

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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298 5410 Ph

## “The Opaheke Way”

NEWSLETTER NO 03/10

10 March 2010

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you as autumn arrives. Already we are over half way through Term One.

### PARENT INTERVIEWS

Three weeks from today on Wednesday 31st March school for students will finish at 1.00 to enable Parent Interviews to take place. Enclosed is a form for parents to complete, indicating a preferred time to attend interviews. It is an expectation at this School that all parents will meet their responsibilities of coming to School

to participate in an interview with their child's teacher. Year 7 and 8 and for the first time, Year 5 and 6 students as well, will have the opportunity to take part in a three way conference and are encouraged to also attend. With student led interviews, it is an occasion when the Individual student who is the focus of the meeting, can take an active part in discussing their own learning. If the day/time does not suit, please name an alternative date and time, teachers will do their best to

re schedule. **Evening appointments are only available on Wednesday 31st March.**



END OF TERM  
**Term One will finish on Thursday 1st April at 1.30pm.** Term Two will begin on Monday 19 April and finish on Friday 2 July.

### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

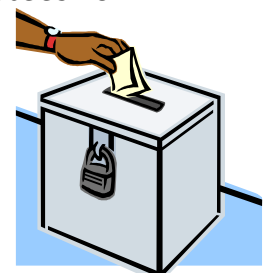
- *Parent Interviews*
- *School Rules*
- *Board of Trustees Elections*

### **NO MORE MILK BOTTLES**

From the PTA, thank you to all of our families who sent along those thousands of empty milk cartons. They went into bales to become crash barriers at Pukekohe but the demand has been met. No more milk bottles please.

**Board of Trustees Elections:** Nominations for parent representatives on the Board open as from next Monday 15th March and close on Wednesday 21st April after the holidays. Voting for all parents will take place in early May and the new Board will be declared on the 14th May. If more than 5 nominations are received, a postal election will be held for all parents/caregivers to vote for up to 5 parent representatives. If we do have an election, there will be an evening for candidates to outline their views and to answer questions before voting takes place. Prospective trustees for Opaheke School are welcome to attend our next School BOT meeting on Tuesday 23 March.

Next Wednesday evening 17th March, the Papakura Takanini combined schools Boards of Trustees are holding an evening at Papakura Normal School from 7-9pm for prospective trustees to find out more about the work that school boards do.



### SCHOOL RULES

Do we still have them? Yes we do have five rules. They are phrased in positive language, but they are rules that all of our pupils are required to abide by and there is a clear expectation by staff that these will be adhered to. The rules are:

- ✓ Show respect and care for others.
- ✓ Show respect and care for all property and equipment.
- ✓ Keep yourself and others safe.
- ✓ Attendance-come to school every school day.
- ✓ Know the right things to bring and the right things to wear.

Within each rule there are guidelines that reinforce the rule and one rule is being explained at each week's whole school assembly.

### TRAVEL WISE SCHOOL

Opaheke School is one of a number of schools around the country that encourages its students to travel safely to and from school by participating in the Travel Wise Programme. Last week was designated as Travel Wise Week and there were a number of activities planned to acknowledge and reward pupils who travelled safely to/from school especially if they walked.

### SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

At Monday's school assembly, the student School leaders were announced. These were pupils who were voted on by the Year 5-8 students.

Congratulations to: Year 8's; Gabriella Boyce, Jeremy Collins, Ben Greive, Carol Muodza, Bruce Rosemergy, Ashleigh-Jade Wairoa. Year 7's; Caitlin Pritchard, Callum Robinson. From the Year 8's, two will be selected to be the Head Councillors for 2010.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- ◆ Charlie Hastings Yr6 selected for the Counties Manukau Yr6 cricket.
- ◆ Caitlin Pritchard placed 2nd in open 50m Butterfly at Counties Zone Swimming Sports last week. Caitlin was also selected to attend a National Talent Centre Camp in soccer in January.
- ◆ Our team of year 7/8 swimmers who were 2nd overall in the Counties North swimming sports.

