

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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Web Site: www.opaheke.school.nz

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“The Opaheke Way”

NEWSLETTER NO 16/09

4 November 2009

Dear Parents,
greetings to all of
you as we near Guy
Fawkes.

SCHOOL GALA

What a successful
day! As well it was
a fun day and an
opportunity for the
School to host the
wider community.
Our organizers,
Jacqui Everett and
Paulette Taurima,
did a superb job in
ensuring that the
necessary details
were dealt to and
that the activities
were carefully laid
out. A special
thanks to the PTA
who were fully
involved, to our
Board members
who assisted and

to the staff who all
came along
to help run the
activities. Truly, an
enjoyable occasion.
A this stage we do
not have a final
tally but it is well
over \$10,000.
There are some
accounts to pay
and some income
still to be received.
Thank you to all of
our families, both
young and old for
your support and
especially to all
who gave up their
time to make the
gala such a
successful
occasion.
Congratulations to
the Courtney family
who won the giant
jar of jellybeans

with a correct
guess of 1,280
beans.

YR5/6

MARKET DAY

On Friday 20
November the Yr 5
and 6 Syndicate
will be holding a
'Market Day' to
celebrate the many
cultures within our
School. Food and
cultural items will
be on sale. All
these items will be
under \$5.00. We
would appreciate
your support, as
the money raised
will be given to the
people in Samoa
affected
by the
recent



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *School Pool*
- *Disco*
- *National Standards*
- *Helpers*

End of year
concerts

Please note there
has been a
change of dates
for parents
concerts. These
will now be held
on Wednesday
9th December.
Yr1-4, 10.30am
Yr 5-8, 7pm.
Grandparents
Day will be held
on December 11.
Year 8 Gradua-
tion evening will
still be held on
Monday 14
December from
6pm. Invitations
will follow
shortly.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SUNHATS

A reminder that the
School Board of
Trustees has a pol-
icy of compulsory
sunhats for chil-
dren in Terms 1 &
4. Our uniform hat
is a royal blue full
brimmed hat with
or without our
school Logo. This is

a *uniform item* and
variations of this
are not acceptable.
Some parents are
purchasing 'bucket'
style hats which are
not acceptable.
Hats are only avail-
able through the
school office. Plain
\$12 or Logo \$18.

TRUANCY

0800WAGGING

08009244464

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

NATIONAL STANDARDS

The proposed national standards were launched last month following a limited discussion time frame. From 2010, primary teachers will be required to track each child's achievement in reading, writing and mathematics and compare them against already set levels of achievement for their year level. These standards are supposed to feature in the reports that are sent home twice a year with some discussion about Plunket style charts. Considerable opposition to these standards has been expressed by principals because of the fact that teachers will narrow down the curriculum to 'teach towards the test'. Many of the other interesting aspects of the new curriculum that is due to become compulsory next year, will be put aside, because there is insufficient time in the school day. Examples of these could be The Arts,

Physical Education, Social Sciences and Languages. Interestingly, a report was released five weeks ago that analysed 5,000 submissions including 3,000 parents submissions on the national standards. Of the 3,000 parent responses, 38% outlined negative comments about the national standards while 14% made positive responses.

What's our take on this?

Our School's senior leaders attended an information session with Ministry of Education staff on the proposed standards. Based on what we heard, the consensus is that the national standards will provide a guideline of some use. Our reports that our senior staff have developed have a smaller margin of error than the standards do. In other words, our own internal assessments of each child's achievements are tighter than what will be implemented nationally. Therefore, do we relax our tight assessment levels to conform to the national standards, or do we maintain

them as they are? In some schools, especially where there is a large number of inexperienced teachers or where standards have been 'loose' there may well be merit but should all schools be 'shackled'? The answer to that question is one that parents need to reflect on and talk about with their local Member of Parliament. Our greatest concern is the use of the data by a Ministry of Education that does not generate a high level of trust among principals because they have been repeatedly shown to have a different agenda to that of schools and of parents.



