

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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“The Opaheke Way”

NEWSLETTER NO 19/09

14 December 2009

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you from a very busy school. There is no doubt that there is a build up of pressure as we reach mid December

STAFF CHANGES

At the end of this year we will be saying goodbye to two of our well respected teachers: **Mrs Kim Paewai** has accepted a teaching position in Northland at Mangonui School, her home area as from the beginning of 2010. Although Mrs Paewai has only been with us for one year she had become a highly respected

teacher of one of our two Year 8 classes. We wish Kim well in her future teaching career.

Mr Joey Stainton has been offered a teaching position at St Peters College in Epsom. His teaching will have a significant portion of sports coaching and also has a boarding school which Mr Stainton is keen to experience. A well respected and popular teacher, Joey will be missed and we wish him all the best. We will also miss his Southland accent!

NEW STAFF

Three teachers

have been appointed as from the start of next year:

Ms Georgina Howell comes to us from St Mary's School where she had a leading part in their literacy programme.

Mr Oliver O'Connell who comes to Opaheke from Aka Aka School near Waiuku.

Miss Charlotte Walker who has been helping out at School by working some relieving teaching.

At this point in time we are fully staffed for 2010!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Special Awards*
- *School Amenity 2010*
- *Grandparents Day*

TERM ONE 2010

Term One for 2010 will begin on Wednesday 3rd February and finish on Thursday 1st April.



CONCERTS

We trust that those parents attending the two end of year school concerts enjoyed the opportunity to see children presenting their items. There has been a

significant amount of time put in to preparing for these occasions and parent support is always appreciated.

I wish to thank the teachers who put so much effort into

the organising preparing and presenting of the items.



SPECIAL AWARDS 2009

Last Wednesday evening some special prizes were awarded to Year 7/8's. These awards are for trophies presented to the School by a number of parents and over the years have become highly esteemed and a part of Opaheke School's tradition. We do believe in achievement; there is a place for competition and there is a significant place for all students for personal best.



Award Winners for 2009
Dux :
Hritika Ghaiee

Dux Runner Up:
Troy Martin

Principals Award for all round effort :
Darby Fullerton

Pam Petherbridge Award
For Literacy:
Ronnie Shaddick

Nancy Betts Award For Kindness And Caring:
Ariana Tupoutoa

Les Fleming Cup for Achievement all round Year 8:
Olivia Foster

Lofroth Cup for overall effort:
Jenna Homewood

Sandra Banks Memorial Award for The Arts:
Natasha Tulp

Warren McDowell Memorial Award for Sporting Achievement:
Charlotte Pritchard & Maia Jean Watene

John Wallace Memorial Award For Achievement in Science presented for the first time:
Melanie John

SCHOOL AMENITY 2010
The Board of Trustees resolved that the 2010 amenity will be kept at the same level as for 2009. That is :
\$150 for one child

\$200 for 2 children
\$240 for 3 or more children. The amenity assists our School in terms of resources, additional teaching staff in the junior school, languages for our senior students and subsidising our School events/visits. For parents who would like to set up automatic payments the School ASB Account is:
Opaheke School Board of Trustees
123031 0728049 00

"Familiarity breeds contempt -- and children."

Mark Twain

GRANDPARENTS DAY
Last Friday was a special day for all of our students—and indeed for the staff. They came in their hundreds. I spoke with one couple who had just flown in from Townsville Queensland to attend Grandparents Day—as well as have a holiday. A total of 127 library books were purchased by the grandparents for the School library and this will be really

appreciated by the students next year.

A special thank you to all of the PTA ladies who prepared morning tea for the grandparents and Thank you to parents for donating goodies for their morning tea.

ENROLMENTS 2010
If your child will be a New Entrant at this School in 2010 and you are uncertain if you have pre enrolled them could you please phone the office to check.
Thank you.



NATIONAL STANDARDS

At its final meeting for 2010 our Board of Trustees decided to write to the School Trustees Association, urging the Association to seek a careful evaluation of the proposed National Standards by a panel of independent educators before the process is fully implemented in 2011.

YEAR EIGHT GRADUATION

Last night was a special occasion for our 61 senior students who graduated from Opaheke School and who in 2010, will attend

one of several secondary schools for the next phase of their formal education.

As well it was great to see so many proud parents who came to enjoy their son's or daughter's special occasion.

A special thankyou to Miss Banks who organized and arranged the evenings celebrations and to Grant Shaddick 2008 Head Councillor Rosehill College who was the guest speaker for the evening.

The Year Eight students of 2009 have proven to be a well behaved cohort who have maintained high standards and displayed leadership for our younger pupils.



It has certainly been a year of significant development for all of those involved here at School:

- Papakura Achievement Initiative has brought major additional workload especially for teacher in the Yrs 1-4 classes but it has enabled teacher to see significant shifts in children's levels of reading.
- Staff are now ready and able to implement a new forward focussed curriculum in 2010 following a major inservice programme.
- Our Board of trustees has received some top quality data on student achievement at all levels of the School.
- We have a new two storey block of classrooms which does everything we wanted.
- The Junior adventure playground is finished with a permanent, safe base and a covered shelter.
- The School swimming pool has had major maintenance work, including repainting and looks the best the staff can ever remember.
- Planning for a major upgrade to the interiors of Rooms 1 to 12 is well advanced and this will occur in 2010.

Although staff are very weary, at the same time, we are excited about 2010 and look forward to another invigorating year.

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

Congratulations to the following students below
•Rory Barton, Jeremy Collins, Carol Muodza, Charlotte Pritchard, Ronnie Shaddick, Natasha Tulp and Maia Jean Watene who all competed at the Auckland inter zone

athletics competition last Wednesday. Representing the Counties Zone Schools they achieved some outstanding results.

•Counties North Yr7/8 padder tennis tournament; Yr 7 boys 2nd, Yr8 girls A team 1st, B team 3rd.

How did it get so late so soon? Its night before its afternoon. December is here before its June. My goodness how the time has flewn. How did it get so late so soon?" Dr Seuss

Community Notices

1. In Goodtime Horsepark -Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka
Ph 09 2919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
2. Auckland Regional Dental Service—for details of the nearest School Dental
Clinic open during the holiday period please contact 0800 433 6825 or
www.ards.co.nz.
3. University of Auckland Holiday Programme - for brochure phone 623 8858 or
email c.gunnell@auckland.ac.nz

COMING EVENTS

Wed 16 Dec

Final day of school for 2009 students dismissed at
12.30pm. The Pong Road bus will also depart at
12.30pm.

To conclude:

The staff and I wish all of you an enjoyable, restful and blessed Christmas with
your families and a very happy New Year.

Christmas comes but once each year,
Bringing joy and Christmas cheer.
Often happy, occasionally not
The festive season means a lot.
So for your children's long term sake,
Make the Christmas story come awake!
Share your time with them at length
And from their joy will come your strength.



Best wishes

Murray Wratt