

Parent Newsletter
Term One, 2021



McKenzie Centre

Kia ora whānau

Welcome Back! We hope your holidays helped you to re-charge for another busy year ahead, and hopefully, a far more settled one! Thank you for your continued vigilance with hand hygiene, signing in with the QR tracing app and the roll, and staying at home if you are unwell. Let's keep New Zealand, and McKenzie Centre, safe from Covid-19!

A thought for you... "We can't direct the wind but we can adjust the sails. For maximum happiness, peace, and contentment, may we choose a positive attitude" Thomas S. Monson

DATES FOR TERM 1 2021

Now and Next Course:	Saturday 20 th and 27 th Feb & 6 th and 13 th March, 9:00am - 3:00pm
Notice, Engage, Respond:	Workshops Thursday 11 th , 18 th & 25 th February, 1:00pm - 2:15pm
Behaviour Workshops:	Tuesday 23 rd March & 6 th April, 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Transition to School:	Workshop via Zoom Monday 22 nd March, 8:00pm
Fire drill:	Wednesday 10 th March
Parent Focus Week:	Week beginning Monday 1 st March
Term 1 ends:	Thursday 16 th April
Term 2 begins:	Monday 3 rd May

Thanks so much to:



Andy Bell from South Hamilton Lions, and SKY Television, for organising the donation of toys to McKenzie Centre from the 2020 'Special Children's Christmas Party'. A big thank you also to the Sponsors of these toys: Aquarius Motor Inn, Azzie Specialist Ltd, Absolute Fencing Supplies, Bethlehem Coachlines, Classic Group, Commercial Door Services, Compac Homes, Craigs Investment Partners, Curin Contactors Ltd, Fulton Hogan, Glasshouse Property Management, HK Kitchens, ISO Ltd, Mystery Creek Events Centre, Nautilus Shipping Company, Spark Business, Hamilton, SKY TV, Ritchies, South Hamilton Lions, The Quadrant, and Timpack Industries.

The amazing team at Crombie Lockwood, Insurance Brokers, (pictured here with Charlie and his mum Alannah) for their extremely generous donation of a huge selection of toys for McKenzie Centre. We will all have fun playing with these!



Congratulations Amanda!

Amanda Humphrey-Rush has recently completed her studies and is now a Registered Psychologist. We would like to congratulate Amanda on her hard work and dedication. We look forward to working with Amanda again in 2021.

Summer Temperatures are rising, and it is important to ensure that everyone is comfortable. We try to keep inside spaces cooler and well ventilated so fresh air can circulate. Alongside this remember about sunhats and sunblock. We encourage you to bring your own, but we have spares available. The outside grey matting gets very hot, so do put shoes on tiny feet. We know that under the Archgola gets very hot, we are investing in some shade sails that we hope will make all the difference!

End of Year Party Thank you to the wonderful whānau that attended the end of year party in 2020 and made it such a special morning. We loved celebrating the end of a big year with you all, it is always special to see our families together, smiling and having fun! We trust that you all had a well-deserved break and look forward to spending more time with you in 2021.



Kimmy's Amazing Shave for Autism...and McKenzie Centre

A massive thank you to one of our wonderful Mums, Kimmy Beamsley (pictured on the left), who very bravely had her head shaved on 23rd January 2021, to raise funds for McKenzie Centre. She raised an astounding amount of \$2,827! Kimmy and her husband Shaun have two boys, Leo (3 years) and Shaun (2 years). Leo has autism and ADHD; the Beamsley family have been happily attending McKenzie Centre since April 2019. They wanted to do something to “give back”, to acknowledge the support they have received from the Centre. Thank you so much Kimmy, and all her supporters, and well done! You look even more fabulous with a smooth head! Kimmy received support from an amazing range of sponsors and would like to thank: Baby on the Move, Bowl and Social, Jitters Rotorua, Jumpin Jacks Toys, Life Fitness/Fitness Depot, McDonalds Huntly, Mega Mitre 10, Paradise Valley Springs, Senegence, Sensory Sam, Vital Balance, Whittakers and the wonderful Paula from Who's Ya Barber.



Check out our “Brand” New Look!



McKenzie Centre

We're excited to announce that McKenzie Centre has taken on a new 'look' as part of our exciting 'rebrand' 2020.

Over the years we have had a few different looks, and we have loved them all. We have joined forces with the Enrich Group, and our new look aligns visually and has consistent imagery with the group's brand, as a whole. Of course, we are still the same McKenzie Centre you know and love, and it's still business as usual. But you may notice some changes that will occur to our identity, like; the website (yes, we have a new improved website - do take a look! www.mckenziecentre.org.nz, social media, signage, and our new visual brand signature. We will of course continue to offer the same fun, hope, and strengths based early childhood intervention you've come to experience from us at McKenzie Centre.

Our branding journey : where it all started...



Staff Changes

Jaime Campbell, SLT, has returned home to Blenheim and is now working for Ministry of Education. Best wishes to Jaime.

Anita Churchill, SLT, has recently resigned from McKenzie Centre and is enjoying being Mum to Lachlan. Anita joined McKenzie Centre in 2007 and we have thoroughly enjoyed having her on the team. We hope we can entice her back in the future!

Congratulations to **Laury Houghton, SLT**. She and her partner are expecting their first child in July. Laury finishes at McKenzie Centre at the end of Term One and is moving to Rotorua. We wish Laury all the very best for her exciting new family adventure.

We welcome **Caitlin McElligott** and **Helen Parker** as new Speech Language Therapists to the McKenzie Centre team. We know you will make them feel welcome!

