

Coming Events

Today	Counties North Y5/6 winter sports field day, postponement day Thursday (tomorrow)
Fri 15 June	Y6 students to Kelly Tarltons Underwater World Y7s to NZ Symphony Orchestra Auckland Town Hall Y8's & Y7's from R2 to Rock & Water day Pukekohe 7.30pm PTA meeting all parents welcome.
Mon 18 June	Papakura High School Academic Institute test 3.30pm
Wed 20 June	University of New South Wales English Test
Thu 21 June	Papakura High School Sports Academy Interviews
Fri 22 June	Mid year reports go home.
Sat 23/Sun 24 June	Family Portraits in School Hall.
Tues 26 June	Y5/6 classes to New World 'Food for Thought' visit Thirty Y7/8's to Auckland International Airport for Customs and police presentation linked with Dare programme
Wed 27 June	Parent Interviews School finishes for students 12.45pm a.m. School choir to APPA rehearsal
Thur 28 June	Counties Zone boys hockey tournament. 'Ready Set Go' performers in School 5.30pm onwards School Disco
Fri 29 June	Last day of Term Two School finishes 1.30pm

Quiz: What is the honey bee's favourite rock group?

Quote: 'Friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief' *Swedish proverb.*

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: the Bee Gees of course!

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 08/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you. In a week's time we will experience the shortest days of the year.

Successful Boys: Did you realise that if boys are to do well at school the best start is to be made at home where reading with Mum and/or Dad is crucial? Many and various 'experts' offer opinions about boys achievement – or lack of it – at school and how they can do better. Dr Pita Sharples for example, highlights the importance of whanau involvement in the education life chances of boys while the present Minister of Education Steve Maharey emphasises factors such as wealth and ethnic background. Putting the experts aside, the key habit supporting all other forms of doing well at school – and in adult life – is reading. None of the study skills, examination techniques, organisational abilities, or qualities of perseverance, work ethic, or reliability can be developed to their fullest level without parent support. If there are no books in the home, if the TV, play station and computer games are the baby sitters of choice, if the parents have low aspirations and do not believe getting a good education is important, those sons in the family – and probably the daughters too – are very likely to fail. That some boys, and girls are able to rise above these difficulties of misguided parenting tells us a great deal about the character and intelligence of these fine young people.

Parents, by reading to/with your boys from infancy up until at least age 11, you will be offering your sons a priceless gift. You are investing in their futures and providing them with the tools of success for whatever career path they ultimately choose. Ten minutes a night is better than one hour one night a week. Let it become yours and his special time of the day. If Dad can do it, even better because it's sending a message; Dad's can and do enjoy reading too.



Papakura High School Enrolments 2008: The High School is offering a limited number of places in their Academic Institute and Sport Institute for 2008. Testing for the Academic Institute will take place next Wednesday 20 June in the Papakura

High School hall from 3.30 – 5.30pm. Sports Academy interviews will be held on Thursday of next week 21 June at the High School Phone the High School office to make an appointment 296 4400.

Mid Year Reports: These will be sent home on Friday of next week 22 June. Teachers are preparing these at present and I would urge parents to talk with their children about what the reports are saying about their progress while at School. The following Wednesday 27 June will be when parent interviews take place and the reports can provide a basis for discussion between parents and teacher. This School has an expectation that all parents will attend parent interviews – no exceptions. Should that day not be suitable, teachers are keen to arrange on alternative day/time that suits both parties (unfortunately no evenings). This Year for the first time Yr 7/8 students will have the opportunity to be part of the parent interview process thereby enabling a three way conference to take place. Yr 1/2 children will be able to bring their books home to allow their parents to enjoy their successes as well. A note regarding interview times is included with this newsletter and it is helpful to office staff co-ordinating timetables if this is promptly returned. **School will finish for the day at 12.45 and the school bus will leave at this time.**

School Choir: At present, Mrs Molyneux is selecting a School choir to take part in the Auckland Primary Principals' Association annual choir festival which is held in November at the Auckland Town Hall. Several combined practices are planned with the first one in two weeks time at Papakura Normal School. Congratulations to all those selected.

Cake Stall: The Yr 7 classes wish to thank all of the parents who helped with their cake stall last Wednesday. A total of \$362.60 was raised towards their planned visit on Friday to the NZ Symphony Orchestra in Auckland.



Celebrating Success: Congratulations to the following:

- Liam Neems and Curtis Taylor-Swan selected for North Counties hockey team to play in the Counties Zone tournament later in June.
- Counties North lightweight rugby team were placed 2nd in the recent Counties Zone rugby field day while the middleweight team was placed 3rd overall.

Recognising Teachers Who Make A Difference: Has your child been taught by a teacher who has 'made the difference'? The National Excellence in Teaching Awards Foundation each year offers an opportunity to publicly recognise and praise outstanding teachers who help shape the future of our young people. The NEITA Foundation is the only national awards programme where school

communities can nominate teachers who promote excellence in the teaching profession. Nomination forms are available from the School office.

Family Photos: These will be arranged and take place on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June. All children have been given order forms for these.

Amenity Draw: As a thankyou to parents who have paid their School amenity a third and final draw took place at assembly last Monday for two donated prizes. Congratulations to Jayden Robinson and Lauren Hare whose families were winners.

Milk Bottle Recycling: Thankyou to those parents supporting this PTA project. Please remember not to crush the plastic containers, leave the lids on them, and rinse them.

School Dental Clinic: Therapists are now operating from the Mansell Senior School Dental Clinic phone 2999770.

Disco: A reminder this will be held on Thursday 28 June. Times will be
NE to Yr 4 – 5.30 to 6.45pm *Yr 5 to Yr 8 – 6.45 to 8.30pm*
We will need parent helpers, please phone Karen 297 7692 to help out.

Assistant Caretaker/Property Manager: A position is available for an assistant to the Schools Property Manager. This is a part time position with hours organised on an annual basis. For 2007 hours will be 11 hours/week. Duties include gardening, lawn mowing, boiler operation, swimming pool maintenance and assisting the Property Manager when necessary. Contact the School office for further information and an application form.

Community Notices:

1. Love to Sing show presented by Drury Playcentre at Drury School hall 11 July. Tickets phone Michelle 299 5266 or Victoria 2997958.
2. Diocesan School for Girls open day Wednesday 27 June 9.30 – 11.30am.
3. Blue Light Disco Drury School Hall Friday 15th June – 5.30 – 7pm Yr 0 – 5 7.30 – 9pm Yr 6 – 8 cost \$3 permission slip can be signed at door when dropping off children.
4. Could the lady who witnessed a car scraping a blue Mitsubishi Lancer outside the school on Thursday 29th March please contact Dorothy on 296 7210.
5. Goodtime Horsepark – Karaka Horse riding holiday programme 5 – 7 yrs & 11 yrs. Thursday & Friday both weeks of the holidays. Book early ph 09 2919153, Lyndsay www.ingoodtimehorseparksaddleclub.piczo.com