ASPIRE SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2010 there will be 50 Aspire Scholarships available in each of Year 9, 10 and 11. The Scholarships will cover a students' fees of up to \$15,000 per year to enable them to attend a private school. Students in Year 8 this year will be eligible to apply for 2010 if their household income is less than \$65,000 and a net worth of less than \$150,000.

The Scholarships, which are funded by the government, may be of interest to a number of our families. For further information and an application form please contact the School office.



**CHILDREN
(AND TEENAGERS)
GO TO WHERE
THERE'S
EXCITEMENT,
THEY STAY
WHERE THERE
IS LOVE.**

HELPING AT SCHOOL

Getting involved at School is a great way to learn more about the School as well as helping children with their learning. Some areas where help would be appreciated include:

PMP programme for the Yr1/2's during the mornings. Lesley Ruyg is looking for some extra helpers.

Reading hearing individual children read. Children love having an adult to read to especially in their younger years.

Crossing Roster we do need to have parent supervision especially on the busy Opaheke Road when our Year 6/7's are on road patrol.

Board of Trustees think about standing for the Board of Trustees at the elections in April 2010. We are always interested in having Board members who will represent the interests of all of our students and staff.

PTA join the PTA. They undertake some great activities for both our students

and teachers, aiming to add the extras that make this School what it is. If you would like more information on any of these please contact the school office and we will put you in touch with the organisers of these projects.



SCHOOL POOL USE:

Parents may have noticed how our pool looks the best it has ever done. Soon we will be filling it up and making use of it. 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.



DISCO

Final Disco for the year will be held on Thursday 26th Nov.

NE-Yr4
5.30 -6.30pm
Yr5—Yr8
6.45-8.00pm

SAUSAGE SIZZLE:

The School Councillors wish to thank all who supported their recent sausage sizzle. A total of \$367 profit was made. The following causes were supported—Samoan tsunami appeal, Mercy Missions who have supplied food parcels for several of our School's families and the Yr8 Camp 2010.

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES:

Congratulations to -
University of New South Wales Mathematics:
Distinction 90-99%
Yr7 Ronnie Shaddick,
Joshua Lowe; Yr6 Chhavi Breja, Connor McCormick.

Credit 70-89%
Yr4 Angus Cameron, Caitlin Todd, Luke Walker.
Yr6 Vincent Diep, Samuel Earl, Navrajdeep Sandhu,

Pravin Tangavellu, Kieron Williams.

Yr7 Erin Pepper, Sevia Luapene.

Yr8 Chester Davies, Neihana Hamilton, Perrin Hasting.

YR1/2 CROSSCOUNTRY

Friday 13 November, parent assembly at 10am, run starts at 10.30am approximately. All parents invited.

Community Notices

1. In Goodtime Horsepark -Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka
Ph 09 2919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
2. Do you live in Opaheke? SOS Papakura Wai Care have adopted the Short Street and Greenhaven Reserves. If you want to help your neighbours look after the Reserves, please contact Darryl Nightingale on s.papakura.wai.care@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS

Tonight	School choir performs at Town Hall in Auckland
Tues 10 Nov	Papakura High School orientation day for 2010 Yr9 students
Fri 13 Nov	Junior School crosscountry following parents assembly
Mon 16 Nov	7.30pm PTA meeting all parents welcome in Staffroom
Tues 17 Nov	Board of Trustees meeting
Wed 18 Nov	Yr5/6 Counties North athletics sports at (probably) Massey Park
Thurs 19 Nov	Yr7/8 Counties North athletics sports at (probably) Massey Park
Fri 20 Nov	Market Day for Yr5/6 classes

Quiz: If you are lost in the desert and walk on, you will probably eventually come back to where you started. Why is this?

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz because most people have one stronger and more flexible leg, it means that they will walk more in that direction thus making a great circle.