



National Council of Home Educators New Zealand

NCHENZ Quarterly Newsletter

January 2018

Membership # 1443

Dear NCHENZ Member,

Welcome to our quarterly update.

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Welcome from the Coordinator

by Debbie Thomas

Welcome to a new year. Firstly we wish to extend our sincere thanks to Lynn Peake who has moved on from the committee after being a valuable member to NCHENZ and the Executive, both in her role as Coordinator for over 3 years as well as setting up our Forum and offering invaluable experience and guidance to our members and the Committee.

We will miss her in our monthly committee meetings and bi-annual National meetings with various Government Departments, where she provided a wise and level head, while infusing humour and a much appreciated can-do attitude.

We wish her and her family well for the rest of their home educating journey and remind her that she is welcome back ANY time.

We have lots of information below for you to read, so grab a cuppa and be informed!

Member Offers for Term 1

by Nadia Sole, Member Services Co-ordinator

Excuse the wordy segment from me this quarter, but I'm thrilled to let you know of some great new offers I've been working on that are now ready to be launched. Please follow the links below for details and complete the appropriate enrollment forms.

Starting 28th Feb:

Reading Eggs & Reading Eggspress A popular literacy programme which many home educators use, for ages 3-13yrs. A 1yr subscription is \$26.50 per child, expires 27th February 2019. All those with existing subscriptions have already been emailed a renewal notice (if you haven't got it, please email readingeggs@nchenz.org.nz). **Mathseeds is now also offered!** See below for details.

Mathletics A great subscription rate to a program used widely in NZ schools. Follows the NZ curriculum, for ages 5-18yrs. We've been offered a price reduction this year and it is great value. All those with existing subscriptions have already been emailed a renewal notice (if you haven't got it, please email mathletics@nchenz.org.nz).

Spellodrome Associated with Mathletics, a popular program for improving spelling skills. For ages 5-18yrs. All those with existing subscriptions have already been emailed a renewal notice (if you haven't got it, please email spellodrome@nchenz.org.nz).

Maths-Whizz Aligned with the NZ curriculum, Maths-Whizz is popular with home educated students. For ages 5-13yrs. Students can start in groups of 10+, I'll have a new group ready to begin in February/March for approx \$30/student (depends on start date).

Also available now:

Education Perfect Maths, English and science (all aligned to the NZ curriculum) as well as an extensive list of languages.

Music Ecademy Music theory and aural training, grades 1-8, curriculum follows all major music examination systems including ABRSM, AMEB, St Cecilia and Trinity.

Jarratt Create & Educate Extensive creativity projects to develop creativity, self belief, self awareness, communication skills, leadership, innovation and decision making.

Studyladder NCHENZ members receive a six month extension for free on a purchased 12 month Studyladder subscription.

LEARNZ Virtual Field Trips LEARNZ is a gateway to virtual field trips taking students to remote places all over New Zealand, Antarctica and beyond; 30% discount for NCHENZ members.

New Offers:

Mathseeds We've been hoping to add Mathseeds to our member offers for many years. Mathseeds is for approx ages 3-9yrs, and is associated with Reading Eggs. Please see here for details and the enrolment form.

Wai Ako is a fantastic new online Te Reo Māori resource for primary aged children which uses waiata to help teach pronunciation and language structure. Wai Ako translates to "Learning Songs" and is based around a series of short music videos which are aligned to the NZ Te Reo Māori Curriculum, Te Aho Arataki Marau mō te Ako i Te Reo Māori. The waiata are simple, repetitive and there is minimal planning time required - just play the videos and get started with your lesson! NCHENZ members receive 50% off the usual \$139 subscription rate for 1yr access. To subscribe, [complete the form here](#).

Phonics Hero teaches children to read and spell with systematic, synthetic phonics. It teaches all 44 phonemes/sounds of the English language. Included in a subscription is access to 850 games (via a tablet or online), live reporting, parent video tutorials and tips from their phonics experts. For more information see their website. NCHENZ members have been offered an awesome 80% discount and can enrol for just \$20 for 12 months. First start with a free trial by [signing up here](#), then email michelle@phonicshero.com quoting code NCHENZ321 and she will arrange the discount for you.

The Virtual Instructor offers drawing, painting, and digital art lessons, along with art fundamentals and comprehensive lesson plans. The lessons are suitable for intermediate and secondary school students. NCHENZ members have been offered 30% discount off the usual subscription price of \$US97/yr. More information [can be found here](#).

Coming up soon, keep an eye on the [NCHENZ Facebook group](#) or [NCHENZ Forum](#) for details:
- SPCA education programme

Important Notice - Committee Vacancies

by Debbie Thomas

An exciting opportunity to support our brilliant organisation awaits you. Our current treasurer is ready to step down later this year. Full training will be provided and handover of the role will occur after the AGM in June so you can ease your way into the role.

We're looking for someone with staying power who can keep the wheels of the organisation oiled by keeping our accounting system up to date, providing monthly reports, and participating at our video meetings and in our facebook group between times.

This is a great chance to stretch your skill-set while giving back to the organisation and community, with the bonus of working with a lovely group of people. Please enquire by emailing treasurer@nchenz.org.nz

We also have openings for Minute Secretary and Correspondence Secretary, if you would like to know more on these positions please enquire [here](#).

