

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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## “The Opaheke Way”

NEWSLETTER NO 09/10

16 June 2010

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you as we approach the shortest days of the year. Two weeks from today, students' mid year reports will be sent home.

### SCHOOL RULES

Yes, our School does have rules—five in total. They are phrased in positive language but they are rules that all of our students are expected to abide by and there is a clear expectation by teachers 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 one of the rules, there are guidelines that reinforce that meaning.

### SURVEYING OUR PARENTS

At their meeting last week our new Board of Trustees decided to ask some questions of parents as a means of setting future direction. A hard copy will be included in the mid year report that will be sent home a fortnight from today. For those who prefer on line communication, a questionnaire will be placed on the School's website for parents to complete.

The Board is interested in your thoughts and opinions and genuinely seeks feedback to assist them in setting some goals to work towards.

### KAPA HAKA

It is with pleasure, that we inform parents that the School will be restarting its Kapa Haka group. When the tutors were unable to continue at the start of 2009, the programme was put aside. Sadly, no parents stepped up to volunteer their time. Te Aroha Rountree, assisted by her niece restarted the group yesterday morning. Mrs Laing, who organised the initial arrangements, reports that

### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- *Mathletics*
- *Walkways*
- *Issues of Concern*
- *Celia Lashlie CD*

applications exceeded places. Initially 15 senior students will begin and more places may be made available.

### Fun Fact

The first hot air balloon passengers were animals - a sheep, a duck and a hen.



## SPORTING OPTIONS

As students move up through the School, their sporting options widen as additional sports are offered. From Years Three to Year Four, sporting choices are usually organised by the class teacher although classes do interchange at sports time. Soccer, netball, ripper rugby, hockey and various tag games are available. Swimming, crosscountry and athletics are also set up.

At Year Five and Six as well as the above activities there are Counties North Field Days for summer sports, winter sports, gymnastics, padder tennis, tapuae, and athletics.

For Year Seven and Eight students as well as Counties North Field Days there are Counties Zone Field Days and if the team or individual wins there, they go on to the Auckland Interzone Sports.

Many of these competitors are involved at national level eg swimming, gymnastics, crosscountry, athletics.

As well, teachers endeavour to introduce other sporting options such as badminton, squash and table tennis especially when local clubs can assist with coaching or special equipment such as a squash court.

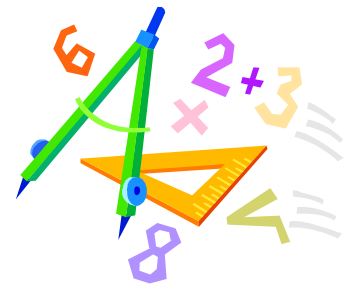
## MATHLECTICS

There has been an excellent response by parents to the option of mathletics. To date 116 students have been enrolled. This is an online mathematics programme that provides challenges for students who can try their speed and problem solving capabilities against other online pupils.

There are lunchtimes available when students can work in a supervised way in the ICT suite on their mathletics.

If you would like your child

to join this group for Term 3 forms will be available from the office next Monday and need to be returned to school before the end of the Term so enrolments can be arranged to begin next Term.



## QUOTE

**Wear a smile  
and have  
friends.  
Wear a scowl  
and have  
wrinkles**

*George Elliot*

## WALKWAYS AROUND THE SCHOOL

We have had some requests from parents to let families know what walkways are available in the Opaheke area, especially now that the Park And Walk project is successfully operating each Tuesday.

📍 Bellfield Rd to Rhonda Pl

📍 Fairview Ave to Bushlands Pl

📍 Bushlands Pl to Gt South Rd

📍 Short St to Railway St West and Albert St

📍 Railway underpass of Settlement Rd to Railway St West

📍 Callis Ave

There may be other walk-

ways that we are unaware of and would appreciate parents letting us know so that we can inform other parents.



