

Coming Events:

Today	Yr 4 classes at Auckland Museum
Thur 5 June	Yr 7/8 winter sports field day .
Fri 6 June	Speech Language therapist at School working with teacher referrals.
Mon 9 June	Papakura Music Festival choir practice a.m. 7.30pm PTA Auction sub-committee planning group meet.
Tue 10 June	Board of Trustees meeting
Wed 11 June	Counties Rugby Field Day for Yr 7/8 rugby players
Mon 16 June	7.30pm PTA meeting all parents welcome.
Thur 19 June	Class/Team photographs.

Be Aware: The School was informed late last week of a lady driving a green van who was attempting to 'pick up' children from local schools. Now would be a sensible time for all parents to affirm the 'Stranger Danger' rule to children.

Quiz: I know a word of letters three. Add two more and fewer there will be! What is the original word?

Quote: Always laugh when you can. It's cheap medicine' *Lord Byron*

Travel Wise: You can walk the talk by joining a Walking School Bus.

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: few.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 08/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we start the winter months.

State Funded Education versus Private Education: Private education may not pay off when students begin university as their peer group from state schools are slightly more likely to pass all of their first year papers a major new report states.

A significant report prepared for the Ministry of Education released this month compared 23,000 students' NCEA and university results to find out which factors assisted with success in tertiary education. The report also noted that roll size, decile level, whether a school is co-ed or single sex make little if any difference as to whether its students pass all of their first year university papers.

The report does only compare students who sat NCEA which means it did not take into account some top students from private schools who were more likely to sit Cambridge International Examinations or the International Baccalaureate exams. John Hattie professor of education at the University of Auckland points out that study skills and self discipline required for NCEA does help explain state school students' university success. Private schools, Hattie points out, are very good at getting students top marks in exams such as Cambridge, but one of the problems with the highly competitive exam system, is that universities are now looking for more than just top marks. Food for thought!

Education Review Office Report: Enclosed with this newsletter is a statement to parents on the Education Review Offices report following their visit to Opaheke School. The Board and staff were pleased with the confirmed report which was issued at the beginning of May. As always we realise that there is more to do and that our desire to be an excellent school is a journey not an end point. The feedback by the Review Office did confirm:

- That our school is a safe environment for our students.
- That students are happy, positive and engaged in learning.

- That there is a significant expertise on the teaching staff.
- That there is an increasing focus on extending teacher capability.
- That our School's Board of Trustees has worked hard to review the School's Strategic Plan, policy documents and some major property development.

The full report will be on ERO's website shortly.

Part Time Teacher: In the past newsletter one of the School's part time teacher's names was omitted. Mrs Katharine Brak is working two days per week in the junior school on classroom release time.

Amenity Payments: This School readily acknowledges the support provided by parents with the payment of the annual amenity. To say Thankyou to all of those parents, a lucky draw was held at assembly last week. The following children's names were matched up with a number provided by students: Amy Martin R1, Keegan Bloem R4, Amelie Laing R14, Jeremy Collins R23, Carol Muodza R24, and Samuel Earl R8 each won an admission to Snow Planet. Troy Pennington R14, Erin Pepper R23, Treena Bellamy R7, Daniel Turner R6, Hritika Ghaiee R4 and Katelyn Kershaw R15 all won a \$40 voucher from Cycle City. All prizes were donated.

Japanese Homestay Students: Following the earlier notice in the School newsletter, three of the schools' students are considering joining the group travelling to Japan during the April holidays next year. There may be spaces for up to two more. Further details can be obtained via the School office.



Incredible Science: The faculty of Science at the University of Auckland will be holding its annual 'Incredible Science' festival on Monday 7th July this year, the first Monday of the July holidays. Aimed at primary aged students, this free day long festival aims to promote the fun and variety of science. The day's events will include the popular Physics and Chemistry magic shows as well as new and interesting activities.

A new feature this year will be Sci Quiz open to teams of years 5/6 and Year 7/8 students. If there is sufficient interest, we will enter a team or two.

Saturday Morning Netball: Mrs Watene would like to thank all of the parents who completed a task at the Papakura Netball Courts on Saturday 24th May when our club was rostered for duty. However, because some parents did not complete their duties, the Opaheke Netball Club has incurred a fine of \$100. This is very disappointing! Parents, if you are rostered on for a duty, please fulfil your responsibility.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following student/ex students:

- ☺ Christian McClure-Chappell R19 Yr7. Christian competed in the Auckland Brass Bands Association solo Under 13 competition. He was placed 1st in the slow melody and 2nd in the variation music. Christian is being taught by Mr Ian Levien one of the School's part time tutors in brass band music.
- ☺ Kieran Read, an ex-pupil of Opaheke School who was a member of the winning Super 14 Crusaders team.

Field Days: Tomorrow most of our Yr7/8 students will be taking part in the Counties North winter sports field day to be held at Pulman Park/Army ground complex. Sports played will be netball, rugby soccer and tapuae. The Yr 5/6 students winter sports field day will be held on Wednesday 25th June, weather permitting.

Work by Speech Language Therapist: This coming Friday, Mrs Smith the School's Speech Language therapist will be working on referrals from class teachers. These are usually children where the class teacher requests more information about a speech problem, an information processing problem or some learning difficulty. The School values highly the work that Mrs Smith carries out on behalf of class teachers and she is always ready to discuss with parents on request, what she has diagnosed.

Mid Year Reports: Teachers are currently working on these. The mid year reports will be coming home on Thursday 3rd July. Our reports have been significantly modified over the last year. An Assessment Committee have revamped the School's reports to enable these to focus on achievement of students. I would like to acknowledge and thank the team of teachers led by Mrs Cantley who have successfully re-organised the report format.

School Banking: Don't forget, School banking is available every Thursday morning. Start the good habit now and help your child's future. Application forms available from the school office.

Class/Team Photos: These will be taken on Thursday 19th June. Pre pay envelopes were sent home last week. If you would like a copy of your child's photo please return the form and money to school before this date. If you did not receive an envelope these are available from the school office.