Government Liaison Update

by Cynthia Hancox

MoE Webpage Update: As a result of discussions with the Ministry, there has been quite a lot of work done to review policies and make information clearer and more readily accessible to home educators. The Ministry have updated their web pages on home education to include as much of this information as practical, so please do take the time to sit down and have a read through the web page to familiarize yourself with the information there. See [here](#).

School Trial Period: There has been an update to the MOE's School Trial's policy, to ensure it is in line with the law. When you enrol a student in school, their exemption is immediately ceased. However, if you return to home education within 10 weeks, you will not be expected to reapply unless there has been a "material change in circumstances." Updated info on this is both on the web page above and on the NCHENZ website [here](#).

Jury Duty: Every year there are home educators called up for jury duty for whom it is not practically possible to serve. After meeting with the Ministry of Justice last year, we have put together information about jury duty and how to apply to be excused. You can read about that on my website [here](#).

Regional Liaisons Team: I am working to put together a team of people, ideally at least a couple in each region, who can be a point-of-contact in their regions. They will be letting me know if they hear about any issues going on, pointing people to the NCHENZ website and other relevant sources of information., In time, when they feel ready to do so, they will be meeting with the MoE from time to time to build relationships, and assisting families with support and info if they face issues. Essentially, we're aiming for better networking regionally and nationally. I won't be around forever (though have no plans to step back at this time), so it is vital that there are a group of people to whom I can pass on my knowledge and experience, so they in turn can share it with other home educators and those coming after them. If you would like to know more about being part of this network, please get in touch. [Email](#) or message me via Facebook, or my website [here](#).

We have seen very positive developments, over the past year especially, in the relationship between NCHENZ and the MoE, and in bringing about better communication, working towards consistency in the regions, and in being heard over the concerns that need to be addressed for the betterment of all home educators. I very much look forward to seeing the outworking of these things this year – 2018 is a great year to be home educating in NZ!

Ministry of Education Meeting Update

by Cynthia Hancox, Government Liaison

In November, we had a very productive and positive meeting with the Ministry, covering a lot of ground. Some of the key discussion points and outcomes were:

- Exemption application forms – the Ministry is in the process of updating these as a result both robust discussion with us, and feedback from regional offices. Part of the updates will be making possible "family applications" where one set of documents can be submitted for multiple children. It will also now be possible to have an application processed prior to

arrival in NZ for families coming from overseas. Completion date to be advised.

- Consistent practices within regions – the Ministry is seeking to ensure greater consistency and fairness of practice within the regions and thus have put together a new policies and procedures manual which will soon be in effect. Please get in touch and let us know your experience if you have an application processed over the next few months, or other dealings with the Ministry.
- Statistics – as a result of our request, the Ministry has now provided a substantial report on homeschooling statistics. The data from that will enable us to provide further information and guidance, backed by hard evidence, on various matters relating to the MoE, ERO, and home educators, which will be made available in due course.
- A clearer, fairer process is being developed for situations where foster families wish to apply to home educate the children in their care.
- The Ministry has updated their processes for families traveling overseas, and provided that information.
- The Ministry have been very supportive when some home educators encountered problems with Attendance Services staff, and all contractors have now been given clear guidance for their occasional interactions with those applying to home educate. I will be writing an article about this soon. Meanwhile, if you need support in this area, please get in touch.
- The Ministry have put a lot of effort into updating their web pages with better info on home education matters – be sure to read it over.

ID Cards- Renewal Time

by Cathy Norris

Now is the time to check on those expiry dates on student ID Cards. NCHENZ cards expire 31 January 2018, while AT Hop and CANDO cards expire 31 March 2018. To order your card please click [here](#). Any questions email Cathy on idcards@nchenz.org.nz.

Membership

by Tanya Vivier

Wanting to know your membership number, update your contact details or cancel your membership, click [here](#) to find out how.

New Special Education Flyer

by Tatiana Holmes

We have produced a new flyer to help home educating children with special education needs. Please click [here](#) to view the flyer or click [here](#) to visit our website for more information.

Warehouse Stationery and Book Depository

NCHENZ is part of the Support Your School™ Programme with Warehouse Stationery. You can support us by either in-store at one of the 67 stores nationwide or while shopping online, by looking up our "school" using our acronym "NCHENZ". Your support allows us to continue to support our membership and community.

You can also click on the link below or from our website for NCHENZ to automatically gain points from Book Depository.



Pinterest and Other Useful Links

- We are on Pinterest! [Find great resources and useful ideas](#)
- Check your group is on our [NZ map of support groups](#) and that your information is correct
- New to homeschooling? [See our frequently asked questions](#)
- What does a typical day look like? [Read about what home educators get up to](#) - we have stories from a wide range of home educators in our Typical Day section on the website.
- Want to chat with a committee member or other fellow home educators, but not keen on social media, then join the **NCHENZ Forum** [here](#)

About NCHENZ

Set up in 1998 for the purpose of promoting home education in NZ at a national level, NCHENZ is the only national homeschooling body in New Zealand. NCHENZ is a neutral organisation with no affiliation to any political or religious groups. NCHENZ is run by an elected [Executive Committee](#) who volunteer their time for the benefit of NZ home educators. If you are not yet a member of NCHENZ please join, it's free - [just go to our website](#).