Kia ora, I'm Caitlin. I am originally from Hamilton, and I began working at the McKenzie Centre at the beginning of 2021 after moving home to be near my family. I previously worked for the Ministry of Education in Wellington. I love working with tamariki and their whānau, and I am passionate about finding joy and connection in our everyday activities. Outside of work, I love spending time with my family and my fiancé, Jerry, and exploring the beautiful country we live in. I also can't say no to a cup of tea and a good book!





Kia ora tatou. I'm Helen and am originally from Christchurch, where I also completed my SLT studies. I moved to Hamilton for a job at Patricia Avenue School in 2013 where I discovered my passion for working in special education. I particularly enjoy helping children to use alternative communication strategies (like core boards and apps on iPads), working as a part of a team around the child, and getting paid to play! I'm looking forward to a new role at the McKenzie Centre, using what I know with a different spin.

Ready for School Resource We have been shown this wonderful resource, where you can create a personalised book for your child to prepare them for starting school. Check it out by following the link: <https://mybigmoments.com/starting-school>

Health and Safety

Our community is continuing to take COVID-19 seriously through using the COVID tracer App, staying away if you are sick, seeking medical advice and getting tested if recommended to do so. Thank you all, for your efforts.

While we are doing the right things, it is important that we continue to pay attention to the right information.

Attending McKenzie Centre: Safety procedures under Alert Level 1

- ✓ When you arrive, you must sign in and sanitise your hands before going inside. Use the Sign-in sheet stored on the cabinet on the deck.
- ✓ Visitors: Must sign in on the register in the foyer area. Use our QR tracker, it is attached to the door to keep a record of where you have been.
- ✓ Make sure your phone and address details are up to date at the office and check with your Key Worker what is recorded correctly.
- ✓ If you, or your child, are sick, stay at home. We can reschedule or arrange an online or phone session. If you arrive and staff observe that you or your child are unwell, with flu like symptoms, we will ask you to go home.
- ✓ If you or your child are showing signs of illness, flu like symptoms, remain at home and seek medical advice.
- ✓ If the cause of the symptoms is non-infectious e.g. asthma, hay fever or other conditions, you can attend. Staff will have a conversation with you to ensure the symptoms are from a condition such as asthma.
- ✓ Wash and dry your hands often and thoroughly. This is our number one defence! When you come inside after being outside washing hands thoroughly is a must!
- ✓ Sneeze or cough into your elbow.
- ✓ Placing mouthed toys in the blue mesh bag for cleaning after the child has finished using it.
- ✓ Tidy up and cleaning - we have plenty of supplies, so please do help us to keep our Centre clean and tidy.

If we have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19, we will follow the directions of Health Authorities. This may mean McKenzie Centre will be closed for 72 hours to allow for contact tracing and, potentially, for another 14 days. If this occurs, our online services can be resumed.

If you have any concerns about your health, talk to your GP or Healthline 0800 358 5453. There is lots of information on the COVID 19 website (www.covid19.govt.nz). We will keep you informed by email, Facebook or Key Worker contacts. If you have ideas or suggestions to help us, please talk to your Key Worker, Trisha or Suzanne.

Staff continue to be vigilant:

- Cleaning and using disinfectant on our high touch surfaces and equipment regularly.
- Our cleaners are working with us and have upgraded health and safety cleaning procedures.

Food Safety Policy Changes Babies and young children have an increased risk of choking on food as they have small air and food passages and are still learning how to bite, chew, and grind food. As you are likely aware, a new policy came into place from 25th January 2021 regarding food safety in all early learning services. Children are required to be **seated** and **supervised** at ALL times while eating. At McKenzie Centre, as food is provided by parents, we promote and encourage best practice in relation to the food that you provide for your tamariki, as set out in the Ministry of Health Guidance. For any further information do ask staff and see the links below for further information.

[Ministry of Health - Developing chewing and swallowing skills](#)

[Ministry of Health - Food-related choking in young children](#)

[Ministry of Health - Foods that pose a higher choking risk for children under 5 years](#)

[Ministry of Health - Preventing choking in young children](#)

Food allergies Please keep your Key Worker updated about food allergies and intolerances of your child so that we can update the notices on the sign in board and at the kai table. Nuts are no longer allowed at McKenzie Centre due to allergies and food safety.

Quiz Night 2021 Our quiz night is back again this year after postponement due to Covid-19. This will be held in September, dates and times to be confirmed.

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 28th January. The group will be facilitated by Jadey Drury, ex- NICU Mum and family support coordinator at the Neonatal Trust, with support from Sue Scott, Physiotherapist, and Emma Gale, Occupational Therapist.

Early Intervention Fees are a family contribution towards the cost of providing all of the services for your child, for example: meetings, resources, equipment. It is not just for sessions. Families who do not attend sessions, or who may be transitioning to school, will still receive a termly invoice. The WINZ Childcare Subsidy is available for many families and covers 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 Key Worker or the Admin team - we are happy to help.

Thanks so much to all our volunteers and sponsors, they do an amazing job! Our volunteers contribute so much to us and their support means we can deliver more services to your family. Special thanks to Richard Bennett, Richard Stewart and Josh Carroll, who regularly give their time to maintain our building and gardens.

Best wishes from: Trisha, Claire, Sue, Rachael S, Laury, Estelle, Suzanne, Teresa, Ruth, Helen G, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Tricia P, Emma, Caitlin, Helen P, Rachael F, Marcia, Amanda, Richard, Linda, Eram, Fiona, Angela, Stacey, and Siobhan.

THANK YOU to our wonderful Funders, Sponsors, Friends and Supporters:



As well as: Ministry of Education

Ministry of Health

BNZ