



Seabrook McKenzie

Newsletter Spring 2021

A world where those with learning difficulties experience success—He ao e angitu ai te hunga e uaua ana te ako

Welcome to our spring newsletter! We are happy to bring you two good news stories in this edition, Holly's below and Louie's over the page. When a parent makes a point of telling us how proud they are of their child and credits us with some part of their success, it makes us proud too.

However, unfortunately we also hear many stories of parents who were discouraged from seeking help. 'I was told to wait and they'd grow out of it' or 'They said would put things in place to help her, but it's been a year and she's still not progressing'. It just shows that specialised support for students with Specific Learning Disabilities isn't optional—it's essential. As long as these students keep coming, we will aim to keep providing the help they need. We are so grateful to everyone who partners with us to make these services affordable for families.

Hi my name is Sandra and I have a nine year old daughter called Holly.

Holly is not our biological daughter but we have had her since she was two months old, so I am the only mother she knows and so she calls me mum.

Holly has learning difficulties and finding the help and support we needed for Holly was proving to be impossible and so disheartening. When Holly first started school the teachers kept saying that Holly will soon pick it up and that there are plenty of famous people who can't read or write. I knew then that this wasn't the school for our Holly. We heard about Jean Seabrook Memorial School – Seabrook McKenzie and so we went for an Assessment, Holly was six years old at that stage and she needed help. We started going once a week for an hour for tutoring, but this wasn't enough for Holly so when an opportunity came up for Holly to go to their school we took it. Finally, Holly was going to get the help and support she needs. Holly started Seabrook McKenzie when she was seven and since then her learning and confidence has improved, she is excited that she is actually learning. Without the help from Seabrook McKenzie we would be at a loss as to what to do or where to go from there.

Holly is no way a naughty child, she just has learning difficulties and children like her really need schools like the Jean Seabrook Memorial School to help without having to pay the price of wanting a better start in life and the financial stress and worries. Too many children get left behind because they're harder to teach so they really need schools like this. And for a child to say they've found a place they fit, well that's saying something.

Thanks Sandra.



Holly was able to attend the school through the generous support of a donor. We are so grateful she is receiving the specialist teaching she needs to progress, but it would be even better if no parent had to worry about financial barriers stopping their child from succeeding in their learning.

Will you help someone with SLD receive the support they need? *Donations over \$5 may qualify for tax rebates.*

☺ \$25 every little bit helps!

☺ \$100 subsidises an assessment

☺ \$500 pays for a term of tuition

☺ \$1600 trains a specialist teacher

☺ \$7475 funds one year at JSMS

☺ \$___ to help where most needed

You can make your donation via internet banking: Seabrook McKenzie, ANZ 06 0257 0253986 00. Please contact us to let us know your donation is on the way or to request further information. **Thank you!**

The Seabrook McKenzie Centre is a charitable trust (Charities Commission Registration CC25330).

Phone (03) 381 5383 | **Email** info@seabrookmckenzie.net | **or visit** www.seabrookmckenzie.net



A Message from Director Hester Warren

Thank you for your continued support of our services. I am continually impressed by the generosity of our benefactors who believe in the goals of our trust: assessment, professional training, research, preventive measures, assistance to affected persons and education. There has been a lot of news lately about the Ministry of Education's belief that "the needs of the student community can be met within the existing school network" (official correspondence Chris Hipkins 30 June 2021). This was one of the reasons the Minister declined the Jean Seabrook Memorial School application to become a Designated Special Character School. However, our 6 months waiting list for assessments suggests parents still perceive a need that cannot be met by the public system. The need for parents to pay school fees means our school roll continues to be very small. We have only the Junior class operating at present.

We had a good news story shared with us recently, which typifies the difference the centre makes to young people's participation in education. Louie was assessed with us in 2013 and 2020. His mother made a point of coming to the Centre to say, owing to his assessments and subsequent tutoring through the Seabrook McKenzie Centre, Louie is now on track to pass Year 11 NCEA with at least Merit, and possibly Excellence! He is studying English, Mathematics, Science, Art and Materials Technology. Louie has also achieved as a Level 1 Ski Instructor, achieved a MiG Welding qualification and is continuing to study TiG welding. Louie's 2013 report concluded that he demonstrated good intellectual ability and that his profile was characteristic of a severe Specific Learning Disability (Dyslexia). It is wonderful to prove the difference the Centre can make to a young person. Well done Louie!

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<https://www.facebook.com/seabrookmckenziecentre>

Hester

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and especially YOU!