

## Coming Events

Thur 15 March	6.30pm George Keown swimming relay races at Massey Park outdoor pool
Mon 19 March	7.30pm PTA Annual General Meeting
Tue 20 March	Yr 8 students to Camp Adair, Hunua
Fri 23 March	Yr 8 students return from Hunua
Wed 28 March	7pm Parent consultation/information for Keeping Ourselves Safe 7.30pm Parents consultation/information for Rock and Water for Yr 8's
Thur 29 March	Yr 7/8 Summer Sports field day Cricket at Normal School, Touch at Redhill School, Softball at St Mary's School and South Park.

**Quiz:** How can a cat go into a basement and come out with eight feet.

**Quote:** 'Chocolate, men and coffee, some things are better off rich'

Best wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: it catches a mouse

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# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 03/07

## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you from ‘the ides of March’. A reminder that daylight saving ends next Sunday morning 18 March.



**Term One Report:** At the end of this week, parents will receive an initial one page report, commenting on how each child has settled into their new class, their work habits to date and the degree of personal responsibility/behaviour demonstrated by each student. These are intended to be a ‘snapshot’ of a pupil’s progress at this point in time, not a detailed assessment of achievement attained.

**Being on Time:** This week there will be a major emphasis on getting to School on time. Too many of our pupils are arriving late on too many days and are short changing their learning opportunities during the prime learning time of the School day. Parents, your support in ensuring that your children arrive at School in good time is expected – from 7.45am onwards. Lessons begin at 8.25am.

**Year Eight Camp:** Next Tuesday our Year 8 students will be attending an outdoor education camp at Hunua for 4 days with Mrs Gore, Miss Banks and some hardy parents. This School wishes to records its gratitude to those parents who put aside their work commitments or who take annual leave in order to enable the camp to proceed. A special thanks also to Mrs Gore and Miss Banks who have worked hard to provide an opportunity for these senior students to enjoy a unique experience.



**Board of Trustees:** Nominations for parent representatives on the Board close Thursday (tomorrow) 15<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. If we receive more than 5 nominations a postal election will be held for all parents/caregivers to vote for 5 parent representatives. If we have an election there will be a ‘Meet the Candidates’ section during the PTA’s Annual General Meeting next Monday evening 19<sup>th</sup> March beginning at 7.30pm. There will be time for questions to be asked of the candidates during this session.

**School Rules:** Yes, this School does have rules – five in fact. They are phrased in positive language 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 others 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 being explained at each week's 'whole school' assembly.

**Curriculum Development:** This year teachers will be focussing on some key developments in curriculum following submissions made late last year of the Ministry of Education's Draft curriculum.

- Year 7/8 teachers and classes will be taking part in the third year of a three year School Numeracy contract. Last year the Year 4 – 6 teachers and classes participated in this major in-service programme and 2007 is the time for our senior classes and their teachers.
- Review of the English curriculum. Late last year the English curriculum team led by Mrs Cantley reviewed, updated and trialled the changes to English and this will continue to be implemented throughout 2007.
- Social Sciences programme. This year staff will be reshaping this curriculum especially given changes signalled in the Draft document published late last year.
- Student Management System. In Terms Three and Four, there will be major training to prepare staff for a new computerised assessment software programme. This will be a significant update on the present computerised format.

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

- ❖ Faith Dorey-Lark and Wyatt Hitchens who are the School's 2007 Head Councillors. Both Faith and Wyatt have already shown their leadership capabilities and we look forward to their continuing contribution.
- ❖ Reid Fullerton and Kyla Rubin who won representing Counties North Schools in the Counties Zone Tennis field day and will go through to the Auckland Districts Interzone Competition.
- ❖ Opaheke Dodgers netball team who won the A grade netball tournament at Pukekohe last week. Thanks to Frucor who sponsored the teams.



**Yummy Stickers:** Year 5 with Mrs Owen are collecting Yummy Stickers off apples to purchase sports equipment. When the collection has finished the total number of stickers are exchanged for sports gear. Last year the School gained approximately \$800 worth of sports equipment by collecting the stickers. All Yummy stickers welcome!

**Term Two Starting Date:** Term Two begins on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April not the 16<sup>th</sup> April as is stated on the Kids Art Works Calenders for 2007.

**PTA Annual General Meeting:** As mentioned earlier this will take place next Monday evening 19<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.30pm in the Arts room. All parents welcome. There will be some items by some of the School's musicians. A light supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

**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 we have had two prizes donated to the school that will be drawn at assembly early next term for two families who have paid their amenity.

**Any Picassos Available?** Next Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm the PTA have organised with some senior pupils to repaint the colours on the junior playground 'dragon'. If you can spare any time at all even 15 minutes we would appreciate your help. Please bring a paint brush if you have one or one will be provided.



**Community Notices:**

1. Photos in Crystal – have your photo taken in 3D and etched into crystal. Great for family photos, memories will last forever without deteriorating or fading ph 533 3331.
2. Maihihi Primary School in Otorohanga – Trail Ride – fun, fast and furious Sunday 15 April phone Jo 07 873 0761 for details.
3. Ardmore Marist Junior Rugby registrations 15<sup>th</sup> March 5 – 7pm Bruce Pulman Park ph Rob 298 5148.
4. School of Rock providing individual, group and band tuition and mentoring for rock instruments and vocals beginners to experienced ph 299 3357.
5. Franklin Zoo Gala Day Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Ridge Road Bombay new lion enclosure opening.
6. Scouting NZ – Keas 6 – 7½ yrs, Cubs 7½ – 10½ yrs, Scouts 10½ – 14yrs, Venturers 14 – 19 yrs ph Peter Jones 294 8907 for more information.