

Community Notices:

- In Goodtime HorsePark. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
- SuperKids Papakura After School OSCAR Programme currently has vacancies for 5-13 year olds and picks up from Opaheke School. Daily activities include homework supervision, games, afternoon tea and fun filled activities. OSCAR subsidies available Ph 299 9394.
- Asher Dance Studio – variety of after school dance, drama and music lessons with discounted fees. Ages 3 – 19 in Papakura. Register with a friend for Term 3 classes and both get discounted fees of \$50 for dance and drama, or \$80 for music lessons. Places are limited. Email asherdancejn@gmail.com or call 0273310666

Coming Events

Today	Yr7/8 Counties North crosscountry at Strathallan. Yr7 Hearing and Vision testing.
Mon 17 Aug	Yr4 classes to MOTAT.
Tues 18 Aug	Yr5/6 Counties North cross country at Te Hahi School. Board of Trustees meeting.
Wed 19 Aug	University of New South Wales Mathematics test.
Thur 20 Aug	Counties North gymnastics competition at Counties Gymnsport stadium. 7pm School Speech Finals.
Sat 22 Aug	Opaheke School netball prizegiving p.m.
Tues 25 Aug	Yr3 classes to MOTAT. 7.30pm PTA meeting in staffroom all parents welcome.
Thur 27 Aug	Yr3/4 Living Museum at School.
Fri 28 Aug	Staff only Day. No school for students see earlier note.
Tues 1 Sept	7pm Yr7/8 Interschool Speeches at Papakura Normal School.

Quiz: Why is twice ten like two times eleven? (answer below)

Quote: Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read' *Groucho Marx*

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: one is twenty two the other is twenty too.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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12 August 2009

Newsletter No 12/09

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Welcome to ‘Bookweek’ with all the fun and joy that goes with it. Despite all of our technological and electronic advances, the value and importance of reading is no less than it was when we were at primary school.

This week the theme there is ‘Escape, Explore, Discover’. Our School librarians and library staff have spent a great deal of time organising resources, quizzes and activities for all of our students from 5 years to 13 years. Three highlights to mention:

- At Monday’s assembly we had a surprise visit from a ‘storyteller’.
- Today we have a local author talking about the craft of story writing.
- Friday will be a day when everybody can come dressed as their favourite book character.

Being Ready For School: the reality of becoming five years old, sets in as a child enters the world of school and specifically the New Entrant classes. School bags, stationery, chair bags and healthy lunches aside, there are several things a parent can do to make the transition to school a smooth one. As was highlighted in the New Zealand Herald last week, many children are totally unprepared for school life. Sitting on a mat, listening actively to stories, asking to go to the toilet, learning to hold a crayon or pencil, putting a hand up to answer a question, waiting for the bell to signal playtime or lunchtime are habits or skills not commonly known by many five year olds. A child who enters school with a positive attitude towards books is already well prepared for the experiences in literacy that our New Entrant class teachers provide. Having regular bed time stories encourages listening and enjoyment in reading. A child can learn how print and pictures work together to tell a story and that words occur in sentences from left to right. Just a few simple ideas but they are so important to your child’s future success as a student.



Staff Only Day: Friday 28th August will be a staff only day. As parents were first notified in the previous newsletter, this is a follow up reminder. Teachers on this day will be preparing the New Zealand Curriculum for use in 2010 and as such there will not be school for students. If there are any parents whose work circumstances would make child care difficult on this day, we would urge them to let the office staff know and we will provide some supervision at school. Our School is well aware that for some parents, the difficult job market at present means that they would be unable to rearrange their work schedule and we wish to help if required. Please inform us as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

Walking Wednesdays: As mentioned last newsletter, we are encouraging our students to walk to school and walk home (or a least part way) no matter what the weather. If you are one of our 33% of parents who currently live outside of our School's 'zone', you can participate by parking slightly further away from school and encouraging your child to walk, say from Opaheke Road even. This helps reduce the amount of traffic past the School's entrances. Each class will have a 'chart' to help keep track of the number of students walking to school and Miss Brown has a supply of prizes to give away over the term.

Mathex: Two weeks ago 16 of our year 7/8 students competed in 4 teams at the first ever Counties Manukau Mathex competition at Telstra Pacific Centre. Although our local schools were 'outgunned' by two large intermediates (600+ students) from East Auckland, it was a very good experience for those taking part and reaffirming of the very real importance of problem solving in Mathematics today.



National Excellence In Teaching Awards: Highly effective teachers are hugely important in inspiring their students. As the bumper sticker on some cars states, 'if you can read this, thank a teacher'. National excellence awards are presented to teachers who connect with their students and inspire them individually to achieve to the best of their abilities. Entries close on 31 August. Forms are available through the School office and are very easy to complete. If your child is being, or has been taught by a special teacher here is your opportunity to acknowledge this.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students:

- ☺ Charlotte Pritchard, Madison Lunny, Rebecca Mager, Jasmine Desai, Maia Jean Watene – all Yr8's who were in the Counties Zone Netball competition winning A grade team.
- ☺ Darby Fullerton, Natasha Tulp, Jeannie Rikona and Ariana Tupoutoa all Yr 8's who were runners up in the B grade Counties Netball Zone competition.

- ☺ Ashleigh Jade Wairoa was in the Yr7 team which won their competition too.
- ☺ A special thanks to parents Julie Mitchell and Karen Walker-Tulp who were managers/coaches on the day.

School Speeches: Students in Years 5 to 8 will by now be busy organising and practising their speeches for our annual speech competition. While acknowledging that it can become a 'trial' for parents, there is no doubt that the art and skill of speechmaking within oral language is hugely important in our media savvy world. The final competition will be held at 7pm on Thursday 20th August in the school hall.

Lockdown Procedures: Following a recent 'experience' at a local college staff are currently preparing a lock down procedure to help all here cope in the event of an emergency. A lock down is put in place when an emergency, usually involving police, means that the safety of all children and staff makes it necessary for the School to be locked from within. This would be on a temporary basis and is aimed at ensuring that everybody at school is as safe as possible.

Whole School Photo: As mentioned in the last newsletter a whole school photo was taken last Term as an archive for Opaheke School's 40 year anniversary and to mark the opening of the new classroom block. Parents are welcome to purchase a copy of this. Prints are 50cm x 25cm and cost \$20. A copy is available to see in the school office and an envelope for payment can also be collected from here. Orders will close this Friday.

PTA Events: So far this year PTA have contributed to the purchase of the chess sets, computer on wheels, whiteboard sets for the Junior school and the upgrading of the junior playground.

- Family Portraits 8/9 August – these went extremely well and we would like to thank parents for their support.
- Hypnotist Show Saturday evening 12 September in School hall. This excellent show will be well worthwhile attending at \$15 per adult. Keep this evening free for a fun night out.
- Vegetable Boxes – you will have received an order form for these in this newsletter. These are excellent value and we hope you will take advantage of this great offer. All money for these has been donated to the school.
- Movie Night – Friday evening 18 September – two sittings, juniors at 6.00pm and adults/seniors at 8pm, in the School hall.
- School Gala – please keep the books coming in, we would now also like to receive grocery items for the quick fire raffle.