

Community Notices:

Papakura Swim Club registrations now taking place, lessons and coaching for beginners through to Senior Competitive ph 292 7446.

Coming Events

Thur 15 Feb	Meet the Teacher evening – tomorrow evening 7pm NE to Yr 4, 7.45pm Yr 5 – 8
Fri 16 Feb	The Gardener – storyteller visits the School
Mon 19 Feb	PTA Meeting in Staffroom 7.30pm all welcome
Tues 20 Feb	7.30pm Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed 21 Feb	Hearing and Vision testing mainly for New Entrants
Thur 22 Feb	Year 7/8 Counties North swimming sports at Massey Park outdoor pool
Wed 28 Feb	‘Strike’ performers in School visit

Quiz: Why does a tall boy eat less than a small boy?

Quote: Learning is not a spectator sport – it requires hard work.

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: A little goes a long way.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

office@opaheke.school.nz

Web Site: www.opaheke.school.nz

Tasman Drive
PAPAKURA
298 5410 Ph
298 0739 Fax

14 February 2007

Newsletter No 01/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new School year with all of its promises, excitement, challenges as well as heat. My warmest greetings to our new families and welcome back to ‘old friends’. May your association with our fine school be both enjoyable and stimulating.

Staffing Changes:

- We are pleased to welcome two teachers new to our staff – Miss Amesha Patel and Miss Sarah McLeod. Both have worked extensively at Opaheke School during their university years, have trained with our staff and are already familiar with the ‘Opaheke Way’.
- We welcome back Ms Edwards from a year’s parental leave.
- Mrs Fairweather and Mrs Stride are on parental leave this year and both have had baby daughters. Congratulations to both staff members.
- Mrs Beals is on sabbatical leave for 2007 although she will be doing some part time enrichment programme teaching.
- Mrs Molyneux has resigned her fulltime teaching position, however she is working in a part time capacity.
- Mrs Gane has resigned her teachers’ position to continue teaching in England for a second year.

Meet the Teacher Evening: Tomorrow evening, Thursday 15 February. Come along and find out answers about class expectations, expected conduct, homework, required clothing and daily routines. Times 7.00pm New Entrants to Yr 4 classes (Rooms 13,14,15,17,9,10,11,12,19,20,21,23,24) 7.30pm Senior Quad for all parents. The staff will be introduced. 7.45pm Yr 5 to 8 classes (Rooms 1,2,3,4,5,18,6,7,8). We look forward to seeing lots of parents. It will not be a late evening. Parent interviews will be scheduled for later in the year.

Curriculum Development: This year there will be some additional features at School that will benefit many of our students.

- ✓ Numeracy Contract – Yr 7/8 teachers and pupils will be involved in this programme as the third year of a three year development plan. Pleasing results in Mathematics have been obtained in the previous two years at the New Entrants to Yr 6 levels.
- ✓ Overseas Languages – Yr 7/8 students will be offered introductory Japanese, Spanish and French again. We are delighted that this programme can continue despite no funding support from the Ministry of Education. Thanks to Mrs Watene, Mrs Lopez and Mrs Clement we can offer such extensions to the curriculum.
- ✓ Enrichment Programme – this is still to be finalised but we are planning to offer programmes for students with abilities. As well as Mrs Beals work with groups of students in Yr 5 – 8 classes, Mrs Molyneux will be offering some music enrichment, while Mr Levien will continue with tuition on brass instruments.
- ✓ Rainbow Reading programme will continue for pupils at risk with their reading.
- ✓ Reading Recovery programmes for 6 year old children having reading difficulty will be taken by Mrs Greenman and Miss Bolstad.
- ✓ ESOL programmes for our students who are learning English as a second language.

Composite Classes: Because of the method that the Ministry of Education uses to staff schools in New Zealand, most primary schools have classes of two years or more, eg Yr 3/4 or Yr 5/6 or Yr 7/8 in our classrooms.

- When a child is in a composite class as say a Yr 6 in a Yr 5/6 class it does not mean that they are behind in the work. At this School it is highly likely that all of our students will be in a composite class for at least one year, sometimes more during their primary years.
- Many intermediate schools deliberately place all of the Yr 7 and Yr 8 students into Yr 7/8 composite classes.
- Almost all country schools have composite classes because of their numbers.
- Normally, teachers with composite classes are experienced, capable classroom practitioners.
- Children in Yr 3/4 work at Level 2 of the curriculum, children in Yr 5/6 work at Level 3 while students in Yr 7/8 work at Level 4 of the curriculum. This is because our national curriculum at primary school is structured in two year bands. All classes, regardless of their levels, are organised so that children are grouped, according to their ability in some areas of the curriculum
- Even in a straight Yr 5 class say, children's reading levels may range from 6 years up to 12 years. The challenge for any class teacher is to ensure that their pupils are working at their appropriate levels and to move each child on as much as possible over the year.

