

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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“The Opaheke Way”

NEWSLETTER NO 17/09

18 November 2009

Dear Parents, greetings to all of you as we race towards the end of the year. Four weeks from today will be the last day of school for our students.

PAI

This year our school is fortunate to be playing a major role in the Papakura Achievement Initiative or PAI for short. This project is a 3-4 year initiative with a focus on raising achievement in literacy for our Students. Although this involves an extra significant

work load for class teachers our staff are excited about the improvements in reading levels after one year's teacher training and in class assistance with a focus on explicit teaching. We are committed to this project and will be organizing our classes for next year around literacy and learning requirements. Now is the time in childrens lives when we aim to ensure success for all in a fundamental area of the curriculum such as literacy. Opaheke School is both the

lead school and the fund holder school and our Board of Trustees has a key role in ensuring that all schools participating meet their legal requirements as well as PAI obligations.

END OF YEAR CONCERTS

The two end of year concerts will take place on Wednesday 9th December.

Junior NE-Yr4 -

10.30am

Senior Yr5-8

7.00pm

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *School Pool*
- *PAI*
- *Concert Dates*

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Our day for grandparents and great grandparents will be Friday 11th December. This is a special day in the year for Opaheke School and is a highlight for the children. 'Adopted' grandparents are welcome too, especially for the child who has no living grandparents, or grandparents who live too far away to be able to attend.

Families are asked to supply a plate of food for morning tea.

Parents are requested not to attend this event, as due to numbers, we cannot cater for everybody on this day.

SCHOOL BANKING
A reminder that the National Bank are at School every Thursday morning, in the Library for children who have accounts with them. Application forms are available from the School office if you would like your child to

open a National Bank account to participate in School Banking.



TRUANCY

0800WAGGING
08009244464

The Papakura Truancy Service has started a phone service to report children who are truant from school. If you see children 'wandering' the streets during school hours, not accompanied by an adult please phone.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Last week schools received the final copies of the national standards and as a staff, we will look closely at them. The standards will apply in the core curriculum areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics as from 2010. As was indicated in the previous newsletter there is much debate (and heat) being generated about the worth or otherwise of national standards especially when there is a new curriculum to also implement in 2010. While standards in themselves can be helpful, Professor John Hattie, professor of education at the University of Auckland predicts that the standards will do little to raise student achievement. The targets students will be measured against, he claims, are Untested, experimental and need to be drawn up based on evidence, not committees. The Minister of Education, Anne Tolley responded that the national standards are

based on significant national and international data. Hattie's main concern about the national standards is the league tables that the media will be encouraged to construct which will lead to the failure of the standards. He also states that schools—and some teachers—may teach to the tests, with some teachers playing 'devious' games with students' results and blaming those students who fail to meet the proposed targets.

There is obviously much water yet to flow under the national standards bridge over the next year.

**FRIENDSHIP
DOUBLES OUR
JOY AND
DIVIDES OUR
GRIEF**

SWEDISH PROVERB

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

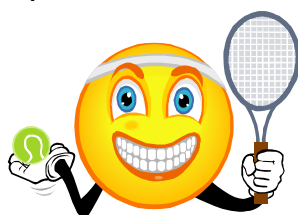
Now that our School roles are electronically marked, staff are able to closely monitor patterns of truancy or 'condoned absence' from school. We are serious about student achievement and non attendance at school equates with poor achievement. Senior staff can now inform parents about days when children were not at school and can quickly calculate percentages of attendance for each child over a year. Unless a child is sick or is on a justified absence, they are expected to attend school and the School expects parent support in accounting for children's attendance on school open days. If your child will be absent from school for any reason we expect parents to notify the class teacher or the school office.

YR 5/6 MARKET DAY

A reminder that this Friday 20 November the Yr5/6 Syndicate will be holding a 'Market Day'. To celebrate the many cultures within our School. Food and cultural items will be on sale. Most items will cost \$2 and we would appreciate your support. All money raised will be given to support the Samoan Tsunami Fundraising appeal.

