

Coming Events:

Fri 11 April	School Carnival 4pm – 7pm
Wed 16 April	Parent Interviews – school finishes at 12.45 for pupils, Ponga Road Bus departs at earlier time.
Fri 18 April	Last day Term One, school finishes at 1.30pm, Ponga Road Bus departs at earlier time.
Mon 5 May	School opens for Term Two
Mon 12 May	7.00pm School reunion committee meets
Tues 13 May	7.30pm Board of Trustees
Wed 14 May	Choir Festival rehearsal in School hall a.m.

Travel Wise Quote: ‘Tired of being tired, get fit volunteer for a walking school bus’

Quiz: What is our School Mission Statement? Clue, if you don’t know it you’re your child. It’s displayed above the front office counter at School.

Quote: A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life, when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit
D Elton Trueblood

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: Sharing, Caring Learning and Achieving!

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 05/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of our families as we approach the end of Term One.

School Carnival: This Friday 11th April from 4pm until 7pm will be a fun event for our children to enjoy. The PTA assisted by staff, and parent helpers intend this to be a ‘kids carnival’. Included will be an outdoor disco from 4 – 6pm. Please send ‘sand saucer’ and ‘pet rock’ entries to school on Friday for judging. Parent support by sending along a cake or slices on the plates provided last week will be appreciated.

Year Eight Camp: Last Wednesday our Year 8 students arrived back from a 4 day outdoor education camp at Hunua. Personal challenges were set and many were successfully achieved. A special Thankyou to those super parents who took an active role in making the camp successful, to the teachers Mrs Stride, Miss Banks and Mrs Gore and to the 70 students who were outstanding.

Being Safety Conscious: As a driver, do you ensure that you are extra careful at school pedestrian crossings? It would be good if the answer was always yes. Sadly, too many of our parents are not being careful enough at the Opaheke Road School crossing especially in the mornings. During Walk to school Week there were a number of drivers who failed to stop at the crossing to allow our children to safely cross Opaheke Road. Road rules dictate that drivers must stop if someone is waiting to cross a pedestrian crossing. If we, as drivers, fail to stop when we are required to, it will only be a question of time before an accident occurs there. Our children’s lives are worth more than the 15 seconds saved by not stopping at the pedestrian crossing. Safety first, second and third!

School Banking: In the previous newsletter, there was an insert about School banking. This will start on the first Thursday of next term (8 May). Senior students will be trained to operate as School Banking Representatives and they will be supervised by National Bank staff. A number of parents have also volunteered to

help with the banking process. Saving money for a goal is a sound idea and starting the saving habit at primary school is the best time.

Parental Consultation: Last evening parents of Yr7/8 students came to School to learn more about the Dare and Rock and Water programmes. Any parent who missed this opportunity and would like to know more please contact your child's class teacher.

Staff Changes: At the end of this term we will be farewelling Mrs Orpin who leaves to take up a position as children's librarian at the Manukau City Library. Mrs Orpin has been with us for over 4 years and we wish Sharon all the very best as she follows her dream of becoming a children's librarian. Next term Miss Joanna Sharp will be working with Mrs Cantley in Yr7 Room 4 in a shared teaching role. Miss Sharp is an experienced capable classroom practitioner who has taught at Opaheke School on two previous occasions, the most recent being in Term three of last year.

Parent Interviews: Next Wednesday 16th April school for students will finish at 12.45pm to enable parent interviews to take place. By now all parents should have filled in a form indicating what time would suit them to attend interviews. It is an expectation at this School that all parents will meet their responsibilities of coming to School for an interview with their child's teacher. Year 7 and 8 students also have the opportunity to be fully involved in a three way conference and are encouraged to attend. After all, if we want them to be active participants in their own learning it makes good sense for students to take a leading role. If the Wednesday does not suit you, please name an alternative and teachers will do their best to schedule a time on another afternoon.



Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students:

- ☺ Walk to school week two top classes were Room 7 - 1st and Room 19 - 2nd, for percentages of students who walked to school out of the total class roll.
- ☺ Charlotte Pritchard Yr 7 in the Interzone swimming sports held at Mt Roskill. Charlotte represented Counties Zone schools and was placed: 1st in the medley relay and free style relay team events, 5th in the 50m fly and 6th in the 50m backstroke.
- ☺ James Nattrass placed 2nd in 11 year old boys at BMX Nationals in Christchurch.
- ☺ Yr7/8 summer sports field day in cricket, Opaheke A team were 2nd, Opaheke B team was 3rd. In Group B Opaheke D team was 2nd.

Parent Helpers: Crossing Roster, parents required. Can you help out? 7.50 until 8.25 mornings and 2.25pm to 2.45pm afternoons. Please call Colleen on 299 6063 or the School office.

School Anniversary: Do we have any families with a grandparent who attended Opaheke School and who have a grandchild currently attending the School? If so please let the School office know. The reunion committee is seeking to add some special 'touches' to the occasion on November 22nd.

Anzac Day: We have a guest speaker from the RSA who will be talking to the children at our assembly next week and as we traditionally do, poppies will be available on Wednesday 16th for children for a donation of 20 cents or more.



Last Day Term One: this will be Friday 18th April. School will finish at 1.30pm on that day and the Ponga Road bus will depart at the earlier time.

Opaheke School Dental Clinic: Open during the school holidays. Any parents wishing to bring their child/children, including pre schoolers for dental examinations please phone 299 9770 and appointments can be arranged.

Community Notices:

- Have fun at Snowplanet these April school holidays – Snowplanet, offering a winter wonderland experience just 20 minutes north of the Bridge, is proud to support our school and offers great deals for families and kids during the April school holidays. The popular 5-day kids school holiday programme comes with one lesson a day including rental equipment and a kids meal voucher and is a great way to learn new snowsport skills in a fun and active environment. To book in your child, call Snowplanet on 094270044 and the first 100 bookings even get a FREE family pass, valued at \$129! Families also get a BONUS hour for FREE when having fun in the snow with the \$99 family pass (2 adults and up to 2 kids), only these April school holidays. Visit Snowplanet's website www.snowplanet.co.nz for more.
- Three bedroom house needed to rent in Opaheke area will pay \$300 - \$320 a week ph Vivian 2991518 or 0210356230.
- Huge Monster Garage Sale – Ponga Road tennis courts (approx 8kms from Opaheke shops on right hand side) April 19th 9am onwards. Lots of stalls. Cancelled if raining.