

Coming Events:

Thur 15 Nov	Counties Zone Touch Sausage Sizzle \$1 per sausage
Mon 19 Nov	Water Safety for Year Eights Day Two Papakura High School Orientation Day for Yr8's 7.30pm PTA meeting in staffroom all parents welcome.
Tues 20 Nov	Counties Zone athletics at Massey Park
Wed 21 Nov	Yr5/6 Counties North athletics sports at Massey Park
Tues 27 Nov	Room 24 Yr 4 to Butterfly Creek
Wed 28 Nov	Yr 7/8 Health talks Pubertal Changes
Fri 30 Nov	Carols In The Park practices 10.00am – 12.30 Yr3/4 classes to Omana Regional Park

Travel Wise: Adults must always set a good example eg crossing the road at pedestrian crossings or wearing a seat belt when in the car. Children learn by copying adults they love respect or admire.

Quiz: Why did the Romans not get into space exploration?

Quote: "Some folks are wise, others are otherwise!"

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: Because they had no zero in Roman numerals therefore no blast off!

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Newsletter No 17/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Greetings to all of you as the pace quickens at School. We are at the mid point of the final term for 2007 and there are many events between now and the end of the school year.

Coming Back: It's really good to be back at work and I am thoroughly enjoying becoming immersed in School activities. A special thanks to Mrs Cantley who ably acted as Principal for the first four weeks of this term.

Auction Evening: A most enjoyable occasion. Top marks to the PTA for organising and holding a fun evening. Many parents and local businesses supported the PTA Auction and the School is very grateful for the items donated. At this stage a final tally is not yet confirmed but we will let families know in the next newsletter.

Bookweek: As always, this was a wonderful occasion much enjoyed by both children and staff. The dress up day showcased some 'interesting' book characters and weird special effects.

Every week and every day is a book day at our School but it is good to have a special focus on how books can open up new worlds. Activities included book quizzes, character parades and teachers reading their favourite stories at lunchtime in the library.

Grandparents Day: Only one month to one of our School's special occasions. Friday 14th December is Grandparents Day and enclosed with this newsletter is a special invitation to all grandparents and 'adopted' grandparents to enjoy a day with their grandchildren at School. Parents please pass on all the invitations to your parents. Due to numbers this day is only for Grandparents and parents are requested not to stay but to come to End of Year concerts on December 13th. The

PTA needs more parent helpers for the morning tea and concert. Please phone Angela on 299 5998 if you can help for that morning.

Walking School Bus Project: One of the major outcomes of the Travel Wise project was to encourage children from the neighbourhood to walk to school with parent supervision. To date we have a small number of surveys returned, if you have not returned yours yet could you please do it so that the co-ordinators can set up schemes to promote safe walking to and from school.



Drugs at School: Bringing illegal substances to school is not permitted and a hard line will be taken by the staff and Board of Trustees. If a pupil chooses to bring an illegal substance such as marijuana to school they choose to accept the consequences as decided by the Board. Successive Boards at the School have taken a hard line towards pupils who bring such 'items' to school to show others or endeavour to share with others. It may be acceptable in some family homes but this School will not accept such activities.

Kapa Haka: It is good to see this being offered to those pupils who are interested and whose parents support them. The two tutors, Tyla Gurnick and Te Aroha Rountree are knowledgeable and interested and there is a good supportive parent whanau. Last Thursday, there were about 50 – 60 children in the two groups and parents are welcome to come and watch. The practices are held in the Arts Room. It is good to see grandparents there as well. Special thanks to Rodney Ewe for providing the music.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students:

- APPA Choir who performed with distinction in Auckland's Town Hall last week. We were proud of all of you.
- Athletics – Sonia Everitt, Courtney Henson, Destiny Grace, Annaliese Raynes, Jonathon Cato, Rajat Malhotra, Dylan Ngatai – all selected to take part in Counties Zone athletics next Tuesday 20 November.
- Touch – Destiny Grace, Sarah Petrie, Adeline Shaddick, Analeea Williamson – all selected for Counties Zone Touch tournament tomorrow.
- Netball – Maia Watene selected to be a ball girl for the semi final of the World Netball competition.

Changing Curriculum Direction: Teachers have just received their copies of the new national curriculum. Based on an 'outcomes approach' the new document which is to be introduced in 2009 focuses on the process of learning rather than the content. For example in Science, students could be tested on whether they know

how to design an experiment rather than remembering what the result should be. This new curriculum, which will impact on both primary and secondary school programmes will present a challenge for teachers. Some critics are describing the changes as a 'shift too far' and 'intellectually flawed and obsolete'. It is my belief that knowledge or content is still essential and it is how students process that knowledge into manageable useful information to act on that will determine students' success in future years. Whichever way we look at it, the long term effect will be significant.

Curriculum areas to be taught are Mathematics, and Statistics, English, Science, Social Science (the old Social Studies), Technology, The Arts, Health and Physical Education and Languages. A te reo option will be distributed in 2008.

Sausage Sizzle: School Councillors are holding a sausage sizzle tomorrow at school to raise money for a donation to Heartkids and the native plant shrubbery beside the dental clinic that is scheduled to be constructed shortly.

PTA Art Calendars: All children will have received their orders by now. Teachers and students are to be commended on the quality of the art work for the calendars.

End of Year Concerts: Some advance notice for parents
Thursday 13 December 10.30a.m. for New Entrants to Year Four
Thursday 13 December 7pm for Year Five to Eight

Headlice: These are an ongoing problem at the moment. If we become aware of a problem in a classroom a note is sent home asking parents to check childrens' hair and giving some appropriate advice. The best way to control the problem is with constant checking of childrens' hair. Long hair needs to be tied back and regular combing and brushing done. For further information you may contact the Public Health Nurses on 2951280.



Lost Property: We have a huge mound of clothing in our lost property bins. If your child is missing any items of clothing you may like to look through them. Bins are located outside Room 10. Clothing is laid out in quad areas regularly for children to walk past and claim lost items. Many items could be returned if they were appropriately named.