

ANZAC Day Poppy Sales: A total of \$143 was donated to the RSA Poppy Day appeal. Thankyou to parents for their support for this worthy cause.

Community Notices:

- In Goodtime HorsePark. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
- Papakura Swimming Club offers lessons and training at the heated Rosehill college pool and Massey Park Aquatic Centre indoor pool ph 2927446.

Coming Events

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mon 11 May | Board of Trustees meeting |
| Thur 14 May | 7.30pm PTA get together of interested parents to discuss possibility of a 2009 gala |
| Tue 19 May | PTA May meeting 7.30pm in staffroom |
| Wed 26 May - Fri 28 May | Papakura Youth Expo – 3 days |

Quiz: Read the following through once and count how many ‘F’s are in the sentence?

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.

Quote: ‘If you wait until you can do everything for everybody instead of something for somebody, you’ll end up not doing anything for anybody’ (Malcolm Bane)

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to quiz: **There are six F’s in the sentence.**

Finished Files are the result of F years of F scientiFic study combined with the experience of F years.

The average person finds three of them. If you spotted four, you’re above average. If you got five - pretty impressive! If you caught six, you are a genius!

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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6 May 2009
Newsletter No 06/09

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we begin what will be a busy second term. A total of 11 new pupils were enrolled on the first day.

New Staff Member: We are pleased to welcome Miss Melissa Brown who will be teaching a Year Two class in Room Ten. Miss Brown is looking forward to working with our delightful students. She has gained valuable teaching experience at Papatoetoe Central School and Mission Heights School in the Flatbush area.

Influenza Epidemic: Over the last 10 days New Zealanders have had to adjust to an epidemic of influenza-like illness suffered by travellers returning from overseas especially Mexico. A small number of these people have been diagnosed with a type of influenza AH1N1 or ‘swine flu’. Here at School we will take all sensible precautions and follow carefully, advice provided by the Ministry of Health. We do urge parents to keep sick children at home and away from other children. As mentioned last week other sensible precautions are:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Put used tissues into a rubbish bin
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth –germs spread that way
- Be careful to wash hands often with soap and dry them thoroughly – **hand hygiene is critical:** even when you start to feel better there is still a risk of infecting others, so keep to the 20/20 rule – 20 seconds washing and 20 seconds drying
- Keep surfaces clean at home, school and work



All classes have been issued with a container of hand gel for children and teachers to use in order to do our best to prevent the spread of germs. Tissues will also be

available in the classrooms. Websites for further information are - www.arphs.govt.nz/notifiable/downloads/HandHygiene.pdf or www.arphs.govt.nz/notifiable/downloads/Influenza.pdf

Parent Interviews: Well done to all of those parents who attended either a parent interview or a three way conference at the end of Term One. To date we have averaged 94% of all of our families who have participated in parent interviews and teachers would very much like to catch up with those who were unable to attend an interview. Times can be mutually agreed to between parents and teachers by either contacting the School office or writing a note to the teacher.

New Classroom Block: Work is progressing rapidly on the new two storey block of classrooms. The builders are a month ahead of schedule and we anticipate that ownership will return to the Board of Trustees early in June. Pupils in Mrs Fairweather's, Mrs Greenman's and Mrs Read's classes will move in once all is organised. We hope to be able to arrange an opening function to commemorate this special occasion.

Phone In Absence Record: As has been mentioned before, parents are expected to phone in to let staff know if children will be absent or late arriving at School. With 570 children at school, even a small number of children absent can mean a number of hours on the phone as office staff check on unexplained absences and ensure that pupils are safe.



Special Prizes: During a workshop evening for parents on 1 April a special draw occurred for all parents who answered the questionnaire about the New Zealand Curriculum. The lucky winners of the movie passes were the Bertram family and the Suman family.

School Amenity Lucky Draws: On the last assembly of Term One some lucky draws were made from all families who had either paid off or were paying off the School Amenity. Eight prizes were drawn for Snow Planet entry or entry to the Easter Show.

University of New South Wales Tests: Students from Years 4 to 8 have an opportunity to enter these external tests in Science, English or Mathematics. Generally being suited for more able students some entries are funded by the School while some can be paid for by interested parents. Notes about these have gone home.

Saturday Netball Competition: The Saturday morning netball competition is now well underway with the official opening taking place last Saturday. Congratulations to all of the coaches, team managers and umpires.

So Whats Up For Term Two? As is the case for the other terms this year our teachers' professional focus will be on Literacy through our involvement in the Papakura Achievement Initiative. Staff will be participating in all of the following:

- After school staff meetings
- Workshops held after school at either Opaheke or Papakura High School
- In class observations of model lessons
- Professional development courses during the School day
- Analysing pupils' test results

It is stimulating professional development although demanding but all of our pupils will benefit from our teachers' enhanced capabilities.

PTA News: The results of our survey last term show that there is sufficient interest by parents for another gala day as our main fundraiser. Come along to school on Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm to discuss all aspects of planning - for this event to go ahead we will need many helpers. We will again sell 'Veggie Boxes' in mid June and will need a co-ordinator for this - can you help - please phone Marilyn on 2995634. There will also be a disco this Term and in Term 4. We hope to run a movie night and our Calendars will be available for purchase in Term 4. With our continued fundraising we have been able to contribute to Numeracy Kits, Chess Sets and whiteboards and Marker for Junior pupils. The PTA appreciates your continued support.

Lunch Helpers: Can you help in our School Lunch Room and take some of the workload off our small band of dedicated helpers. Lunches are available to children on Tuesdays and Fridays (11 - 11.50am). You are only rostered on approx once per month depending on how many helpers we have. We need volunteers (especially on Fridays) as the lunchroom is run as a fundraising venture for the PTA and contributes to resources and equipment that the PTA fund. Please phone the office or send a note along if you can help out.

Indoor Games: With winter looming ahead, there is the prospect of wet lunch hours at School with students being confined indoors. If any families have indoor games that children have 'grown away from' we would be very pleased to accept them for pupils to enjoy during the wet day lunch hours.

