

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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“The Opaheke Way”

NEWSLETTER NO 18/09

2 December 2009

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we hurtle towards the end of the year.

COOL SCHOOLS MEDIATION

This term our teachers have been preparing for the introduction of peer mediators at School during morning interval and lunchtimes. Peer mediators are senior students who become counselors and mediate on disagreements between other children. While there will always be teachers on

duty, many of the problems can be resolved by peer mediation. Between 40 and 50 of our senior pupils who apply will receive training in conflict resolution and take turns at being playground peer mediators. Teachers have taken part in two after school training sessions to ensure that they understand the process and can help the students in their useful and important role in keeping our School playground a safe and happy place.

**END OF YEAR
CONCERTS**
A final reminder the two end of year concerts for parents will take place on Wednesday 9th December.

Junior NE-Yr4 -

10.30am

Senior Yr5-8

7.00pm



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Special Awards*
- *School Amenity 2010*
- *Grandparents Day*

END OF YEAR

The last day of the School year will be Wednesday 16 December at 12.30pm.



TERM ONE 2010
Term One for 2010 will begin on Wednesday 3rd February and finish on Thursday 1st April.



STUDENT VOICE

This week Mrs Marquet, Mrs Cantly and I will be interviewing groups of students at different levels of the School to find out more about how they perceive their School is doing to help prepare them

for their future years. We are anticipating .with real interest what their responses will be.



**TRUANCY
0800WAGGING
08009244464**
The Papakura Truancy Service has started a phone service to report children who are truant from school. If you see children 'wandering' the streets during school hours, not accompanied by an adult please phone.

SPECIAL AWARDS 2009

Teachers have been meeting on several occasions to consider who among our senior students will receive special awards at the senior concert next Wednesday evening 9th December. The Wallace family have presented a special cup which will be awarded for excellence in science for the first time this year. Val, Peter and Don Wallace were keen to present an award in memory of their late son/grandson John Wallace, who received a high distinction prize in Science from the University of New South Wales during his time at Opaheke School. This adds to a special award in the Arts presented in memory of the family of Miss Banks for the first time in 2008.



SCHOOL POOL USE

The Board of Trustees has again decided to make the pool available over the Christmas holiday period to those families who have paid their School amenity. The charge for a key to the pool is \$30. This takes effect from the afternoon of the 16 December through to and including Tuesday 2nd February 2010, between the hours of 8am and 8pm. **Application forms and keys will be available from the office from 7 -11 December.**

SCHOOL AMENITY 2010

At the November meeting, the Board of Trustees resolved that the 2010 amenity will be kept at the same level as for 2009. That is
\$150 for one child
\$200 for 2 children
\$240 for 3 or more children
The Board also recorded its pleasure at the total amenity paid over 2009 which is considerably above what it had

budgeted on. During these times of economic hardship experienced by a significant number of our families, it is rewarding that parents have made real efforts to meet the School's expectations. That amenity assists our School in terms of resources, additional teaching staff in the junior school, languages for our senior students and subsidising our School events/visits.

FOR FAST
ACTING
RELIEF TRY
SLOWING
DOWN.
(LILY TOMLIN)

YR 5/6 MARKET DAY

Thank you all so much for supporting our Cultural Market tsunami appeal. We are delighted and overwhelmed that Opaheke School raised \$1,174 as a contribution.

Five schools in Samoa had been totally destroyed with over 2000 children displaced. The money raised under the umbrella of 'Bluelight' will go to benefit

many young people. A representative from the Pukekohe police will come to Opaheke School to thank the children and staff personally. Many, many thanks from the Year 5 and 6 students and teachers.



ENROLMENTS 2010

If your child will be a New Entrant at this School next year and you are uncertain if you have pre enrolled them could you please phone the office to check. Also if your child will not be attending Opaheke next year (not including those moving on to Year 9) please inform your child's teacher or the school office. Thankyou.

GRANDPARENTS DAY
Friday 11th December.
Parents, please remind your parents about our School's special day. As this is a special day for our middle aged/senior citizens, we respectfully request that parents do not attend as we cannot cope space wise with any parents apart from those helping with morning tea.

Families are asked to supply a plate of food for morning tea.

For grandparents, parking will be available on the

School field, entrance off Short St. Grandchildren may go home with grandparents at the end of the concert, usually 12.30pm **providing parents write a note to the class teacher.**

In the past there have been a few times when parents are unaware that 'gran' has taken their grandchild out of school to 'shout' lunch.

CANTEEN BANDANAS (Cancer Research For Teenagers)

The recent sale of bandanas by the School Council raised \$438 towards Canteen's research on cancer that afflicts teenagers. Thank you to all who supported the School Councillors and cancer research.



LOST PROPERTY
We still have lost clothing in our bins at school. These are kept outside Room 10.

Parents please feel free to check these if your child has lost clothing items. **If** clothing is labelled we do attempt to return it to the 'owner'.

CAROLS IN THE PARK
This coming Friday evening at 7pm, our School choir will be taking part in the annual Christmas event of Carols In The Park at Papakura's Central Park. A special thank you to those pupils participating

and to Miss Bolstad and Mrs Molyneux who are training the choir. A final practice will take place on Friday from 11.00am until 1.30pm.



FACT OF THE DAY

HUMAN SKIN HAS ABOUT 100,000 BACTERIA PER SQUARE CENTIMETRE. 10% OF HUMAN DRY WEIGHT IS DUE TO BACTERIA!

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES
Congratulations to -
•Yr7/8s Counties North athletes selected for Counties Zone athletics: Natasha Tulp, Rebecca Mager, Sevia Luapene, Dahnia Smiley, Madison Lunny, Charlotte Pritchard, Jeremy Collins, Rory Barton, Mitchell Holmes, Ronnie Shaddick and Neil Smithson.

•Yr5/6 Counties North padder tennis tournament; Yr6 girls team 1st, Yr6 boys 2nd overall.

•To all of those Yr8 students who sat the Dux tests. Even though there can be only one winner and one runner up every one of the group were achievers.

•Maia Jean Watene Yr8 who

represented Counties at the Touch tournament at Brisbane last week.

STAFF SUCCESSES
Last Friday night two of our teachers received their full registration certificates. Our warmest congratulations to Miss Pulman and Mr Stainton who are now fully registered as teachers.

Community Notices

1. In Goodtime Horsepark -Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka
Ph 09 2919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz

COMING EVENTS

Fri 4 Dec	Junior classes Rainbow Day 7pm Carols In the Park at Papakura's Central Park
Mon 7 Dec	9.00am Yr8's attending Rosehill College 2010 orientation visit
Tues 8 Dec	Board of Trustees meeting
Wed 9 Dec	Interzone athletics field day 10.30am Junior school concert 7.00pm Senior school concert and special awards
Thurs 10 Dec	Open evening at Papakura High School for 2010 Year 9 students
Fri 11 Dec	a.m. Yr8 orientation visit to Rosehill College for those attending in 2010.
Mon 14 Dec	Year 8 graduation evening
Wed 16 Dec	Final day of school for 2009 students dismissed at 12.30pm. The Pong Road bus will also depart at 12.30pm.

Quiz: Fill in the blank

_____ is the thief of time

- A) Innocence B) Hesitation C) Illiteracy D) Procrastination

Best wishes

*Murray Wratt
Principal*

Answer to Quiz procrastination