

Coming Events:

Thur 8 May	(tomorrow) School banking begins.
Mon 12 May	7pm School anniversary planning committee meets in staffroom.
Tues 13 May	Board of Trustees meeting.
Wed 14 May	Papakura Music Festival choir rehearsal in School hall a.m.
Fri 16 May	Disco
Mon 19 May	7.30pm PTA meeting in staffroom all parents welcome.
Wed 21 May	Coca Cola Netball Field Day
Thur 22 May	Young Leaders Day at Manukau 3.30pm Year 7/8 Counties North rugby trials at Pulman Park
Tues 3 June	Year 3 classes to Auckland Museum
Wed 4 June	Year 4 classes to Auckland Museum
Thur 5 June	Year 7/8 Counties North Schools winter sports field day.

Sun 11 May: A reminder for fathers; don't forget Mothers Day this coming Sunday.

Some brilliant answers given by Year 2 children to questions about mums.

What does your mum do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it she pays bills all day long.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I would like her to get rid of those invisible eyes in the back of her head.
3. Diet – you know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue!

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

7 May 2008
Newsletter No 06/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to life at school for Term Two. We hope that you all enjoyed the company of your children over the holiday time.

Parent Interviews: Thankyou to all of those parents who attended parent interviews at the end of last term. To date just over 92% of all parents have come to school for either parent interviews or in the case of the Yr 7/8 students, three way conferences. Teachers will endeavour to set up a time to meet with those parents unable to make the date last term. Parents, please let your child's class teacher know which time/day would suit you best and the teacher will endeavour to set up a mutually agreed time. We are aiming to meet with all of our parents for this important feedback time.

School Carnival: Once again, another huge Thankyou to the PTA for organising and setting up this fun occasion. The intention was always for the carnival to be for the 'kids' and it was a most enjoyable evening. It was great to see staff, Board members and parents all joining in with the PTA.

Staff Changes: At the end of last term we farewelled Mrs Sharon Orpin. This term, we welcome Miss Joanna Sharp who will be working two days per week with Mrs Cantley teaching Yr7 in Room Four. Mrs Debra Michaelides will also be working two days per week for the class release time component. Miss Sharp has worked at Opaheke last year in Term Three and is a very experienced teacher as is Mrs Michaelides who previously taught at Reremoana School in Wattle Downs.

School Amenity: Parents yet to pay the 2008 Amenity will receive a reminder notice this week. Although voluntary, our School relies heavily on this income to provide not only the 'cream on the cake' but also the cake's 'foundation mix'. If we wish our children to grow up taking every opportunity and advantage that Opaheke School can provide by way of lower pupil/teacher ratios, enrichment classes, music tuition and the other key resources, it is essential that all families pay

their part. We are delighted with the response so far this year and look forward to being able to do more and offer more options for our students. All amenities paid are tax deductible.

Holiday Work: Over the April holiday period the School Councillor's project has begun. A 'children's forest' will be established next to the dental clinic and a raised block retaining wall has been constructed on the downward side. This will also provide seating for parents for cross country, sports exchanges and carnivals/galas as well as retaining soil. We are very grateful to Ian Taylor for his expertise and energy in getting this job underway. The School has received a grant from the Auckland Regional Council's Environmental Initiative Fund to pay for the shrubs and small trees that will form the shrubbery and a walkway through the garden will eventually be developed.



Japanese Home Stay Exchange: The Ichihara-Papakura Association is willing to offer two places for Yr7/8 students to travel to Japan in the April 2009 holidays for ten days. The two students would be part of a group from Papakura and the approximate cost would be \$3,000 per student. Students do not have to be able to speak Japanese although it would be an advantage if the pupils had attended Mrs Watene's classes. The class would home stay with families in the Ichihara prefecture on the outskirts of Tokyo. For further details please contact the Principal.

Reading to Your Children: Parents do you still read to your children? Even those who have already learned to read with fluency? We hope so. A recent study by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research of three schools found that parents of 5 year olds and about half of the parents of 6 year olds read to their children most days. The study also found that reading to children falls away among parents of 8 year olds. An earlier piece of New Zealand research on reading at home found that when 7 and 8 year olds had books with new words read to them, their vocabulary improved markedly. The key findings included:

- Reading stories aloud to children helps improve their understanding of stories.
- Parents are crucial to children's reading success because their own interest or lack of interest is passed onto the child.
- Parents can open up a wide range of experience to their children through the development of key words and ideas.
- Parents reading more complex books to their children stimulate a child's intellectual growth.
- Talking about the meaning of new words can lead to children doubling their vocabulary when unknown words are explained to them.

- Parents, you are your child's first teacher and you are a vitally important part of your child's reading development.

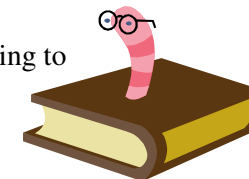
What's On This Term: As usual Term Two will be a busy nine weeks.

- ☺ Year 7s will be involved in the Dare programme with assistance from local police Youth Education Services personnel.
- ☺ Year 8s will be participating in the 'Rock and Water' programme, again with police assistance.
- ☺ Teachers will begin preparing mid year reports in June. These will be sent home in early July.
- ☺ Winter sport programmes will start especially for Year 5 – 8 students.
- ☺ Lots of reading, mathematics, writing!
- ☺ Kapa Haka will continue this term, first day next Friday.

Disco: There will be a disco for school pupils on Friday 16 May. Times –
5.30 – 6.45pm NE – Yr4
6.45 – 8.00pm Yr 5 – 8
Admission \$2.50 Chips and Drinks \$1 each

In Memoriam The School records with sadness of the death of Miss Banks' mother during the holidays. Sandra Banks was actively involved as Treasurer of our School's PTA and a supporter of Opaheke School during the early 1990s. Rest in peace Sandra and our condolences to Viki and her family.

Grandparents Wanted! Are there any local grandparents willing to hear children's reading some weekday mornings? Please let Mrs Fairweather, Mrs McFlinn or Mrs Williams know by sending a note to the office school or approaching them if you are ready willing and able to help.



Community Notices:

- Children's Forest – on Saturday 24 May Papakura District Council is planting trees to commemorate the birth of children born between June 2007 until now. Registrations by fax 2981906 or gstreet@papakura.govt.nz
- Children's dancing lessons available for children 5 – 12 years old – ballroom, Latin, rock and roll, in Opaheke School Hall phone Leo Wolters 299 6198.