



Welcome back whānau! We hope you enjoyed the sunshine over the summer break.



Well, here we go again. We're starting the term in unfortunately familiar territory, refreshing ourselves with new rules and preparing for another uncertain term. Fortunately, the traffic light system allows us more flexibility than the alert levels, so McKenzie Centre is remaining open while in red.

Kia ora whānau for the thoughts you've shared around our service during different traffic light levels; it helps us to plan what our service might look like over the coming term and year.

**Dates for Term 1**

Term 1 starts:	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February
Term 1 ends:	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Term 2 begins:	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Public Holidays (no sessions)	Anniversary Day: 31 <sup>st</sup> January Waitangi Day Observed: 7 <sup>th</sup> February Easter Monday: 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 Anzac Day: Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Parent Focus Week:	Week beginning Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February – “Partnership”
Shakeout Earthquake Drill:	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb to 4 <sup>th</sup> March at music time
Fire drill:	4 <sup>th</sup> March at 10am
Sleep workshop:	15 & 29 March, 1pm till 2.45pm (Tuesday afternoons), run by Richard Edghill, Psychologist, and Margaret Crawford, Intern Psychologist.

**COVID 19 update**

As you will know the Omicron variant is now in some of our communities, and the motu is under the Red setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework. Based on overseas experience and local modelling, New Zealand is preparing for a likely Omicron outbreak. Evidence to date suggests Omicron has a greater rate of transmission and individuals tend to be infectious sooner after exposure, but hospitalisation rates are lower and fewer patients had severe disease when compared with Delta.

Omicron arriving in our communities will be tough for many of our whānau. If families do need to isolate, most people will be able to look after themselves with help from friends and whānau. However, some people may need help with things like food and groceries. Families self-isolating who need extra support can call the COVID Welfare Phone Line on 0800 512 337 - it's open seven days a week. MSD will connect callers with someone - they may be from a local community organisation, a government agency or marae-based services or support that iwi have established.

More information about isolation and care can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/>

More information about getting extra support if you have Covid-19 or are self-isolating can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/>

We are open in red! Hundred percent of our staff who work face to face with children are now double vaccinated as per Ministry of Health requirements. We continue to follow public health advice as noted below and will remain flexible, so our service can meet your needs should you prefer to receive a service online. To support your hygiene practices at McKenzie Centre, we have installed a new outdoor hand basin! You can use it or hand sanitiser when entering the centre. Kia ora whānau for your resilience and kindness as we all muddle on through.

**At Red Traffic Light, as a licensed Early Learning Centre, we ask that you:**

- **Wear a suitable, well fitted mask indoors and outdoors** (adults and children over Year 4). Public health advice is that an 'appropriate' face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. McKenzie Centre is requiring mask wearing as we have a high proportion of adults in our centre at one time, however, this is not an early childhood requirement. If this raises concerns for you, please talk with your Contact Person. We will review mask wearing during the term.
- Stay at home when unwell, and get tested for COVID-19 if Healthline advises you to .
- Sign into our centre by writing your name and the names of any other whānau attending on the sign-in sheet.
- Scan in with the QR code.
- Wash or sanitise your children's and your own hands when entering the building (remember to do so after each time you play outside and before kai too!).
- Maintaining a physical distance from others, particularly people you don't know, continues to be an effective measure to reduce risk of infection.
- Be outdoors as much as possible.

**At Orange Traffic Light, as a licensed Early Learning Centre:**

- The rules are the same as for red, but you are only encouraged (instead of required) to wear a face covering.

In all settings:

- Continue using and encouraging good hygiene practices including:
  - Regular hand washing / sanitising
  - Cough and sneeze etiquette
  - Regular cleaning of high touch surfaces
  - Open doors and windows
- Stay home if sick and get tested
- Maintaining good ventilation is recommended. At McKenzie Centre we will have our doors and windows open to keep the air moving.
- The Ministry has provided information that could be useful for you to prepare returning to school or early learning services while we are in the middle of a Covid-19 outbreak. Find more information here: <https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/covid-19-information-for-parents-and-whanau/back-to-early-learning-services-school-or-kura/> .

Ensure tamariki or staff members with COVID-19 symptoms get a COVID-19 test and remain at home until a negative result is received and they are symptom free for 24 hours.

**Services updates**

McKenzie Centre is continuing to recognise the value of connections - between parents, staff and in the community. Sessions will evolve and change to look different, and we invite you to join us to grow what happens at McKenzie Centre. Our drive is to do the best for all our families by meeting the demands for our services. We are replacing our Key Worker model and transitioning to a Contact Person and believe this will expand for you our team experience and you will gain more of a community for your child. Broadening the opportunities for you to have the skills you need to support your child, yourself and whānau for now and into the future. Our staff will talk with you about this and we wish this to be an ongoing conversation. McKenzie Centre remains the safe place where children can learn, explore and have fun!

## Staff Changes

**Amanda Howell** - Amanda has been at McKenzie Centre since completing her Psychology internship with us in 2020. She is continuing her work at Enrich+. We will miss Amanda and the specialist psychology knowledge she brought to Tuesday playgroups; however, we will continue to see her from time to time.

**Caitlin Go** - Caitlin is finishing her first year at McKenzie Centre for a new Speech and Language Therapy job at Patricia Avenue School. We will all miss her playful energy in sessions!

**Helen Parker** - Helen has also been at McKenzie Centre for a year and is returning to her stomping ground as a Speech and Language Therapist at Patricia Avenue School. We wish her all the best for the future.

To both Caitlin and Helen, thank you from the McKenzie Centre whānau for your contribution and we wish you well for your next steps!

Although we have vacancies for speech language therapists, we are working hard to find new people to join our team.

**Margaret Crawford** – welcome to our team. Margaret is joining our team while progressing with her Psychology internship. She will be supported by Richard and be at McKenzie Centre on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.

## End of Year Raffle



McKenzie Centre's end-of-year raffle was won by Carol Taylor. Thank you to Keith Moyes, Placemakers and Urban Global for donating the prizes.

Thank you also to Orphans Aid in Frankton for dropping off an awesome prize pack. Someone had very generously nominated McKenzie Centre on their raffle ticket. To whoever this was thank you for nominating McKenzie Centre. We were able to share the goodies as a special surprise gift

for whānau to enjoy.



## Quiz Night fundraiser - postponed

We need to have over 200 people inside for this event so will unfortunately continue to postpone until it is safe to do so.



## New Phone Extensions

501	Henny	517	Suzanne & Emma
503	Lillian	518	Nicky & Tricia
504	Trisha	519	Caitlin & Helen
514	Teresa & Rachael	520	Whānau room
515	Steph	521	Quiet room
516	Cath		

When you ring McKenzie Centre, if you know the person you want to speak to, there is a new option to get through to them directly by dialling their extension.

## Early Intervention Fees

Thank you for supporting McKenzie Centre with your payment of 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 Key Worker 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.

Thanks so much to all our volunteers and sponsors.

**Best wishes from:** Trisha B, Rachael S, Suzanne, Teresa, Henny, Lillian, Steph, Tricia P, Emma, Caitlin, Helen, Nicky, Cath, Rachael F, Marcia, Richard, Susie, Margaret, Linda, Eram, Angela, Victoria and Siobhan.

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



As well as: Ministry of Education Ministry of Health

**Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi**

*With your basket and my basket the people will live- With co-operation and the combination of resources we will get ahead.*