and high-risk babies.

The group will run twice each month, beginning on:
Thursday 2nd February
9:30AM - 11:00AM

THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS...

Thank you to Sanders Pharmacy, Cambridge Road, Te Awamutu, for their generous support of McKenzie Centre.

Also to JK's Creations for their donation of some lovely crocheted items for us to share with families. If you are interested in purchasing any items from JK's Creations, their contact details are Facebook.com/jamieandkimcreations.

Chris Metcalfe continues to be an amazing support to us here at McKenzie Centre. He has given his time and skill towards replacing the lining on the wall in the 'quiet room' and in our play areas. It all looks fantastic thank you Chris!

Thanks to Glen Carter, a past parent, who helped give our grounds and picnic table at McKenzie Centre a bit of a spruce up at the end of last term.



FUNDERS

We are very grateful to funders who support McKenzie Centre and the work we do. Special thanks to the Legacy Funerals Trust for their assistance with getting our roof repainted.



Helping hand: Legacy Funerals Hamilton branch manager Jordan Goss with McKenzie Centre director Trisha Benge and Business Support coordinator Lillian Martin.

CENTRE ROOF GETS PAINTING BOOST

When the McKenzie Centre roof gets a much needed repaint in April, a donation from the Legacy Trust will help pay for it.

Legacy Funerals Hamilton branch manager Jordan Goss confirmed the \$1500 grant before Christmas and visited McKenzie Centre, when the first term started last week, to congratulate them and have a tour of the centre.

It has been more than 15 years since McKenzie Centre's roof in Hamilton has been painted and Business Support coordinator Lillian Martin knows how important it is to maintain it before it needs major repairs.

The centre gets funding from Whaikaha (Ministry of Disabled People) and Education ministries targeted specifically at Early Childhood intervention and support for children from birth to school age with developmental delays or disabilities.

But necessary improvements or significant maintenance – such as the roof repaint – are impossible without other funding.

“If we want to do anything like maintenance, we rely on funding grants,” she said.

Legacy Funerals is owned by the Legacy Trust which is a registered charitable trust established by former Tauranga mayor and former Hamiltonian Gregory Brownless in 2007 when he gifted his funeral business to the community.

[Read more here](#)



Legacy
FUNERALS

HEALTH & SAFETY AT MCKENZIE CENTRE

MEDICATION:

If you are bringing any medication, including Paracetamol, Disprin etc into McKenzie Centre, please leave it in the office for safe-keeping. Little fingers can get into bags left unattended.

Accidental exposure of children under six years old to poisons is a very real problem in New Zealand, with 20 per cent of families with pre-school age children experiencing a poisoning every year. Adults and teenagers can also be poisoned through accidental exposure, mishandling of chemicals or inappropriate use of medications.

A poison is any substance that if taken in or applied to skin or eyes is dangerous to health or life. Almost anything, such as a medicine, chemical, plant, or hazardous creature can be a poison.

Prevention education is a valuable tool to reduce the likelihood of these poisonings occurring. The following website has practical ideas about making homes and work-places safe from accidental poisoning. Information from: <https://poisons.co.nz/>

In case of poisoning call
0800 POISON
(0800 764 766)



MEASLES IMMUNISATION:

The Ministry of Education has alerted us that childhood immunisation rates for measles have dropped and are lower than the level required to protect against an outbreak of measles.

If you wish to find out more information about the benefits of immunisation, please talk to your GP or local health provider.

We are required to update our immunisation information as part of our early childhood licensing criteria so please give updated information to your contact person or Henny in the office.

ALLERGIES:

Please let us know if your child has any allergies (food and other) so that we can make adjustments to our planning around safety.



Thanks so much to all our volunteers and sponsors.

Best wishes from:

Best wishes from: Trisha B, Rachael S, Suzanne, Teresa, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Tricia P, Emma, Nicky, Rachael F, Marcia, Richard, Susie, Linda, Eram, Victoria, Siobhan, Chrissy, Diana, Larissa, Keren, Liesl, John and Maria.

