



**TERM TWO 2023**

# Whānau Newsletter.



## WELCOME TO TERM TWO WHĀNAU

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.

There is also a flyer on the wall above the sign-in sheet which lists the events this term.

## TERM 2 DATES

Parent Focus Week	Week 3. 8 - 12 May 2023
King's birthday	12 June 2023
Matariki whānau evening	15 June 2023
Term 2 ends	Last session 30 June 2023
Term 3 starts	17 July 2023
Matariki	14 July 2023
ERO review	date to be confirmed



## CHECK OUT OUR NEW MURAL!

Have you seen our new mural? We would like to acknowledge the talented Linda for being our resident artist. It has certainly added a lot of colour and interest to our bike area.

It is a work in progress – she only did up to where she could reach without a ladder or scaffolding! There will be a sky with sun, clouds, hot air balloons and kites eventually...watch that space!

Next time you are looking at the mural see if you can spot the numbers 1 to 10, and find some little creatures amongst the foliage and in te awa Waikato.

# STAFF UPDATES

## A warm welcome to Fiona and Cassandra...



**FIONA DENTON-GILES** started at Enrich Group last month as Specialist Services operations manager. In the coming weeks, she will be travelling around meeting as many people as she can.

Her experience in the disability sector covers more than 30 years, most recently contracted as acting area manager for Idea Services to problem solve in an area that needed work before a permanent manager was appointed.

Fiona, who has two adult daughters Mandy and Courtney, lives in Tamahere with her husband Rhys on a lifestyle block and enjoys horse riding, animals and spending lots of time with her two-year-old granddaughter Meila.

Before that she worked in both New Zealand and Australia working alongside funders and providers both in a hands-on capacity and in management, in the last eight years worked across New Zealand in national roles.

"I love being able to support people to move forward with positive results." This includes both people with a disability and staff to grow in new roles, says Fiona who has worked with both children and adults with disabilities.

"I love working in an organisation that practices the core values I align with."

My name is **CASSANDRA CHONG** and I am from Singapore. My family and I moved to Hamilton 10 years ago. I am an occupational therapist and I used to work at the Ministry of Education. I have two children, TJ and Lynn. I love to cook, bake, watch movies and go to the beach. Oh not forgetting enjoying kai with family and friends!

**TRISHA BENGE, CENTRE DIRECTOR**, is stepping down from the Centre Director role and moving to a new role within the Enrich Group. She will finish at the end of term two.



## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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 shared during Parent Focus week or 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.



## ERO REPORT

ERO, Education Review Office will be reviewing our service during Term Two.

We will let you know the dates when we know.

The reviewers will want to talk to parents and whānau as they are interested in how we provide learning opportunities for your children.

## 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.

From 1 April 2023 the income thresholds for Childcare Subsidy have increased so more families might be eligible.



# WORKSHOPS & Hangouts

There are a fresh lot of workshops and hangouts on offer through the term. Hangouts are for all parents, and there are some specifically for dads.

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 website, email, flyers at McKenzie Centre and Facebook pages. Keep an eye out!

[VIEW OUR WEBSITE EVENTS PAGE HERE](#)



## DEVELOPMENTAL PLAYGROUP

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

The group runs twice each month, beginning on  
**THURSDAY 4 MAY**  
**9:30am - 11am**

If you know of whānau who have a child born early, please invite them to attend.



## NOW AND NEXT™ PROGRAMME

**WHEN:** Start date 8 May 2023.  
Wednesday, 6:30pm - 9pm  
**DURATION:** 8 weeks  
**COST:** Free

This is a valuable programme designed by Plumtree for parents/caregivers to learn more ways to support their child and whānau.

The course is free and many of our families talk about the huge benefits they have gained through attending.

Please come and join Steph and Mohammed – we can honestly say the eight weeks can be life changing!

[REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE  
EVENTS PAGE HERE](#)



Big thanks to Richie Bennett for helping us with the fence.

## BUILDING WORK NEXT DOOR

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

We apologise if this is difficult for your child, or you, and please talk to our staff if you have concerns.

We hope the work is finished quickly!



## TOY LIBRARY

The CCS Toy library is a great resource when thinking about trying a range of toys as your children learn and grow. You may borrow up to four items. If you live in Hamilton, you can borrow items for two weeks. Membership \$25 per year and access to over 1,200 toys and activities. Check out the website for more information [HERE](#)



## 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.





### REMINDERS FOR WINTER WELLNESS

Please stay at home if you are unwell and remember the general cares - wash hands thoroughly and encourage coughing and sneezing into elbows. Let your contact person know about any absences.

### MEDICATIONS

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

### VACCINATIONS

Te Whatu Ora encourages whānau to vaccinate their tamariki for pneumococcal disease, Meningococcal B, measles, and flu to provide the greatest level of protection heading into winter.

Tamariki from age five can be vaccinated against COVID-19. Tamariki under the age of five who are immunocompromised and at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are able to be vaccinated against COVID-19.



#### *Measles Immunisation Update:*

*The Ministry of Education have alerted us that childhood immunisation rates for measles has 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 immunisations, 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.

Tamariki aged six months to 12 years are eligible for free flu vaccinations. For more information, visit:

[Flu immunisation for tamariki – KidsHealth](#)   
[Measles, mumps and rubella \(MMR\) vaccine – Te Whatu Ora](#) 

### COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to circulate in the community.


The Government confirmed that the current COVID-19 rules will remain in place. This includes the seven-day self-isolation period that applies when a person tests positive.

**Masks:** We do not require them to be worn at McKenzie Centre however, we respect that people are choosing to wear masks and should feel comfortable to wear them at the Centre.

Whaikaha recommend that COVID-19 vaccinations will help protect you from the risk of serious illness and hospitalisation from COVID-19.

The bivalent vaccine has replaced the existing Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for boosters. The bivalent vaccine causes the immune system to create antibodies against both the original variant of SARS-CoV-2 and Omicron subvariants and is therefore likely to provide better protection.

Additional booster doses can now be booked if you're aged 30 and over, or at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. It must have been six months since your last COVID-19 dose or infection.

Find out more and book your COVID-19 vaccine or booster at [www.BookMyVaccine.nz](http://www.BookMyVaccine.nz) 



### 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.

# INTRODUCING KANORAU TAKIWAATANGA CONSULTANTS




## KANORAU.

1. (adjective) be diverse, varied.
2. (noun) diversity, variety.

Jess and Tuhoro, parents who previously attended McKenzie Centre, have launched their new Kaupapa *Kanorau Takiwaatanga Consultants*

### Just a few important things to highlight:

- They have an information hub where whaanau and professionals can learn more about takiwaatanga from a Te Ao Maaori perspective and they will be launching video content each week on different topics. Click [HERE](#)
- They are running two waananga, one in Waikato (20 May) and one in Northland (10 June). Whaanau can click the link to RSVP [HERE](#)
- They offer professional development for anyone who may work and interact with taonga takiwaatanga and would like to learn about how to do this in a culturally responsive way.

You can find out more on their website. [HERE](#) 

## THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS.

### Best wishes from:

Trisha B, Rachael S, Suzanne, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Emma, Nicky, Rachael F, Richard, Susie, Linda, Eram, Victoria, Siobhan, Chrissy, Diana, Larissa, Keren, Tania, Liesl, John, Maria, Cassandra and Fiona.

