

School Dental Clinic: the clinic will be open through the holidays for emergency work phone 299 9770 if you need an appointment.

Have fun at Snowplanet these July school holidays: Snowplanet, offering a winter wonderland experience just 20 minutes north of the Bridge, is proud to support our school and offers great deals for families and kids during the July school holidays. The all new exciting new 5 day kids' school holiday programme comes with a 2 hour fun group lesson each day including rental equipment and a kids' meal voucher and is a great way to learn new snowsport skills in a fun and active environment. To book in your child, call Snowplanet on 09 427 0044 ext 725 or email schools@snowplant.co.nz

Coming Events:

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| Thur 3 July | Mid Year reports come home. |
| Fri 4 July | Last day of school for Term Two. School finishes at 1.30pm, Ponga Road bus also leaves at 1.30 |
| Mon 21 July | School opens for Term Three. |
| Tues 22 July | 7.30pm Board of Trustees meeting. |
| Tues 29 July | 7.30pm PTA meeting Please note the different night/date. |

Quiz: Why was Cinderella so poor at netball?

Quote: No one needs a holiday so much as the person who has just had one.

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: because she had a pumpkin for a coach and she ran away from the ball!

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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

Tasman Drive
PAPAKURA
298 5410 Ph
298 0739 Fax

2 July 2008
Newsletter No 10/08

“The Opaheke Way”

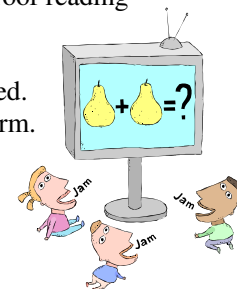
Dear Parents,
Welcome to stormy weather, rain, hot soup, warm fires and a time for enjoying a good book.

Mid Year Reports: These will be sent home tomorrow (Thursday). Class teachers have been very busy preparing these reports on each pupil's progress at school over the first half of the year. Some key changes include:

- ✓ An emphasis on reporting achievement instead of progress. Hence the reading age levels and results in basic number facts.
- ✓ Each child's achievement being compared to 'national' benchmarks across the country.
- ✓ An emphasis on achievement in literacy and numeracy.
- ✓ Use of colour to highlight certain parts of the report.
- ✓ Wording used matches that used in the new national curriculum eg 'Key Competencies', 'Inquiry Studies'.
- ✓ In Numeracy several different strands are listed and teachers have assessed pupils' achievement in each one 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.

Still Uncertain About Numeracy? Have your uncertainty eased. Staff are planning another Numeracy session for parents next term. Thursday morning 21st August starting at 8.00am finishing at 8.45am for those who have to get to work. For some parents this will be a re run of last year's session but there will also be an opportunity to observe groups of students engaged in Numeracy activities. More details to come next term.



Reading Ages in School Reports: Some parents may find that their child's reading age appears to have gone backwards when this year's report is compared with the child's achievement from the previous year. This is because different aspects of reading are covered by different tests. For example a child in Year 5 may have a reading age of say 10 years, yet in the Year 6 report they appear to have dropped back to say 9 years. This difference can be explained by the fact that up to Year 5 there may be an emphasis on fluency of oral reading but by Year 6 there is an increasing emphasis on understanding or comprehension of reading. In the Year 7/8 years teachers move into a stage of teaching and assessing a student's ability to think critically about issues that affect their everyday lives. Different results can be obtained from different test forms. Even in the junior classes teachers are helping children make sense comprehending what they are reading, but they have to also ensure that each child is as fluent in their reading as is possible.

Staffing Changes:

- Next term and for the remainder of 2008, Mrs Laing will be on maternity leave. We are pleased to welcome Mr Robert James who will teach the Year 4 class in Room 22. Mr James was based at Opaheke School for a considerable part of 2007 and is familiar with the School and our pupils.
- Miss Patel will be on leave from Term 3. Her present class of Year 2 pupils will be included into the other 3 Year 2 classes taught by Mrs McFlinn, Miss Williams and Mrs Marquet/Mrs Rumbold. This rearrangement is preferable we believe, to bringing in a new teacher partway through the year. Also, all of the children in Miss Patel's class know the other teachers and they, in turn know the children. Class number will still be below, (marginally) the Ministry of Education's staffing ration for Year 1 – 3 classes of 1 teacher to 23 pupils.
- We are pleased to welcome Miss Matilda Jolly who will begin Term 3 with a class of Year 1 children drawn from the 2 New Entrant classes. Miss Jolly has spent much of 2007 working with Mrs Williams and, like Mr James knows the pupils and staff. Miss Jolly will be working in Room 10.

Children's Garden: We are delighted to inform parents that the children's garden beside the dental clinic has been planted with native shrubs and small trees. This project was originally conceived by the School's Councillors last year and it is great to see that it is now finished. Eventually, we are hoping to have a small path to a seat where children can sit and read or talk. The School wishes to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following parents who gave their time, expertise and machinery free of charge to enable this project to be completed.

- ☺ Michael White who used his digger to prepare the footings for the block wall.
- ☺ Peter Bradstreet who brought his machinery in to transfer the dirt and top up the shrubbery area.

☺ David Todd who designed the planting arrangements, costed/delivered the plants and planted the trees and shrubs

☺ Ian Taylor who did the block work at a discounted rate.

We are indebted to these wonderful parents who are the 'backbones' of Opaheke School.

Parent Information Evening For Year Eights: There is a parent information evening at Rosehill College on Thursday 31 July starting at 7pm for all parents of Year 8 students planning to attend Rosehill College in 2009. Please make a note of this date.

Healthy Food Lunches: The PTA have been discussing the vexing issue of lunches sold from the School's lunchroom. As parents will be aware, there has been much discussion about the pressure put on schools to provide healthy foods from school canteens/lunchrooms. The PTA have tried to balance the government requirements with what can sensibly be provided. Please refer to the enclosed notice and changed menus.



Road Patrol Roster: At present we have nobody to supervise and arrange the timetable for our parent supervisors on the road patrols on Tasman Drive and Opaheke Road. This is a relatively straight forward job co-ordinating and sending out a roster once a term to notify volunteers of their days. If you have some time spare could you help us out? The current roster has some empty slots with no parent supervisors for some days. Can you help for ½ an hour, morning or afternoon, for one day a week or a fortnight? Help us make the crossing safe for your children. Please contact Geraldine on 2981176.

Sausage Sizzle: The School Councillors raised \$280 from their recent sausage sizzle held two weeks ago. Yes, we can still hold these 'occasionally' stated the former Minister of Education.

Last Day of School For Term Two: This Friday 4th July, School will finish at 1.30pm. The Ponga Road bus will also depart at the earlier time of 1.30pm.

Farewell to Constable Purdie: We are sorry to be losing the services of Senior Constable Karen Purdie who is leaving the police to follow a career change to physiotherapy. Constable Purdie has been a great support for both students and staff at our School for many years and we will miss her teaching skills with 'Dare'; 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' and 'Rock and Water'.