Whānau Newsletter

Term Four 2026

McKenzie Centre
Realising a child's potential

Staff Updates

Tasha Morrison



Kia ora, I am Tasha. I started 2026 as an ESW and from this term I am working at McKenzie Centre as a Tuakana. I am born and bred in the Waikato area and am looking forward to meeting you all and walking beside you and your whānau on your journey with your whānau and tamariki.

Cortney Davies



Kia Ora, my name is Cortney. I have been with the McKenzie Centre since 2025 as an ESW and recently joined the admin team. I also work as a swim teacher and have recently graduated with a degree in Psychology. I grew up in Raglan/Whaingaroa and love spending my spare time outdoors and around the ocean. I love working alongside tamariki and look forward to continuing to support and meet you all as we learn, grow and thrive together.

Farewell to:

Earlier this term we farewelled Henny Kroese, our amazing administrator who has swapped Hamilton for beach-life north of Auckland. Henny worked an amazing 7 years at McKenzie Centre and we wish her all the best!

We also farewell Nikki Chong, Early Intervention Teacher, who started at McKenzie Centre at the start of 2026. Nikki has returned to her teaching career closer to home in Morrinsville. All the best Nikki!

Dates for Term 4, 2026

12 October	Term 4 starts
2-6 November	Parent Focus Week (Week 4)
5 November	Emergency Drills
7 November	Playground Opening!
15 November	Parent Hangout - McKenzie Centre
16-20 Nov	Visuals Workshop (Week 6)
30 Nov-4 Dec	Behaviour Workshop (Week 8)
16 December	End-of-year Whānau Celebration
18 December	Last day of Term 4

Playground Update and Opening



A huge thank you to everyone who turned out for our working bee to kick off the playground re-build! It was a tremendous effort from whānau, staff, and some amazing army cadets and volunteers.
Work is now well-underway, and the new playground is starting to take shape! We are super-excited for this and appreciate your patience while it is closed during session times to enable the mahi to be completed.



Please join us, if you can, for our official playground opening on Saturday 7th November from 10.30am. See our Facebook page, or flyers at McKenzie Centre, for more details. Please let us know if you can make it.

Curriculum updates and areas of focus for Term 4

This term one of our curriculum goals has been updated to reflect the opportunities to come in our new playground. The re-created space will provide natural opportunities for children to explore new spaces and challenge their gross motor skills. We are looking forward to seeing how children respond to these new spaces!

We are continuing our goals to encourage and support ngā tamariki with reciprocal and interactive play with peers and adults during session; and in using co-regulation and emotional regulation strategies.

Alongside these curriculum goals, communication remains an integral part of our curriculum and is embedded in everything we do.
There will be several parent workshops available this term that will provide opportunities for you to connect with other parents and learn valuable bites of information and practices to use at home with your child.

Early Childhood Centre hours at McKenzie Centre

Alongside our Early Intervention service, we are so pleased to now be able to offer additional sessions for our tamariki who are either not attending another Early Childhood Education service or who want more regular opportunities to visit and play at McKenzie Centre with their whānau.
This is a wonderful opportunity for our tamariki to spend more time learning through play, exploring, building friendships and growing in confidence within an environment they already know and love.
If this sounds like something that could benefit your child, we would love to talk with you about what these additional sessions could look like for your whānau.

Health and Safety at McKenzie Centre

Emergency drills:
We practice fire and earthquake drills in session, and lockdown drills with the staff only. These drills are practised every three months. This term we will have a Fire, Earthquake & Lockdown drill on the 5th November. This is an early childhood licensing requirement so we are all prepared should an emergency event occur. If you are unsure what to do, please talk with the staff.

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

Allergies:
Please let us know if your child has any allergies (food and other) so that we can adjust our planning around safety. Many of you have done this as part of the enrolment procedure but let us know if there are any changes.

General Information

Sign IN and OUT of Every Session
We encourage you to stay for the full session. There are a lot of important learning opportunities for you and your child. Please sign in on arrival, and out when you leave, as this is an early childhood licensing requirement from the Ministry of Education.

Changes to attendance
If you have, or would like to make, changes to the day that you attend McKenzie Centre, please talk with your contact person and have a chat with the office staff. We also need to know if your child's enrolment days/hours at Early Childhood Education Centres have changed as this affects funding claims.

Early Intervention Fees
Eftpos: We have an Eftpos machine at McKenzie Centre, so you can make payments when you are here. Please see Eram 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. Household income threshold amounts have changed on 1 April 2025, so if you didn't qualify beforehand, you might do now. 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 Eram or Lillian and they will help you with this.

If you're a MSD/Work and Income client, you can apply for Childcare Subsidy using RealMe on the SmartStart website.

Or if you prefer, you can continue to apply through MyMSD or on paper.

Policies and 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.

Loan Items
Please remember to bring back any toys or items that your whānau borrowed. If you're still using them, please touch base with your contact person.

Thanks so much to all our volunteers & sponsors!

We are very grateful to the many people and organisations that support McKenzie Centre and the work we do. We could not do what we do without you.

Greenlea Foundation Trust

BES

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COGS Community Organisation Grants Scheme

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GCT Gallagher Charitable Trust Supporting Communities

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ANZ New Zealand Staff Foundation

Ngā mihinui from:

Siobhan, Lillian, Steph, Muriel, Rachael F, Rachael S, Emma Ga., Claire, Chrissy, Ella, Laura, Liesl, Nikki, Jess, Michael, Richard, Susie, Journie, Eram, Shanayd, Emma Gr., Victoria, Sammy , Missy, Tasha and Cortney.