

Community Notices:

- In Goodtime HorsePark. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
- SuperKids Papakura After School OSCAR Programme currently has vacancies for 5-13 year olds and picks up from Opaheke School. Daily activities include homework supervision, games, afternoon tea and fun filled activities. OSCAR subsidies available Ph 299 9394.

Coming Events

Fri 3 July	Counties Steelers Rugby squad at school 11.00am 1.30pm School closes for holidays
Mon 6 July	Incredible Science Holiday Programme. University of Auckland Science Faculty hosts Yr5-8 students to an open day. Further information available from School office.
Mon 20 July	School opens for Term 3.
Tue 21 July	7.30pm PTA meeting. All parents welcome.
Thur 23 July	7.30pm Gala Planning Meeting in School Staffroom
Wed 22 July –	
Fri 24 July	World of Mathematic at School
Tues 28 July	BOT meeting
Wed 29 July	7.00pm Mathex for Yr7/8 teams at Telstra Events Centre
Thur 30 July	7.00pm Rosehill College information evening for parents of Yr8 students
Wed 5 Aug	Individual photographs
Thur 6 Aug	Counties Netball Field Day
Sat 8/Sun 9 Aug	Family Portraits in School Hall

Quiz: $560 = 660 \div 2$. The equation as shown does not make sense. What signs should be added to make it correct?

Quote: It is a rare person who can weigh up others' faults without putting a thumb on the scales.

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: $5 \times 60 = 600 \div 2$

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

office@opaheke.school.nz
Web Site: www.opaheke.school.nz

Tasman Drive
PAPAKURA
298 5410 Ph
298 0739 Fax

1 July 2009
Newsletter No 10/09

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we near the end of the second term. Today your children should bring home their mid year reports for you to read and to discuss with them.

Class teachers have been very busy preparing these reports on each child's achievement over the first half of the year. Some key changes in these reports compared with the older style of reports include:

- An emphasis on achievement in literacy and numeracy.
- Use of colour to highlight certain parts of the report.
- Wording used equates with terms referred to in the new curriculum e.g. 'Key Competencies' and 'Inquiry Studies'.
- In numeracy several different strands are listed and teachers have assessed a pupil's achievement in each strand where appropriate.

Number knowledge refers to recognising reading, counting and number patterns. Number strategies refer to 'how the student performs the task and processes to solve mathematical problems. I wish to acknowledge the work that class teachers have put in to completing these reports and the rigorous process of proof reading carried out by senior staff.

Staff Changes: There will be two changes in staffing for Terms Three and Four.

1. Ms Edward will be on maternity leave for the remainder of 2009. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Tina Pedersen who will teach the Year 4 class in Room 26 (formerly R24). Mrs Pedersen has taught at Strathallan, Cosgrove and is currently teaching at Clevedon School.
2. Miss Hamlin has resigned her fixed term teacher position in order to complete her OE initially to London. We are pleased to welcome Mr David Curtin who will teach the Year 7 class in Room 3. Mr Curtin has been teaching in Toronto Canada for 3 years and is keen to experience teaching in New Zealand. The



School wishes to thank Miss Hamlin for her work at Opaheke and wish her well in her travels. Perhaps she may return to Opaheke School.



Pandemic Planning: As outlined in the extra note to parents last Wednesday, we have been closely monitoring information provided by the Ministry of Health about the H1N1 'swine' flu virus. Because the virus is now transmitted via communities rather than only from returning overseas travellers, the Board of Trustees has removed the requirement for children or staff returning from overseas to be 'stood down' from school for 7 days after they arrive back. However, we do request that all children showing flu like symptoms are kept at home until checked and given the all clear by a doctor or nurse to return to school. At school we will keep reminding children about safe practices such as

- Using disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing.
- Washing hands and drying hands thoroughly, especially before meals and after going to the toilet.
- In each classroom teachers have a supply of Bactol Gel hand cleaner and tissues and we encourage children to use them.

Internet Survey: Following the recent survey about internet access for our students, Mrs Laing has been busy collating the results which will be of interest to parents.

Yr7/8 classes – 81% of all students have internet access at home
Yr5/6 classes – 73% of all students have internet access at home
Yr3/4 classes – 66% of all students have internet access at home
Yr1/2 classes – 68% of all students have internet access at home
We do treat the survey of Yr1/2 children with considerable caution however! Room 4 and 6 had the highest percentage in the whole school. The overall school average is 73% , which is somewhat lower than staff were expecting and perhaps shows that the internet is still some way off being universally accepted and used; or is it a matter of cost?

Mathletics: A significant number of parents have taken up the option of having Mathletics for their children. This internet based learning challenge programme was trialled at school last year with a Year 8, a Year 6 and a Year 3 class. The results were pleasing with almost all of those in the trial experiencing significant success and moving up several levels in Mathematics. There are also opportunities for those enrolled to use the ICT suite during some lunch hours on a school day.

Kapa Haka: Last year a large number of our students were able to experience Kapa Haka at school. Unfortunately the tutor, Te Aroha Rountree, has been unable

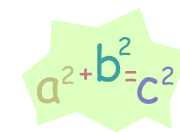
to continue. She is however teaching Te Reo as a part of our school's Year 7/8 languages programme. We would like to re start this opportunity if a suitable tutor could be obtained. The School would appreciate hearing from any of our parents who may be ready willing and able to lead or to assist. Initial support and ideas would be provided by Te Aroha

School Amenity: In light of the hard times that our parent community is going through at present we thought that now is a good time to especially acknowledge and thank all of our families who have paid or are paying off their amenity. For those families who have still to begin payment the following is the Bank Account for the Board of Trustees if you would like to set up an automatic payment.

ASB Bank – 12 3031 0728049 00

World of Mathematics: For 3 days during the first week of Term Three, an interactive hands on school show called 'The World Of Mathematics' will be set up in the School hall.

Normally there is a per pupil charge but all costs are being funded by our PTA with the profits from the Kids Carnival. Parents are also welcome to attend. Days are: Wed 22 July; Thur 23 July; Fri 24 July. Thank you to our wonderful PTA!



Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students/teams.

- ☺ Jared Whitcher and Clayton Rubin Yr8 whose Counties North under 55kg team won the Auckland Interzone rugby championship.
- ☺ Jeannie Rikona, Maddison Lunny, Darby Fullerton, Charlotte Pritchard, Rebekah Mager, Jasmine Desai, Maia Jean Watene and Natasha Tulp all selected to represent Counties North netball teams.
- ☺ Yr7/8 Grade A and Grade B soccer teams 2nd in recent Yr7/8 winter sports.

Sausage Sizzle: Tomorrow the School Councillors will be holding a sausage sizzle. Sausages are \$1. Money raised will go towards purchasing two microwave ovens for Yr 7/8 students to use. Some drinks will also be on sale.

Parent of Year 8 Students: Rosehill College are holding a parent information evening on Thursday 30 July starting at 7pm. Please make a note of this if you are in zone.

Last Day of Term Two: The last day of Term Two is this Friday 3rd July. **School will finish for the term at 1.30pm.** The Ponga Road bus will also depart at that earlier time.