YUMMY STICKER PROMOTIONS

Thanks to all the families who supported our 'Yummy Sticker' collecting. We amassed enough stickers to receive \$750 worth of sports equipment!



ENROLMENTS 2010

If your child will be a New Entrant at this School next year and you are uncertain if you have pre enrolled them could you please phone the office to check. Also if your child will not be attending Opaheke next year (not including those moving on to Year 9) please inform your child's teacher or the school office. Thankyou.

ROAD PATROL MONITORS AND BUS MONITORS OUTING

As a reward for the level of responsibility demonstrated by our School bus monitors and road patrol monitors, those students enjoyed a day at Rainbows End yesterday. Originally set up as an initiative with the police this occasion has evolved into an event where local schools subsidise the monitors for the fun day.

END OF YEAR

The last day of the School year will be Wednesday 16 December at 12.30pm.



TERM ONE 2010

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



GALA

At their meeting last Monday evening, the PTA were able to advise that the final net amount raised on the day was **\$8,844.00**. They wish to express their sincere thanks to everybody who assisted prior to the Gala, and on the day, staff, parents and Students.

Everybody involved worked co-operatively to ensure a successful - and fun- day.

SCHOOL POOL USE

The Board of Trustees has again decided to make the pool available over the Christmas holiday period to those families who have paid their School amenity. The charge for a key to the pool is \$30. This takes effect

from the afternoon of the 16 December through to and including Tuesday 2nd February 2010, between the hours of 8am and 8pm. **Application forms and keys will be available from the office from 7 -11 December.**

LOST PROPERTY

We still have lost clothing in our bins at school. These are kept outside Room 10.

Parents please feel free to check these if your child has lost clothing items. **If** clothing is labelled we do attempt to return it to the 'owner'.

DISCO

Final Disco for the year will be held on Thursday 26th Nov.
NE-Yr4
5.30 -6.30pm
Yr5—Yr8
6.45-8.00pm
ENTRY \$2
CHIPS/DRINKS/
GLOWSTICKS FOR
SALE

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES Congratulations to -

- Commonwealth Essay Results 2008;Olivia Foster, Jessica Petersen Yr8 Class C Commended. Ronnie Shaddick, Sophia Tadi Yr7 Class D Commended.
- Athletics—Jade Tulp Yr6 selected to be a member of 10 year old girls team competing in the Trans Tasman athlet-

ics competition in 2010.

- Tennis—Darby Fullerton Yr8 winner of the consolation prize 5th in a recent Auckland Tennis Tournament.
- Crosscountry— all the Yr1/2's who tried so hard for their parents last Friday.
- Kahurangi Watene an ex Opaheke pupil , winner of the Dux Ludorum award

at St Kentigern's College— for top sporting achievement.

YEAR 8 GRADUATION EVENING

Monday 14 December. All parents of our 2009 Year 8 students are invited to attend this celebration in the School Hall.



Community Notices

1. In Goodtime Horsepark -Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka
Ph 09 2919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
2. NZ Fire Service Volunteer & Emergency Services open day at Telstra Clear Pacific
next Sunday 22 November.

COMING EVENTS

Thurs 19 Nov	Yr7/8 Counties North athletics sports at Massey Park
Fri 20 Nov	Yr5/6 classes are holding a Market Day at School
Tues 24 Nov	1pm 2010 road patrol monitors receive instruction/training by police
Wed 25 Nov	Yr5/6 Counties North padder tennis tournament
Thur 26 Nov	Disco 5.30pm NE-Yr4 and 6.45 Yr5-8
Wed 2 Dec	Yr7/8 Counties North padder tennis tournament
Fri 4 Dec	a.m. Yr8 orientation visit to Rosehill College for those attending in 2010.

Quiz: Logic Trick: Say to someone, will the next word you speak be no? Answer 'Yes' or 'No'. Can either be correct?

Best wishes

Murray Wratt

Principal

Answer to Quiz : both answers can be correct. 'Yes' for yes I agree, the next word is 'No', no for no it won't be the next word—the double negative!