



National Council of Home Educators New Zealand

NCHENZ Quarterly Newsletter

January 2019

Dear NCHENZ Member,

Welcome to our quarterly update.

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Home Educators in the News

- [National ice skating Title](#)
- [Opinion- The Ups and Downs of Teaching Your own way](#)
- [Children walking one end to the other](#)

Have you seen any Home Educators in the news? If so, please email the link or article to info@nchenz.org.nz

Treasurer Vacancy

We're looking for a new treasurer.

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, participate at our monthly video meetings, and ideally join in discussions in our committee facebook group.

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

Member Offers for Term 1

by Nadia Sole

Heading in to Term 1 we have lots of programs starting. Please click on the links below to get the full information about each program including payment details - I have this information on the NCHENZ website to save myself a few hundred emails a year :) **Those who have an existing subscription to Reading Eggs, Mathseeds, Mathletics, Spellodrome and Education Perfect will receive a renewal email by the end of January.** If you don't see it please check your Spam folder, otherwise email me at services@nchenz.org.nz.

[Reading Eggs & Reading Eggspress](#): Starts 28th February, \$26.50 for 1yr per child, age 7-13yrs

[Mathseeds](#): Starts 28th February, \$38.25 for 1yr per child, age 3-9yrs

[Mathletics](#): Starts 28th February, \$39 for 1yr per child, age 5-18yrs

[Spellodrome](#): Starts 28th February, \$22.25 for 1yr per child, age 5yrs+

[Maths-Whizz](#): Starts 10th February, \$30 (TBC) for 7.5 months (expiry is 21st September no matter when the subscription starts), age 5-18yrs

[Education Perfect](#) Maths, English, Science, Languages: Start any time, expires 31st December, \$105 per child for all subjects or \$20 for Languages only

[Music Ecademy](#): Music theory and aural training, grades 1-8, start any time, runs for 1yr, \$50 for the first child, \$45 for the second child, and \$40 for the third and subsequent children

[LEARNZ Virtual Field Trips](#): Taking students to remote places all over New Zealand, Antarctica and beyond, 30% discount for NCHENZ members

[StudyLadder](#): NCHENZ members receive a six month extension for free on a purchased 12 month StudyLadder subscription

[Wai Ako](#): Online Te Reo Maori resource for primary aged children

[Phonics Hero](#): Reading and spelling using the phonics method; 80% discount for NCHENZ members

Via NCHENZ you can also get [student ID cards](#), discounted [gratitude journals](#) for kids, an [ESA Publications discount](#), and [International Student Identity cards](#). My partner-in-crime, Callie Reweti, is looking into discounted subscriptions to Matific, BrainPop, and a few other programs. If you are interested in these or have any further suggestions please email us at services@nchenz.org.nz.

Dates for your diary

- NCHENZ ID Cards Expire 31/03/2019, renew yours [here](#)
- Home Education Awareness Week: 21-15 October 2019

Government Liaison

by Cynthia Hancox

A new year! A time to reflect on the year gone by, and to look ahead to what one hopes to achieve in 2019.

My records show that I provided support to 582 home educating families in 2018! Of those, 58 were families that needed specific support in dealing with the MoE, or in a few cases, ERO also. There were also a number of cases where families needed help in dealing with school principals who were acting on incorrect information/assumptions, and some who needed support related to Oranga Tamariki or WINZ. Some of these were quite straight forward situations, and some were much more complex.

One of the key purposes of the role of Government Liaison is to bring to the attention of Ministry staff any situations that pop up repeatedly, so that, where appropriate, any underlying issues can be discussed and addressed, in order to make things smoother for everyone going forward.

Some examples of the kinds of issues I am referring to which we have addressed with the MoE over the past year, or are continuing to work on, are such things as:

- Unreasonable or unnecessary requests for more information from staff processing exemption applications
- MoE acknowledging receipt of applications, and adherence to timeframes for processing
- The way in which complaints about home educators are dealt with including whether or not to involve ERO, and the processes around a review.
- What happens when exemptions are declined – including appeals process
- Contact from Attendance Service staff and what their role is during an exemption application process
- The ability of foster families to home educate and the processes involved
- Gaining an Early Leaving Exemption (ELX) for a home educated child so they can move on to certain courses or employment
- The right of parents to remove a 5 yo child from school without an exemption
- Rights of parents when Oranga Tamariki (formerly CYFs) tell the MoE a family should not home educate.
- Ability to submit one application for multiple children
- Accessing National Student Numbers (NSNs)
- And more!

Our next meeting with both MoE and ERO will be in April. We plan to continue to work on any of these matters that are not yet resolved, and to put forth any further appropriate matters for the benefit our home educating community. If you have an issue you think should be addressed, please get in touch with me at govtliaison@nchenz.org.nz, or if any of the above have impacted you and you would like to share your experience with me in order to help us in continuing to work on improvements, please also email me.

I look forward to continuing to advocate and see positive outcomes for home educators this year!

Starting Your Home Education Journey?

Starting or thinking about Home Educating? Check out these links to our website below;

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Getting Started](#)
- [The different approaches/styles](#)
- [What does a typical day look like?](#)
- [Applying for an Exemption](#)

To find out more about Home Educating in New Zealand visit our website [here](#)

Membership

by Tanya Vivier

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

Can you help?

Blog Posts – Writing articles every 2-3 weeks for the NCHENZ website on a variety of topics, varying lengths (from short to medium). Email us further to discuss your ideas [here](#).

About NCHENZ

Set up in 1998 for the purpose of [advancing the cause of 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](#).
