

last named was presented for the first time by Miss Banks, Sandra's daughter.

End of Year Concerts: DVD's of the concert are available. If you missed the concerts or would like a permanent reminder please phone Jacqui 2965973 \$10 per DVD or \$18 for 2 to place an order.

Last Day Arrangements: Tomorrow, Thursday 18 December is the last day of school for 2008. Following a final assembly students will leave school to start their holiday at 12.30pm. The Ponga Road bus will also depart at the earlier time of 12.30pm. Parents, please note this different time.

Term One 2009: School opens for 2009 on Tuesday 3rd February at the usual time. The first week of School for Term One 2009 will be shortened as detailed. Tuesday 3rd Feb first day of school. Thursday 5th Feb school finishes for students at 1.00pm. All local schools' teachers, both primary and secondary, will be participating in the start of a Papakura schooling improvement initiative called the Papakura Achievement Initiative during the afternoon at Rosehill College. Friday 6th Feb Waitangi Day. Please note these times on your 2009 calendars now.

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
Principal

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Newsletter No 20/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Christmas greetings to all of you as life moves in the fast lane here at School at present. With events such as two major concerts, Grandparents Day, Year Eight graduation evening and various meetings there is no time to pause and reflect on our ‘busyness’ in December.

End of Year Concerts: These were both very well attended by parents and many expressed, just how much they enjoyed the quality of the items performed by the pupils. It was disappointing that a significant number of parents left before the end of the sessions. As the students – and teachers had worked so hard to prepare their respective items for parents’ appreciation, it is sad that they missed out on the opportunity to perform to a ‘full house’. Our thanks to those who did stay to the end.

Grandparents Day: A fabulous occasion in the life of our School! It was wonderful to see lots of grandparents ranging from their forties up to two ladies in their nineties coming from Papakura, the wider Auckland area, other parts of New Zealand, Australia, Chile and Iraq. The grandchildren really enjoyed the day and for staff and pupils alike, such a day is a part of the School’s culture. A special thankyou to Mrs Hopkins and her team of ladies who organised the morning tea for grandparents and to Joanne Davies who, once again, organised the raffles for the grandparents. Thankyou to all of those parents who provided morning tea for the grandparents.

End of Year School Reports: These will be coming home today along with this newsletter. Staff have spent many hours preparing these and I would urge parents to make time to discuss the content of these reports with

the children concerned, especially if they are a senior student. After all, it is about them and if we want our children to be actively involved in their own learning, discussing the report with them is a good starting point.

Staff Changes: At the end of the year we bid farewell to two teachers.

- Mrs Jude Clement will be following her special passion for teaching French by working as a part time teacher in a number of schools where languages is offered. Mrs Clement has been at Opaheke School now for 5 years and has taught in the Year 7/8 area of the School. We thank Jude for her high quality teaching, wishing her well in her new venture in future years.
- Mrs Fiona Watene will be pursuing other avenues in the area of sports/physical education. Mrs Watene has been at this School for 6 years and has been the driving force behind the development of the Saturday morning netball teams and the success of teams in such major events as Interzone sporting achievements. We wish Fiona all the best and thank her for her work at the School

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students/teachers. Counties North Athletic sports

- Sean Henson 3rd 140m sprint Yr 5 Boys
- Remigio Jaque 2nd = high jump, Yr5 Boys
- Manava Kareroa 2nd high jump, 2nd shot put Yr6 Boys
- Jade Tulp 3rd 140m sprint Yr5 Girls
- Caitlyn Pritchard 1st discus, 1st = long jump, 2nd shotput, 3rd javelin Yr5 Girls

Auckland Interzone Athletics Yr7/8

- Rory Barton in finals 100m, 200m junior
- Destiny Grace 2nd 400m sprints intermediate
- Maia Watene, Destiny Grace and Tayler Mager all in team relay from Counties that won the intermediate age girls relay
- Clayton Rubin and Rory Barton were both in finals for the relay.

Miss Grey and Mrs Read (teachers) who were capped after graduating Bachelor Education from Victoria University of Wellington.

Miss McLeod who has become a fully registered teacher.

After School Care: Parents who in the past have made use of the After School care facility which operated from the School hall will now be aware that after the end of Term 1 next year, an alternative venue will be organised by the Gateway Trust. The Board of Trustees, following much thought, will be looking at other options for the use of the hall. There are several alternatives available for parents who choose to avail themselves of after school care for their children. This programme was never 'run' by Opaheke School. The Board simply provided the hall as a facility for the Trust to operate from.

Sausage Sizzle: The Councillors held a final sausage sizzle to help raise some money towards next years Yr 8 camp at Hunua. \$145 was raised.

PTA Fresh Fruit Deliveries: The PTA would like to gauge the interest in fresh fruit deliveries similar to the ones they have run over this past year. Early this year we had 2kg bags of apples delivered to the school over an 8 week period. Next term deliveries would be as follows –5 deliveries of 2kg bags NZ grown apples; 2 delivery of 2kg bag NZ grown pears, 1 delivery of 2kg bag NZ grown mandarins, 1 delivery of 2kg bag NZ grown oranges, 2 deliveries of 2litre bottle of apple juice. These deliveries would be made on a fortnightly cycle through the appropriate seasons in the first and second Terms of 2009 school year. The deliveries would be made to the school on an appointed day. The cost would be \$50 per order. Please indicate your interest to Marilyn O'Hara by email scarlet_runner@ihug.co.nz

Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programme For Yr8 Girls: There will be an information meeting for parents at School on 17 February 2009. This will be an opportunity for parents to gather information and make their own informed decision on this vaccination.

Special Awards 2008: The award for special cups took place at the Senior Concert. Winners were: Dux (Daniel Tait Cup) – *Anni Yang*. Dux Runner Up (Rudsits Family Cup) – *Aseem Anand*. Kindness & Caring (Nancy Betts Award) – *Alexandra Smith*. Achievement (Les Fleming Cup) – *Aseem Anand*. Principal's Cup (Murray Wratt Award) – *Finn Taylor*. Literacy (Pam Petherbridge Cup) – *Zoe Baty*. Effort (Lofroth Family Cup) – *Andrew Dunbar*. Sports (Warren McDowell Memorial Cup) – *Destiny Grace*. Aptitude in the Arts (Sandra Banks Memorial Cup) – *Richard Phippen*. The