



IRIS

Tirohanga Whānui

the very best you can be

Kia whakaore ai te mana tangata

TERM 1 FEB 2010

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IRIS Conductive Education Newsletter

Welcome from Jenny Ballantyne

Welcome to Conductive Education for 2010! We hope you all had a fantastic break and are enjoying the lovely Auckland summer. For those of you who haven't met me yet my name is Jenny Ballantyne and I commenced work here as Manager of Conductive Education on 30 November last year. I was born in Invercargill and have been married to Murray for 30 years. We have a son, Chris, who is 26 and lives in Australia and a daughter, Liv, who is 23 and is studying to become a vet.

I originally trained as a Comprehensive nurse over 30 years ago and since then have worked in varied areas including surgical hospital work, psychiatric nursing, district nursing, accident and emergency departments, tutoring students and practice nursing. I lived in Australia from 1989 until 2005 and during that time managed an Early Childhood programme which involved 50 care givers and 400 children ranging in age from birth to 12 years.

In 2005, my husband was transferred to London and I managed an MRI scanning company in Harley Street. We returned home to N.Z. in June last year to reconnect with our families here.

So, enough about me and let's talk about what my job is here!

I believe that children are our greatest asset. Their minds, bodies and spirits come to us as a package which is all wrapped up in an accumulating set of experiences, relationships and connections that shape learning and development. I strongly advocate equity of opportunity, access, treatment and outcomes for children.

One of my goals this year is to examine and improve how we deliver our service. I intend to see the blend of Conductive Education philosophy and Te Whariki curriculum to enhance the programmes we offer children here at the Centre. Change can be scary however sometimes it is necessary as it helps us to evaluate our practices and motivates us to grow professionally.

A partnership between parents, children and staff is extremely important and I encourage the connection of links with your family and the wider community. Please feel free to pop into my office anytime, give me a call or send an email to jballantyne@iris-health.org.nz

I welcome your feedback and input into what we offer here for your children and thank you for your ongoing support to all our dedicated team here at Conductive Education.



Parents Representative Group

We have a new Parents Representative Group this year. This consists of one parent from each group within the centre.

Their role is to network with you and feed back any information, suggestions or concerns you have to the Parent Reference Group Meetings which take place every month.

We also have a Parent Evening each term. Please talk to your representative if you have any ideas as to what you would like to hear about e.g. guest speakers etc.

The Parents Representative Group is:

- Beginners Group rep is Adele Carran
- Advanced Beginners is Merrin Straker
- Kindy group is Megan Hayward
- Young Walking Group is Joelle Gorton

Easter Raffle

We would like to ask each family if they can to donate an Easter Egg.

We will assemble them in baskets to be raffled. Please deliver your egg to Ann by 24 March. Tickets on sale from 8 March with the raffle drawn on 29 March

Important dates

18 February	Erzsi's Unveiling Ceremony at 11:30am
5 March	Children's Games Day, for Children's Day, 9:30am to 12 noon
12 March	Cruising the Bays (before Round the Bays)
31 March	Zoo Trip
31 March	Last day of term
1 April	Teacher Only Day
1 to 18 April	School Holidays
19 April	TERM 2 Starts

General information

Welcome to . . .

Our new children and mothers: Elijah and Eleanor, Brad and Trish, Tiahua and Anna, and Ben and Ann.

Congratulations to

Tina and Max who got married on 13 Feb 2010. We wish you all the very best for the future!

Suggestion Box

You will notice a new box on the Parent Desk in the corridor. This is for you to pop in any ideas or comments you have for the centre. We look forward to what you have to say.

Feedback survey

We have received a Feedback Review from the surveys that were circulated last year. This is situated near the sign-in sheets and is available for everyone to read.

Parent interviews

Jenny would like to meet with all parents this term for a chat to understand your expectations, any concerns you may have and a general 'get to know you'. Please fill a time that is convenient for you on the scheduled next to the 'Sign in sheets'.

Mobile phones - off or silent

Could you please remember to switch your mobile phone off while you are in the centre or put it on 'silent'. It is distracting for both children and staff.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Where are we on Monday mornings?

We have a quick staff meeting from 8:15am to 8:45am in the Conductors Office.