School Amenity: Notices were sent home last week regarding this. Last year the Board of Trustees was delighted to record that the total amenity paid was well above their budgeted amount. If, as a school community we want our children to enjoy the opportunities that the School wishes to provide, it means that as a parent group, the financial support must be forthcoming. Amenity for 2007 is

- One child at school = \$140 reducing to \$130 if paid by 1st March
- Two children at school = \$180 reducing to \$170 if paid by 1st March
- Three or more children at school = \$220 reducing to \$210 if paid by 1st March.

Election For Board of Trustees March 2007: Nominations will be called for the Board of Trustees on 1 March and close on 15 March. As this will be a postal election, it is important all home addresses are correct. We also require addresses for parents who do not live in the family home as they are eligible to vote. Please advise the office if your address details have changed.

Year 7/8 Technology fee for 2007: This is set at \$100 and is paid to Mansell Senior School for Workshop Technology and also funds the buses used during the winter months to transport the Yr 7/8's to/from Mansell Senior School. This account is now due.

Bus Pupils: An account will be coming home soon from the Rosehill Bus Network for those pupils who live closer to School than 3.2kms if under 10 years of age and 4.8kms if over ten years. Charges will be the same as for 2006. Parents living on Ponga Road bus run, if you intend your child to travel on the bus on some days – not every day – please write a note to the class teacher informing them of which days your child will travel on that bus. If for any reason your child is not catching the bus on a normal bus day you will need to also send a note for the bus monitors.

School lunches: A reminder that lunches can be bought at school on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Thankyou: A thankyou to Quentin Smith who has been treasurer of the PTA. Quentin stepped down from being Treasurer and Grant Mac Lachlan has accepted the position as from the beginning of 2007.

Crossing Roster: We need help in supervising our school crossing on Opaheke Road. Parents are rostered on usually one morning or afternoon per fortnight 8am to 8.20am or 2.30pm to 2.45pm. Our Patrol Monitors are well trained but a parent is needed to supervise this busy road. If your children use this crossing can you spare the time to help out? Please phone Sue on 2988000 or 2988322.

Staffing and Classes: I am pleased to inform parents that the School is fully staffed as from the beginning of the year. Classes and teacher are listed below.

Room 1 Mrs K. Gore Yr 8 (Team Leader Year 7/8 classes)

Room 2 Miss V. Banks Yr 7/8

Room 3 Mrs J. Clement Yr 7

Room 4 Mrs F. Watene Yr 7

Room 5 Mrs T. Owen Yr 5

Room 6 Mrs T. Walker Yr 5/6

Room 7 Mr W. Young Yr 6 (Senior Teacher Year 5/6 classes)

Roo3em 8 Mrs S. Orpin Yr 6

Room 18 Miss S. McLeod Yr 5

Room 23 Ms K. Edwards Yr 4 (Team Leader Year 3/4 classes)

Rom 24 Mrs N. Laing Yr 4 (Senior Teacher)

Room 21 Miss K. Steward Yr 3/4

Room 19 Miss S. Loveday Yr 3

Room 20 Miss A. Patel Yr 3

Room 9 Mrs B.Marquet/Mrs G. Rumbold Yr 2

Room 10 Mrs J. Young Yr 2 (Team Leader Year 2 classes)

Room 11 Mrs P. Lopez Yr 2 (formerly Miss Montofre)

Room 12 Mrs A. Harrison Yr 2

Room 13 Miss L. Grey NE

Room 14 Mrs G. Williams NE (Senior Teacher/Team Leader NE/Year 1)

Room 15 Mrs M. Read Yr 1/2

Room 17 Mrs K. Brak Yr 1/2

Reading Recovery plus classroom release Miss T. Bolstad

Part Time Teachers:

Mrs H. Knight Yr 2/3

Mrs P. Greenman Reading Recovery

Mrs G. Rumbold Yr 2

Mrs J. Molyneux all levels

Mrs A. Potter Juniors

Mrs L. Roberts senior classes

Mrs T. Beals Enrichment Programme

Mr I. Levien Brass Instrument Tuition

Office Staff:

Mrs G. Burge Principals Secretary

Mrs K. Hotson School Secretary

Mrs M. Willoughby Office Support/Teacher Aide

Mrs S. Rogers Office Support/Teacher Aide

Mrs S. Lowe/Mrs P. Mau Teacher Aides

Mrs L. Pryor Library Support/Teacher Aide

Mrs S. Smith Library Support/Teacher Aide

Miss F. Bold Numeracy Contract support/Teacher Aide

Mr K. Chester Property Manager

Mr N. Kitto Groundsman part time

Deputy Principals:

Mrs B. Marquet responsibility for NE to Year 4 classes

Mrs A. Cantley responsibility for Year 5 to 8 classes

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