

Coming Events

Thur 9 April:	Last day of Term One. School finishes at 1.30pm.
Mon 27 April	School starts from Term Two Science Road Show at School
Tue 28 April	Science Roadshow at School 7.30pm PTA meeting in staffroom All parents welcome.
Thus 30 April	Year 8 classes to Manurewa Botanic Gardens
Fri 1 May	Year 7 classes to Manurewa Botanic

Quiz: According to the U.S. Naval Observatory, the first populated land where the Sun will rise on a new day is at

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) Farewell Spit, New Zealand | b) Apia, Western Samoa |
| c) Scott Base, Antarctica | d) Chatham Islands, New Zealand |

Quote: 'Midlife is when you reach the top of the ladder and find that it was against the wrong wall' Joseph Campbell

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to quiz: (d) Kahuitara Point (44° 16' S 176° 9' W) on Pitt Island in the Chatham Islands, a dependency of New Zealand.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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Newsletter No 05/09

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we reach the end of a very busy first term as well as Easter. Tomorrow is the last day of Term One. Parents, please note, **school tomorrow will end at 1.30pm.**

Having a Say: We were delighted that over 100 of the School's families wanted to express their thoughts about future directions of our School's curriculum. Last Wednesday evening a number of parents came to School to work through all the responses and place them into broad headings. The details are enclosed in the insert to this newsletter. A special thanks to Mrs Marquet who has collated the responses and led the evening workshop.



Our next stage will be to put all of the summarised ideas into a graphic form for our parent community to consider.

Homework Survey: This was of interest to the School's leadership team. The results were:
✂ Supporting the idea of the School investigating other forms of homework credits – 45.
✂ Supporting continuing the existing format of homework – 31
Some research will be carried out on this and there will be further information in 'The Opaheke Way' next term.

Staff Changes: Miss Amesha Patel has been granted leave by the Board of Trustees to teach in England, gaining additional professional experience over the remainder of 2009. We wish her well. She will be replaced by Miss Melissa Brown who is currently teaching at Mission Heights School. We welcome Miss Brown to Opaheke School.

Being On Time: Just as workplaces value promptness, so does our School value being on time for each school day. We are becoming concerned at the number of children arriving late for school. Perhaps it is a reflection on the longer period of daylight saving this year or perhaps it highlights a problem of personal organisation. Whatever the reason, it does mean that late students are missing out on valuable learning time. Parents' attention to resolving this problem would be appreciated.

School Readers: During the school holiday please have a good look in your home for any Opaheke School readers. An amnesty will be in place for Week One of next term. Recently a parent brought in over 25 readers that her children had taken home from school and not returned.



Burglary: Last week two males came into the School grounds and departed – taking a teacher's laptop computer and an expensive 'Billabong bag' belonging to a student. The School has passed over video footage of the two men to the police and we are hopeful that they will be apprehended.

The parallel issue to this action by two 'low lifes' is that it has made all of our staff think about the safety of students while at School. Any adults seen in the school grounds can expect to be approached by a staff member. The School does take its responsibilities seriously in ensuring that both students and staff are as safe as possible during the school day. We reiterate that visitors to the School must report to the School office first and that children must be signed out when collected during the school day by a responsible adult.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students.

- Darby Fullerton and Chester Davies who have been selected as the School's Head Councillors for 2009.
- All of the School councillors who organised a very successful sausage sizzle last Thursday with proceeds from the sale of sausages and ice blocks going to assist our Saturday morning netball teams. A total of \$580 was raised.
- The families of Hannah Bertram and Simrat Suman who were the lucky winners of the two prizes for the New Zealand Curriculum questionnaire responses. Each will receive a family pass to a movie.

New Building: Parents visiting the School will be impressed with the speed with which the new classroom block is being constructed. Currently the project is about 3 weeks ahead of schedule and already, the roof is on and windows are being fitted into place. As much as is possible the board is ensuring that the classrooms will be 'future proofed' and cater for different learning styles.

After School Care: It is hoped that those parents who depend on after school care for their children will have given thought about the best arrangements for them as from the start of Term Two. After school care will no longer operate from the Opaheke School Hall. It is important that parents consider the options available and make an informed choice from those available providers.

Free Entry: The School has been asked by MOTAT to inform parents that free entry is provided for Papakura families from Saturday 4 April until Monday 13 April. Simply take the coupon from the local Papakura Courier or proof of residence such as a rates demand and free entry to MOTAT will be offered.

Parent Interviews: By the time parents receive this newsletter, parent interviews will be well started. Should anybody, for a reason not be able to make the interview day/time, teachers would welcome making an alternative time that suits both parties. We are very keen to set up a time for parents and teachers to meet. Our Year 7/8 students will be participating in a three way conference to discuss their learning priorities.



Speeding on Short Street. The School urges all parents to practise safe careful driving on Short Street – and every street for that matter. We do not want to put any of our students – large or small – at risk because of unsafe driving practices.

School Dental Clinics: The Rosehill Intermediate School Dental Clinic is open during the School Holidays. Contact 2999770. Should parents need to contact the dental clinic next term please phone 0800 4 336825.

Community Notices:

- Superkids After School OSCAR Programme is now open for 5-13 year olds. Pick up from all schools in Papakura (including Opaheke at 2.30pm). Daily activities include homework supervision, games, afternoon tea and fun filled activities. OSCAR Subsidies available. Phone 299 9394.
- In Goodtime HorsePark holiday programme 20 – 24 April. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
- Norris Studios presents Showcase 2009. Hawkins Theatre Wed 1st April – Sat 4th April 7.30pm, Sat 4th matinee 1.30pm. Adults \$18, Seniors/Children/Students \$12 Ph 2665357 to book, door sales available.
- Stardome April School Holiday Sessions: Times 10.00am – 11.30am and 1.00pm – 2.30pm. 14 – 17 April and 20 – 24 April. Booking essential ph 624 1246. Children \$10, Adults \$7.