

Coming Events:

Tonight 7pm	Meet the Teacher see times overleaf
Tomorrow 1pm	Travel Wise meeting
Mon 18 Feb	7.30pm PTA meeting in staffroom – all parents welcome
Tue 19 Feb	Board of Trustees meeting
Wed 20 Feb	Bible In School begins Yr 4-6 only
Thu 21 Feb	Kapa Haka programme restarts
Mon 25 Feb	Education Review Office at school this week
Thus 28 Feb	Counties North Yr7/8 swimming sports at Massey Park a.m.
Tues 4 Mar	Counties Zone Yr 7/8 swimming sports at Pukekohe
Wed 5 Mar	Counties North Yr5/6 swimming sports at Massey Park

Travel Wise Tip: A heavily laden freight train can take a whole kilometre to stop. That's about 30 seconds. Don't cross the railway line on foot.

Quiz: A bag contains 10 apples. How can I give 1 apple each to 10 people and still have 1 apple remaining in the bag? (answer below)

Quote: Your goal should be just out of reach, but not out of sight.

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: one person gets the bag with one apple in it.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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13 February 2008
Newsletter No 01/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

A happy New Year to all of you as we begin another year at School. My greetings to all of our new families and welcome back to our ‘old hands’. May your association with our fine school be both enjoyable and beneficial.

First Day Back: As usual it was a day of some nervousness coupled with excitement for students and teachers too. This year to date we have enrolled 49 new pupils.

Web Site: Don't forget that our newsletters and our events calendar can be read on our School website recorded above.

Staffing And Classes: A huge thankyou to our 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. We are pleased to welcome five new teachers to the School:

- ☺ Mrs Maureen Selkirk teaching Year 3. Mrs Selkirk was a foundation pupil at Opaheke School and brings experience and expertise to our pupils from schools such as Bombay, Drury and the advisory service.
- ☺ Miss Cindy Williams teaching Year 2. Miss Williams is an experienced teacher from Papatoetoe Central School where she had a responsibility for the School library; a role she will continue at Opaheke School.
- ☺ Miss Joanne Pulman teaching Year 1. Miss Pulman has worked extensively with Mrs Williams in New Entrants and brings significant work experience from the pre school sector.
- ☺ Mrs Anu Ghaiee teaching Year 1. Mrs Ghaiee is very experienced in teaching juniors and comes to us from Redhill School where she had a leadership role in their junior school.
- ☺ Mr Joseph Stainton teaching Year 6. Mr Stainton comes to Opaheke from South Otago. As well as primary teacher training he has had pre school preparation and last year, experienced working and playing rugby in Australia.

☺ Welcome back to Mrs Fairweather from maternity leave and Miss Banks from England and Channel Islands.

School Anniversary: 2008 marks the 40th anniversary since Opaheke School opened in 1968. It is fitting that we have some kind of celebration later in the year, one that will involve our present students and staff as well as former pupils and teachers. Please let the School office know if you are interested in having some part in the organisation of this event which should be a very enjoyable occasion. A small planning group will meet later in February to begin work.

School Noticeboard: Have you seen it yet? Have you read the two notices that have been inserted so far? No! You're missing something. A special thankyou to Peter Bradstreet, Grant MacLachlan and Neil Shaddick who erected the noticeboard and set it up. Well done men!

Meet the Teachers Evening: This will take place tonight and is the second notice. Times are: 7.00pm New Entrants to Yr4 classes Room 9 – 17, 20, 21, 22, 5, 6 parent to classes, please note, this includes Yr5 students in Room 20. 7.30pm senior quad area for a brief introduction to the teaching staff. 7.45pm Yr5 to Yr 8 classes, Rooms 1 – 4, 7,8,19,23 & 24. By having two times, our intention is to allow parents to meet with more teachers.

Swimming Pool Use: A reminder to all families with a pool key that these should be returned as the lock to the pool complex has been changed. On behalf of all parents a sincere thankyou to those adults who cared for the pool over the holiday period ensuring that the water was clean and safe to swim in. Our School pool is proving to be a fine asset for our parent community and was very well used over the Christmas holiday period.

School Amenity/Classroom Material Fees: These are now due and notices will be sent home. A reminder that Yr7/8 students also have Technology fees of \$100 and notices about the forthcoming Year 8 camp in late March will soon be sent home.

Netball Trials: School Saturday morning netball team trials will be held later this month for girls wishing to participate. Please refer to the notice sent home last week for details.

Visit by the Education Review Office During the last week of February the School will be visited by ERO as a part of its normal review cycle carried out by



this Government agency. These findings will be awaited with interest and it is to be hoped they will focus on learning and teaching.

Yummy Stickers: Mrs Owen's class are co-ordinating the collection of 'Yummy' stickers from fruit. These stickers are used to purchase sports gear for pupils to use. Your support is valued.

Lunch Roster & Crossing Rosters: Parents are desperately needed for help with these important tasks around the school. They both take small amounts of time but are a huge help to our school. Please send a note to the school office if you are willing to help out, there is plenty of support for training if you have not helped in the school before. If everyone helps a little the work load does not end up on the shoulders of a few.



PTA School Carnival: This will be held on Friday 11th April and the PTA is looking for helpers. This will be a fun afternoon for children and parents but helping hands are needed. Please phone Marilyn on 2995634 if you can help with pre organisation or on the afternoon with a stall.

School Books: Children should now have the stationery that they require for the year. It is very important that children have the correct books so that classroom lessons can get underway. If you have misplaced yours and still need to buy books please contact the office for a new list. All parents need to attend to this matter promptly.

Board Staffing: In 2008 our Board of Trustees are topping up (yet again) the Ministry of Education's staffing by 1.25 teachers. This enables the students, especially in the junior school, to be in a class with a lower ratio of children to teachers. As well, the PTA supplement enables the School to provide an enrichment programme for more able students in Yr's 5 to 8 and to allow a music tuition programme to operate. (see enclosed list for teachers/classes/levels)

Term Dates 2008:

Term 1	Tuesday 5 February	to	Friday 18 April
Term 2	Monday 5 May	to	Friday 4 July
Term 3	Monday 21 July	to	Friday 26 September
Term 4	Monday 13 October	to	Thursday 18 December