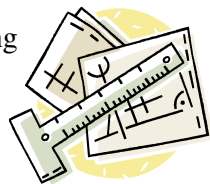


New Classroom Building: the plans are at present awaiting Council's signing off. The intention is that work will begin at the start of the Christmas holiday period. The new two storey block will be built on the 'footprint' of where Rooms 21 & 22 presently stand, therefore no additional ground space will be taken when the project is completely finished.



Travel Wise Tip: When waiting to cross the road, stand one or two steps behind the edge of the kerb and cross when it is clear both ways.

Quote: An optimist sees opportunity in every calamity, a pessimist sees a calamity in every opportunity.

Quiz: What did Noah use to see the animals at the bottom of his ark?

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: Flood Light.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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3 December 2008
Newsletter No 19/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Welcome to December; a very busy time in the year for the School, its students and staff. We have had our last New Entrant intake for 2008 and I extend a welcome to those families new to our School.

‘Boundary Fences’ For Students: As is often the case nearing the end of a School year, some pupils like to ‘test’ or ‘move’ and in some cases ‘run’ with limits set at school. In order for children to learn about who they are and their personal responsibilities, they require clear boundaries. As parents and as teachers, together we have a place to set boundaries. If those boundaries are clear, children will develop:

- A well defined sense of who they are.
- A sense of personal responsibility.
- The ability to make wise choices.
- The understanding that if they choose wisely, things will go well and if the choices are poor they face consequences.

Setting clear boundaries also teaches children to respect the ‘no’ of others and limits for acceptable behaviour.

Carols In The Park: One of our School choirs will be taking part in the carols programme this coming Friday evening at Bruce Pulman Park. We wish them an enjoyable evening of music and thank Miss Bolstad for her time in preparing the choir. The choir members are to be commended on their commitment.



Pool Keys: These are available to those families who have paid their school amenity. Keys will cost \$30.00 We have a limited number of keys available and these will be distributed on a 'first in basis' and will be available for sale from 24th November up to Friday 12th December. If you would like to apply for a key please call into the office.

Auction Night: The PTA wishes to thank those parents and staff who supported the recent Auction Night. Thanks also to the generosity of local sponsors and Papakura businesses.

Disco: Thursday 4th Dec there will be the end of year disco: 5.30 – 6.30pm New Entrant to Y4. 6.45 – 8.00pm Y5 to Y8. Entry \$2, Drinks \$2, Chips \$1, glow sticks available for sale. Parent helpers urgently required phone the office please if you can help for even a portion of the time.

PTA 'Thankyou' Evening: Monday 8th Dec the PTA and BOT are hosting a thank you evening, all parents and staff involved in any way with the school carnival, the Auction, calendars, veggie boxes, Grandparents day and any other activities such as the lunchroom and school crossing are invited to attend a very relaxed social evening to be held in the Staffroom at 7.30pm.

Coming Events: Over the next two weeks there are several major events in the final days for 2008. These are listed in chronological order for December

Friday 5 – Yr8's attending Rosehill College in 2009 orientation programme

Monday 8 – PTA thank you evening for parents at 7.30pm

Tuesday 9 – Interzone Athletics

Wednesday 10 – School Councillors will hold a final sausage sizzle to raise funds for Year 8 camp in February 2009

Thursday 11 – End of Year Concerts for parents 10.30am New Entrant - Y4 7.00pm Y5 – Y8 (this will include prize giving).

Friday 12 – Grandparents Day – parents please can a plate of 'goodies' for morning tea be brought to school this morning, as grandparents love their morning teas.

Monday 15 – 6.30pm Y8 graduations evening, a special occasion for our Y8 and their parents to celebrate.

Tuesday 16 – Y5/6 to Panmure Leisure Centre

Wednesday 17 – End of year school reports go home



Thursday 18 – Final school day for 2008 – last assembly and students dismissed at 12.30pm, Ponga Road bus will depart at earlier time.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students:
Counties Zone Athletics Sports Yr7/8 on 18 November at Massey Park - Rory Barton Y7 100m 2nd, 200m 2nd, Tayler Mager Y8 1500m 1st, 800m 2nd Destiny Grace Y8 High Jump 2nd, Natasha Tulp Y7 400m 2nd, Maia Jean Watene Y7 Long Jump 1st, 800m 2nd. *Bronze Badge Gymnastics* – Jenna Homewood Y7 1st for 11-13 years, Samantha Miller Y9 1st over 13 age group, Katie Maihi Y8, 2nd over 13 age group. Touch Team who won Counties Zone Tournament – Rory Barton, Jonathon Cato, Maia Jean Watene, Destiny Grace, Charlotte Pritchard, Analeea Williamson, Madison Lunny, Adeline Shaddick. This team contested the Interzone championship.

Dux Competition: Congratulations to the 16 Y8 students who sat the Dux competitions this year. Sadly, there can only be one winner and one runner up.

Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programme 2009: The Ministry of Health plan to begin offering vaccinations for all girls of 12 years of age and over next year. Our Board of Trustees has agreed to offer the School as a venue for parents to be provided with information about cervical cancer vaccination but the Board wishes to emphasise it is not forming an opinion either way. It is for parents to decide whether they permit the vaccination to go ahead for their child or not. Information meetings will be offered for parents at the school.

Counties Manukau Health Board: A meeting is to be held on Thursday 4th December from 1- 2pm at the Hawkins Theatre in Ray Small Drive regarding the child and adolescent Dental Services. Come and have your say on the plans to improve the free dental services in Papakura.

PTA Calendars: These were sent home last week for those students who ordered them.

Community Notices: SuperKids Papakura Trust, in conjunction with Harvest Christian Church are opening an After School Care Programme in 2009. Phone Mark on 2999394 for further details.