

### Coming Events

Wed 11 – Fri 13 Feb Yr 8 at Camp Adair Hunua  
Mon 16 Feb 7.30pm PTA in the staffroom all parents welcome  
Tues 17 Feb 6.30pm Yr8 Parent information session on HPV  
vaccine for Yr8 girls  
7.30pm Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wed 18 Feb Bible in School starts for Yr 4 – 6 students  
Thur 19 Feb 7.00pm Meet the Teacher evening  
Wed 25 Feb Counties North Yr7/8 swimming sports

**Travel Wise Tip:** Children under 5 must be properly restrained in an approved child restraint. Small children wearing an adult seat belt are not safe.

**Quote:** Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

*Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving*

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11 February 1009  
Newsletter No 01/09

## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,  
Welcome back to School for 2009. Greetings to all of our ‘new’ families and welcome back to our ‘old hands’. May your connection with the School be both beneficial and enjoyable.

**Web Site:** All School newsletters and the events calendar can be read on the School’s website in case your family hard copy goes missing.

**First Day Back:** As is normal it was a day of some nervousness coupled with excitement for both students and teachers. It was great to see so many parents at School for the first morning and this indicates an interest in who will be the child’s teacher as well as an opportunity to ‘catch up’ with other parents. This year to date we have enrolled 44 new pupils.



**Staffing and Classes:** A huge thankyou to the class teachers who have been working at School over the last fortnight preparing for the year. The dedication of the staff is one of the most significant factors in this School’s success. This year we are pleased to welcome two new teachers to the School.

- Mrs Kim Paewai teaching Year 8. Mrs Paewai is an experienced teacher who comes to Opaheke from Wakowhai Intermediate School where she worked with Year 7/8 students.
- Miss Cindy Powell teaching Year 5. Miss Powell worked with Mrs Laing and Miss Steward over a significant part of 2008 and is familiar with our School’s routines and expectations.
- Welcome back to Mrs Laing from maternity leave.

**Notice Any Changes at School?** Yes there are changes.

- The new two storey classroom block is now being constructed. Planned to take no more of a 'footprint' than the present Rooms 21 & 22, this new complex will be 'future proofed' as much as we can foresee. Four small withdrawal rooms will also be included. When completed, the present double classroom block will be advertised for tender. We are hopeful that later in Term Two we will be able to move in to the new block.
- Landscape gardening at the entrance to the School and up the main drive has been completed by David Todd. This project will enhance the School's entrance area and already, many positive comments have been made by parents. *We would ask that parents with pre schoolers stop their children from running over the new gardens at the Tasman Street entrance.*

**Swimming Pool Use:** A reminder to all families with a pool key that the keys should be returned as the lock to the pool complex has been changed. On behalf of those families who used the amenity over the holidays, a sincere thankyou to the parents who cared for the pool over the holiday period ensuring that the water quality was up to standard. Our School pool is proving to be a fine asset for our families and once again was well patronised over the Christmas holiday period.

**Year Eight Camp:** Our group of Year 8 students are currently attending an outdoor education camp for 4 days at Hunua. The School wishes to thank the Eric Watson Trust for a very generous donation to assist with the camp fees.

**School Amenity/Classroom Materials Fees:** These are now due and notices will be sent home. I'm sure you will realise that your children benefit greatly at this School because this money helps fund extra programmes such as the Overseas Language Programmes and is used to help lower our teacher pupil ratio in the junior classes with additional staffing. The Amenity also supplements our library book buying, sports equipment and IT software budgets.

Although this is a voluntary donation if families do not pay or attempt to pay this the burden falls unfairly on those parents who do contribute. A reminder that Year 7/8 students also have Technology fees of \$100. This money for Technology funds the bus transport during the winter months and technology materials fees from Mansell Senior School.

**Netball Co-ordinator:** We are advertising for a parent who would be willing to co-ordinate the School's netball teams for this season. This would most likely be a parent who has a daughter playing Saturday morning netball. Last year the School entered 10 teams and there will probably be about the same number this year. Some

financial reimbursement would be available for this person. There will be a teacher who will liaise with the co-ordinator and assist with setting up the initial teams from the School. As well, managers, coaches and umpires will be required for each team as there will be plenty of opportunities for every parent wishing to involve their daughters in our School teams.

**Meet the Teacher Evening:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. This is your opportunity to come to School during this evening to meet with your children's teachers and talk about matters such as routines, homework, options and class expectations.  
7.00pm meet NE – Yr 4 teachers in Rms 13,15,16,17,9,10,11,12,20,21,22,23,24.  
7.30pm Meeting for all parents in Senior Quads.  
7.45pm meet Yr5 to Yr8 teachers in Rooms 1 to 8 and 19.  
Parent interviews will be held during the last week of Term One.

**Parents Car Parking:** The School requests that parents do not park cars in the bus bay. It is far preferable for parents to pay the School amenity rather than a parking fine to the Papakura District Council.



**Grandparents Day Library Books:** On Grandparents Day 118 new books were purchased for our School Library; an outstanding effort by all who were involved.

**PTA School Carnival:** This will be held on Friday 20 March after school and during the evening. The PTA is asking for parents to help with this fun occasion for the children. Please phone Marilyn on 2995634 if you can help with pre organisation or during the late afternoon/evening session.

**Childrens Desks and Chairs:** We have a number of these that are surplus to our requirements and are available for families to have at home. A coin donation is appreciated.

**Community Notices:**

- Thursday 12/Friday 13 trials will be held for Drury 11th Grade soccer. This will commence at 4.15pm until 5.30pm (approx)  
Held at Drury United football grounds - Drury. Ph Katherine 0275 946429
- Papakura Music School is taking enrolments on Feb 14 from 9am - 12 at Mansell Senior School, Settlement Road. The School provides low cost music tuition and instrument hire for students in Yrs1-8.
- SuperKids After School OSCAR Programme is open for 5-13 year olds. Pick up from all schools in Papakura. Homework supervision, games, afternoon tea. OSCAR Subsidies available. Phone 299 9394.