

Coming Events

Thur 3/Fri 4 May	Helen Smith, Speech Language therapist testing children referred by class teachers
Mon 7 May	Teachers attending paid union meeting from 1.30pm onwards, Ponga Road bus will depart at earlier time of 1.45pm
Tue 8 May	Board of Trustees meeting
Wed 9 May	Counties Zone Soccer field day
Thur 10 May	University of New South Wales Science tests
Tues 15 May	Keeping Ourselves Safe Programme begins
Thur 17 May	School Councillors attending Young Leaders' seminar day
Mon 21 May	7.30pm PTA meeting in the staffroom, all parents welcome

Quiz: On Sunday at midnight it is raining heavily. Neil looks outside and predicts that in 72 hours it will not be sunny weather. How can he make such a forecast for a time so far into the future?

Quote: 'Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it' *Arthur Wards*

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: 72 hours from midnight will still be midnight and it will not be sunny

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 05/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you from us at School as we begin a very busy second term. On the first day nine new pupils were enrolled.

New Board: Now that the Trustee elections are completed our congratulations go to our five successful parent candidates elected to the Board of Trustees for the next three years. Those elected were Mike Capper, Sue Costello, Alison Kemp, Grant Maclachlan and Neil Shaddick who was re-elected. These five parents along with Glennis Williams as staff representative and myself as Principal will comprise the next Board. It is appropriate to acknowledge those parents who were unsuccessful in standing for the Board because it ensured that our parents had a choice.

Outgoing Board: A huge thankyou to Rochelle Rhind, Cheryl Everitt, Richard Archer and Sandy Everett who will all be stepping down after the meeting next week. The last Board had some difficult issues to deal with but always endeavoured to do what was right for the whole School community. A special thankyou too to Neil Shaddick for this excellent support as Board Chairman over the last three years.

So, What's On This Term: As one would expect there will be many activities occurring over the second term. Some of these are:

- ❖ Keeping Ourselves Safe programme for Juniors to Year 7
- ❖ Rock And Water programme for Year 8s and a few Year 7s. Both of these components of the Health Curriculum are delivered with assistance from the local police Youth Education Services
- ❖ University of New South Wales tests in Science, English and Mathematics
- ❖ Winter sports programme for Year 5 to 8 students. This year there will be a winter sports field day for the Year 5/6s and one for the Year 7/8s. Counties rugby is holding a rugby field day for Year 7/8 pupils
- ❖ Our School Councillors will attend a Young Leaders seminar day at Manukau City on 17 May



- ❖ Papakura Youth Expo during the second half of May – 3 Days duration
- ❖ Visiting performing groups ‘Cool Kids Care’ and ‘Ready Set Go’
- ❖ Mid year reports followed by parent interviews later in June

Student Management System: Staff at School are currently beginning a training programme on using a new computer software system. This is a requirement of the Ministry of Education which states that by 2008, all state schools are expected to be using one of 8 accredited student management systems. This has huge implications because it affects the type of pupil reports, ways of recording information and the details of student assessments.

School Amenity: Those parents who are thinking about payment of the School amenity will receive an account this week. In 12 days time at assembly there will be further prize draws for all families who have paid their amenity.

Poppy Day Collection: A thankyou to all of the pupils/families who supported the annual RSA Poppy Day appeal. A total of \$244 was collected.



Paid Union Meeting: Next Monday afternoon 7th May most primary teachers in Papakura will be attending a meeting from 1.30pm onwards to consider the next employment contract. Therefore School lessons as such will finish at that time and children will be dismissed. If parents are unable to collect their child at the earlier time they will be supervised by teachers not attending the meeting. The Ponga Road bus will depart at the earlier time of 1.45pm on that day only.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following -

- ❖ James Natrass Year 6 for achievements in BMX national racing – 2nd in both 20” and cruisers at North Harbour
- ❖ Chelsea Bradstreet and her team of equestrians who won the Franklin District Pony Clubs one day event at Tuakau
- ❖ Saturday netball teams – the players, coaches, managers and umpires
- ❖ Charlotte Pritchard, Cambell Turner and Mitchell Holmes who all experienced success at Counties North Yr 5/6 swimming sports; Charlotte 1st in Y6 girls freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. Cambell 1st in Y5 boys freestyle, 2nd in backstroke. Mitchell 3rd in Y5 boys backstroke.
- ❖ Miss MacLeod who will graduate from University of Auckland next week.

Great News: We are pleased to report that Mrs McFlinn is making an excellent recovery and is planning to return to full teaching duties next term. Congratulations Vanessa from everybody at School.



PTA News: Special thanks to all of those parents who assisted at the Disco last week. In case you haven’t caught up with the news from the PTA Annual General Meeting the office holders are PRESIDENT Karen Morrow, SECRETARY Marilyn O’Hara-Pepper, TREASURER Grant Maclachlan.

Year 7 Immunisations: Children had their immunisation information talks last Friday and consent forms have been handed out. These immunisations are needed as part of the NZ Immunisation Schedule. The Public Health Nurse will be collecting these forms on Friday 4th May. It is important that parents or caregivers complete these forms, regardless of already having immunisations and return them to school. If you have not received a consent form please contact the school office.

Lost Property: Lost property will be put out for display each Monday. Parents can access this at anytime throughout the School day.



Phone in Absence Record: As mentioned in previous newsletters parents are expected to phone in to let the office know if children will be absent or late arriving to school. With 570 children at school even a small percentage of children away on any day can mean a number of hours on the phone for office staff trying to confirm the whereabouts and safety of our children.

Class and Team Photos: These will be taken on Thursday 31 May and pre pay envelopes will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Family Photos: For your information the PTA will again be arranging for these to be taken on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June, more details will follow closer to the date.

Out of Zone Enrolments: The School will be holding a ballot in September for families living out of our school zone who would like their children to attend Opaheke School for 2008. This does not affect children who are at present living out of the school zone but attending Opaheke School. Application forms will be available for 20 August. For further details please visit our website www.opaheke.school.nz

Community Notices:

1. Papakura Swim Club provides lessons for beginners through to senior competitive swimmers every afternoon at the Rosehill College heated pool. Registrations at the pool this week and next week. Ph 2927446
2. Drury Junior Rugby Club 5 – 19 year old players boys and girls welcome all gear supplied except footwear ph Tony 09 2947294.