

### **Coming Events:**

Thur 13 March tomorrow, sausage sizzle, sausages \$1 each.  
Mon 17 March 7.30pm PTA Annual General Meeting in Arts Room all parents welcome.  
Tue 18 March 10.30pm Junior School Swimming carnival at School.  
Educational Play Day for playgroups at Elizabeth Campbell Centre 10 – 12pm.  
Cycle Carnival at Massey Park 3.30 – 7.00pm Yrs 1 – 8.  
Wed 19 March Summer Sports field day for Yr5/6 at Pulman Park.  
Fri 21 March Good Friday school closed.  
Mon 24 March Easter Monday school closed.  
Tues 25 March School Holiday.  
Thur 27 March Summer Sports Field Day for Yr7/8 at Pulman Park.  
Sun 30 March Yr8 students to Camp Adair Hunua.  
Wed 2 April Yr8 students return from Hunua.

**Travel Wise Quote:** Want a body like Brad Pitt or Nicole Kidman? Help run a Walking School bus!

**Quiz:** If you call a group of lions a pride what do you call a group of leopards?

**Quote:** The chief purpose of the body is to carry the brain around' *Thomas Edison*

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: a leap or (leap) of leopards

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you. Already we are halfway through Term One and School is a very busy place.

**Walk to School Week:** Thankyou to everybody who supported ‘Walk To School Week’ by either encouraging children to walk to school or who personally walked with their children. On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 61% of our students walked to school, by Wednesday 81% were walking and by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 78% walked to and from school.



We were grateful that the Mayor of Papakura District Council Callum Penrose and Deputy Mayor Peter Goldsmith joined our Walking School Bus at Boundary Road on the Wednesday to help promote Safe Walking. As well, a special thanks to Mr and Mrs Costello who arranged for the milk drinks on the Wednesday morning.

As an extra chapter in the Travel Wise campaign, Council has notified the School that a kea crossing will be installed on Short Street, concluding a lengthy campaign by parents to make that road a safer crossing place for the children.

**School Amenity:** Thankyou to everybody who has paid their School Amenity to date. If you have yet to pay this amount, we are ready to receive it. The School amenity is tax deductible and two prizes donated to the School will be drawn at assembly this month for two families who have paid their amenity.

**Year Eight Camp:** Our Year Eights are busy preparing for their annual outdoor education camp at Hunua at the end of March for 4 days with Mrs Gore, Miss Banks, Mrs Clement (for part of the time) and some hardy parents. This school wishes to record its gratitude to those parents who put aside their work commitments or who take annual leave in order to enable the camp to go ahead. A

special thanks to the teachers who work hard to provide a wonderful opportunity for those senior students to enjoy a unique experience.

**School Rules:** Yes, this School does have rules – five of them. They are phrased in positive language as ‘Dos’ rather than ‘Don’ts’ but they are rules that all of our pupils are required to abide by and there is a clear expectation of 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 other 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 meaning and one rule is currently being explained at each week’s ‘whole school assembly’.

**Curriculum Development:** This year teachers will be developing School curriculum plans in the following areas:

- ✓ Review of the Physical Education/Health curriculum. There have been some significant government initiatives in the area of healthy foods and physical fitness that teachers need to include in class programmes.
- ✓ Continuing with the Numeracy programme. Further work is required in order to consolidate the changes phased in to programmes over the last three years.
- ✓ Student Management software system. There is still a significant amount of work to do in order to have this operating smoothly.
- ✓ Review of the mid year reports to bring a focus on achievement. Parents will recall that the end of year reports were significantly refined and the same scrutiny will be carried out for the reports that come home in the mid year.

**PTA News:** Next Monday evening 17 March at 7.30pm will be the PTA Annual General Meeting in the Arts Room. All parents welcome. Dessert and tea/coffee will be served after the meeting.

**Yummy Stickers:** Years 5/6 with Mrs Owen are again organising the collection of Yummy stickers off apples to be exchanged for sports equipment. When the collection is over the stickers are counted and ‘swapped’ for new sports gear for all at School to use. In 2007 the School gained approximately \$1,020.00 worth of sports equipment by collecting Yummy stickers.



**Sausage Sizzle:** Tomorrow, our School Councillors are holding a sausage sizzle. All money raised will go towards the Saturday morning netball teams’ costs. Any adult help from 10.30am until lunchtime would be welcomed.

**Celebrating Successes:** Congratulations to the following students:

- ☺ Kelsey Ross, Katryna Wenzlick, Micah Visser and Adam Wainwright selected as the School’s bus monitors for 2008.
- ☺ Darby Fullerton and Melanie John selected to represent Counties North in tennis at Counties Zone tennis competition. Darby was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the girls singles while Melanie was 4<sup>th</sup> in the girls doubles.
- ☺ Our School swimming teams who competed at the North Counties Swimming competition on Thursday 28 February (Yr7/8) and Wednesday 5 March (Yr5/6). The Year 7/8 team were 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.
- ☺ Charlotte Pritchard, Destiny Grace and Natasha Tulp who competed in the Counties North team. The team won the Counties Zone and Charlotte was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in 50m Backstroke and 100m Freestyle. She will therefore take part at the Interzone Champion of Champions.
- ☺ The School swimming teams who competed at the George Keown relay competition last Thursday evening. The Yr5/6 team were 5<sup>th</sup> overall while the Yr7/8 team was 4<sup>th</sup>.

**School Anniversary:** In 2008 Opaheke School is 40 years old! The original part of the School – Rooms 1-8 plus a small part of the office block first opened for education in 1968. A planning group met last Monday evening and have proposed some activities for all present pupils, past pupils, staff, PTA, School Committee and Board of Trustees can enjoy later this year. If you would like to have some part in helping with these events please let the office staff know. More details will follow in the next newsletter. Watch the space.



**Easter Raffle Fundraiser:** Year 7 classes are holding an Easter Raffle as part of fundraising for their Outdoor Education programme this term. Tickets will cost \$1 and they will be available this week and up to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> next week. There will be 5 draws so be in to win and send your money along with your child and Year 7 children will collect it.

**Community Notices:**

1. Fundraising Event Rosehill College – Ramarama 4WD Safari 15/16 March – a change to take your vehicle off-road in a controlled environment in a variety of skill levels ph Tony 2980194 or 027 4792636 of email [4wdclub@gmail.com](mailto:4wdclub@gmail.com)
2. Papakura Cycle Safety Carnival 18 March for children 5 – 13 years Tuesday 18 March 3.30 – 7.00pm at Massey Park. Bike and helmet checks, obstacle courses, street skills, road rules, prizes etc. Contact Karen Purdie 295 0356 or [Karen.purdie@police.govt.nz](mailto:Karen.purdie@police.govt.nz) for further information.
3. Drury Junior Rugby registrations 5-12yrs phone Tony 2947294 for details.