Mrs Peagram is our staff representative for promoting safe sustainable travelling and she works with the Auckland Regional Transport Authority and Papakura District Council personnel to help keep all of us focused on this goal. Some activities include:

- Acknowledging and rewarding students who walk to and from school. Even if a family may live outside of the Opaheke area and need to use the

### PHONE IN ABSENCE RECORDS

As mentioned in the last newsletter our School provides an answer phone service for parents to let the School know if their child is absent from school. This can be done at any time of the day or night. All class teachers are required to keep a legal record of each child's attendance. A comment on attendance and punctuality is included in each half year written report. Parents' co-operation in this matter is appreciated and expected. Ph 298 5410.

### **Fun Fact**

The dot over the letters i and j is called a "tittle"!

car perhaps the children could be let off on Opaheke road to enable them to walk the last 300m.

- Promoting road safety at whole school assemblies.
- Drawing up a map of the wider Papakura district to show general areas where our student population lives. This information forms background material for road engineering and upgrade of feeder roads.

### PTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Come along next Monday evening 15 March at 7.30pm in the staffroom and find out what the PTA have been able to achieve over the past year and help them form their goals for 2010. It's a chance to meet other parents and to have some input into the future direction of this school. All parents are welcome to

attend the PTA meetings and these are held on the third Monday evening of each month. The PTA is a great way to meet other parents, find out what is happening in our school and share the load with our small band of dedicated helpers.

### OPAHEKE SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC

The Opaheke School Dental Clinic will be open during the school holidays. Parents needing appointments, contact the clinic on 299 9770.



### KIDS CARNIVAL

Friday 26th March from 4-7pm. The PTA are again planning to hold this evening especially for our children. It's a fun evening for them but it will require lots of adults to help with the various activities. Please look out for notices over the next few weeks to find out how you can help make this a great evening for our families.

### VISIT BY CELIA LASHLIE

A reminder that an evening featuring guest speaker Celia Lashlie, a leading expert on parenting boys and raising positive, well balanced boys will be held on the evening of Wednesday 28 April, from 7pm to 9pm. There is no charge for this session as it is being funded by the Papakura Achievement Initiative. Venue will be advised later.

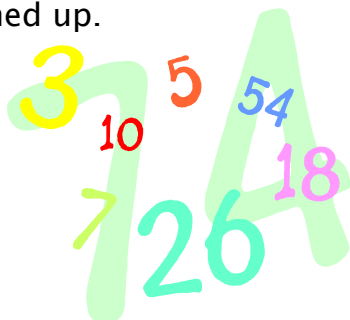
### CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBERS

Thank you to all parents who returned the Emergency Details sheets that were sent home last week. It was good to update our records but also concerning to see the number of changes that had to be made to many student details. If you do change address or phone numbers (especially Mobiles/work numbers) after enrolling your child at Opaheke School could you please advise the office of this. It is imperative that we have up to date information if we do need to contact parents in an emergency. A note or phone call to do this is great thank you.



### MATHLETICS

Mrs Laing reports that there has been an excellent response to Opportunities for pupils to access this on line Mathematics programme at a school discount rate of \$30. A total of 92 pupils have signed up.



### QUOTE

Old people really are worth a fortune. They have silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, crystals in their joints, stones in their kidneys, pearls of wisdom, lead in their shoes, velvet voices and gems of wisdom in their conversations'

*Author Unknown.*

## Community Notices

1. Family Fun Day at Bruce Pulman Park on Sunday 14th March from 2pm—5.30pm—face painting, games + activities for the kids and a free BBQ.
2. Alfriston Hockey Club—senior and secondary school womens teams, mixed junior teams all skill levels ph 298 0538 [alfristonhockey@hotmail.com](mailto:alfristonhockey@hotmail.com)

### COMING EVENTS

Thur 11 March	Yr 7s to water safety activities at Massey Park Pools 6.30pm Interschool swimming relays at Massey Park Pools
Fri 12 March	Blue Light police challenge competition at Franklin Recreation Centre 4 Yr 7 and 4 yr 8 pupils
Mon 15 March	7.30pm PTA Annual General Meeting in the staffroom
Wed 17 March	Nominations open for Board parent representatives
Tues 23 March	7.30pm Board of Trustees meeting
Wed 24 March	Yr5/6 Counties North Summer Sports Field Day
Thur 25 March	Yr7/8 Counties North Summer Sports Field Day
Fri 26 March	Kids Carnival Evening 4-7pm

Quiz: What is black when you buy it, red when you use it and grey when you throw it away? (answer below)

*Best wishes*

*Murray Wratt*  
*Principal*