

Coming Events

Thur 6 Sept	Tomorrow Counties North Yr5/6 cross country at Te Hihi School a.m. 7.00pm Papakura Schools Yr5/6 Speech Finals at Redhill School
Fri 7 Sept	Teacher Appreciation Day Closing date for out of zone enrolments for 2008 9.30am Papakura District Council Volunteer Awards
Tue 11 Sept	Papakura Schools Yr7/8 speech finals at Te Hihi School 8.30am Parent Support Meeting for Kapa Haka Group
Thur 13 Sept	Junior Art Expo in Hall
Fri 14 Sept	PTA Pizza Drive p.m. School Talent Quest final
Mon 17 Sept	7.30pm PTA in the staffroom. All parents welcome.
Tues 18 Sept	a.m. APPA choir rehearsal Science Fair – Hall open today and tomorrow evening for parents and other interested people to view the exhibits. BOT Meeting
Wed 19 Sept	Science Fair
Fri 21 Sept	Last day of Term Three. School finishes at 1 30pm. Ponga Road bus departs at the earlier time.

Travel Wise Tip: Children should always get into and out of the car on the side nearest the footpath.

Quote: 'If I accept sunshine and warmth in life, then I must also accept thunder and lightning' Kahil Gibran

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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

Tasman Drive
PAPAKURA
298 5410 Ph
298 0739 Fax

5 September 2007
Newsletter No 13/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Welcome to springtime. The School's daffodils are flowering, telling all that the season of growth and promise is with us.

Dads, Are You Stars In Your Children's Lives? It's easy to become a dad but much more difficult to be a good one. With last Sunday being Father's Day, it is important to think about the worth and the role of a good father. Today's children desperately need good fathers and letting fathers know how important they are in their children's lives is vital. Too many young males today, belong to a group I term the 'fatherless boys' – young men growing up without that positive, supportive firm male influence. Boys who grow up within a caring supportive family environment seldom get into strife at primary school and have a great opportunity to become positive adults making a worthwhile contribution to society. That goes for girls too!



Parent Questionnaire: The Board of Trustees response was enclosed with the previous newsletter and I would urge all parents to read it carefully. A considerable amount of time was spent by Board members reflecting on the 150 surveys that were returned. Thankyou to those parents who took the time to complete the form.

Kapa Haka: A number of parents indicated an interest in the School forming a kapa haka group. We have a trained kapa haka leader who is willing to prepare a group but some parent support will be required. It is intended to start in a small way with some interested students and if it goes well, build on from there, all on a voluntary basis. There will be a hui next Tuesday morning at 8.30am to discuss the possibilities and obtain the necessary parent support.

Daffodil Day: A total of \$768 was raised last Friday for the Daffodil Day appeal. School Councillors organised a coin trail while staff made a very generous

contribution. Several staff members' lives have been significantly affected by cancer in recent years.

Fun Run: A fun time was enjoyed by all participants. A big thankyou to all of our families who supported their child/ren with sponsorship. There is still some sponsorship to be paid over. Once this is completed the prizes can be given out. Sponsorship money is used to subsidise our School camps which offer Year 6 and Year 8 students challenges in outdoor education.



Out of Zone Enrolments: A final reminder that these close at the end of this week. The decision as to how many students from out of the area can be accepted is made by the Board of Trustees.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students.

- ☺ Destiny Grace, Katie Maihi, Adeline Shaddick and Maia Jean Watene in the Counties Zone Yr7 netball team which won the Auckland inter zone competition – a tremendous achievement.
- ☺ Leah Strongman Horn in the Counties Zone Yr8 netball team which was 3rd in the same competition.
- ☺ James Natrass 1st in Yr6 individual competition in gymnastics in Counties North Field day. Gabriel Tongaawhikau 2nd Yr 5 individual competition
- ☺ Helen Natrass 1st overall Yr8 individual competition. In the team events Yr 6 girls 2nd, Yr7 girls 1st, Yr8 girls 3rd overall.
- ☺ Counties Zone gymnastics competition at Pukekohe last Friday: Helen Natrass 1st overall in individual events. Adeline Shaddick and Analeea Williamson were team members of the Yr7 girls winning team. Alan Robinson was a member of the Yr7 boys team and Natarsha Smith was a member of the Yr8 girls team. Counties North 'scooped the pool' in the Zone competition and those team members will go on to the Auckland inter-zone championship.

Speech Competition: The annual Opaheke School Speech competition will have been held by the time you read this newsletter. A special thankyou to our judges, Mrs Helen Smith and Mrs Annette Moore who will select our winner at Yr 5/6 level and one at the Yr 7/8 level. Thankyou to our musicians and APPA choir members who will entertain the audience.

Papakura Volunteer Function Award: The School was pleased to nominate Mrs Heather Orton as its volunteer of the year. Heather has worked as a volunteer on the PTA helping collate lunch orders, gala and pizza drives for close on 15 years.

Heather will receive her award at the Council's function on Friday morning. Our thanks and congratulations.

Targa Rally: The Targa Rally will be coming to Papakura on Labour Day Monday 22nd October. Two more helpers are needed to assist the PTA as Marshalls/Stewards in Papakura. They already have a number of parent helpers and a significant donation is paid to the PTA for helping from 12 – 6.00pm. You also get to see the cars close up too! If you can help please phone Karen Morrow on 297 7692.

Travel Wise: A small sub committee of parents and staff have been regularly meeting with an Auckland Regional Transport planner to draft up some strategies aimed at making our local streets safer for our children. Next term, there will be some events planned to encourage families to be Travel Wise and encouraging children living in the nearby area to walk to school. A sincere thankyou to Lorraine Dean, Sue Costello and Karen Morrow the parent representatives on the committee, to Mrs Watene and before her Miss Banks, who represented the staff. Their commitment to child safety has been greatly valued.

Teacher Appreciation Day: This is an old Opaheke School tradition. The first Friday in September is Teacher Appreciation Day. Children are encouraged to do something or bring a small gift along for their teacher. A home made card is one example of a gesture that lets the class teacher know that they are appreciated. It's the thought/gesture that counts. Although a new car would be nice it's not necessary!!



Welcome Back to Mrs Cantley: One of the School's two Deputy Principals, Mrs Cantley has returned to duties following extended leave in the United Kingdom. No doubt Alana will have many interesting tales to share about her exploits.

Room 20 Parent Interviews: Miss Patel is beginning these today. If you have missed out on attending an interview so far, please phone the office for a time.

House of Travel: Book your next holiday through the Papakura office of House of Travel, mention Opaheke School and the School benefits by the Company support.

Out of Zone Enrolments: These close on Friday, remember if you have children who will be attending Opaheke School next year as new enrolments and you live outside our school zone you need to fill in an application form – available from our website or from the school office.