## ISSUES OF CONCERN:

On occasions, there may be concerns which parents wish to discuss with the School. Staff do take concerns seriously and do their best to resolve problems to the satisfaction of all concerned. We wish to remind parents that there are procedures to follow.

1. Ring to make an appointment to discuss the issue directly with your child's class teacher. They should be the first point of contact. Turning up unannounced before school is not appropriate. This is when our class teachers are busy completing final preparation for the class programme.
2. If this appointment does not resolve the concern, make an appointment to see the Team Leader. The Team Leader will follow up on the matter and discuss the concern with all involved. Our School's Team Leaders are : Miss Banks Yr7/8, Mrs Walker Yr5/6, Mrs Fairweather Yr3/4, Mrs McFlinn Yr2, Mrs Williams NE/Yr1.
3. The parent/caregiver may request a meeting with the Deputy Principal should the issue still be unresolved. They will fully investigate the matter and sort it out—if it can be sorted! Mrs Cantley is responsible for the Yr5-8 classes and Mrs Marquet is responsible for the NE-Yr4 classes. They will keep the Principal fully informed as well.

It is important that concerns are expressed in a reasonable manner, in an appropriate way and that appointments are made to discuss issues at a suitable time, normally, after school. Teachers will attempt at all times to enter into an open discussion and are happy to communicate with parents regarding issues that may arise.

### CELEBRATING SUCSESSES

Congratulations to the following students or teams:

- ★ Jeremy Collins, one of our Head Councillors who has won an 'Old Boys' Scholarship to attend Kings College next year. This scholarship is one of five 'old boys' awards available annually.
- ★ Sio Leuo, Nirai Taylor and Kieron Williams who were in the Counties Zone Rugby Field Day championship Under

45kg team. This team will go on to compete in the Auckland Interzone Rugby Field Day next Tuesday.  
★ Counties Zone Soccer Field Day; the Year 8 boys team was 3rd overall and the Year 7 boys team was also placed 3rd.

### CELIA LASHLIE CD

We have two CD copies of Celia's talk on 'growing gorgeous boys into good men' recorded at one of her seminars. Parents may borrow a copy from the School office. Call into the

office or send a request with your child (name/ phone number supplied please) if you would like a copy sent home.

### DISCO

The PTA are organizing a School disco on Thursday evening 1st July, starting at 5.30pm for Yr1-4. More details will come in the next newsletter.



## KIDS FOR KIDS CHOIR

Last evening one of our choirs took part in the World Vision Kids For Kids concert featuring Suzanne Prentice as the guest star. Congratulations to all who took part. Thankyou for representing our School at the concert. A special thankyou to Miss Bolstad who prepared and trained the choir for this musical occasion.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

- \* Redhill Community Centre celebration. There will be a bouncy castle, sausage sizzle, lolly scrambles, a Kenworth truck to ride on - free (yes free!) and more! Carboot sale at 7.30am. Address— corner of Croskery and Dominion Roads Redhill on the 19th June. Call David on 297 2040 if you need information.
- \* Massey Park Swim Magic School Ph 298 8526 holiday programme swimming lessons 1 week \$50 or 2 weeks \$90

## COMING EVENTS

Thur 17 June	Sports exchange with Papakura Normal School (weather permitting.)e
Mon 21 June	7.30pm PTA meeting in the staffroom. All parents welcome.
Tues 22 June	Interzone rugby tournament
Mon 28 June	Papakura Schools Music Festival rehearsal at Strathallan School.
Wed 30 June	Mid Year reports come home.
Thurs 1 July	Disco during evening.
Fri 2 July	Last day of Term Two. Students dismissed from School at 1.30pm.

**Quiz: Fly Swatter– I am sitting at the table. Ten flies are on the table. With one swat I kill three flies. How many flies are left on the table?**



*Best wishes*

*Murray Wratt*

*Principal*

Answer to Quiz: The answer is 3, I killed 3 flies so they would remain on the table—the rest would have flown away immediately.