

'In Goodtime Horsepark Saddleclub', Karaka

27th & 28th September and 4th & 5th October

The holiday programme- mornings are 9 am-12 noon for 5-7 yrs

And afternoons 1-4 pm for 8-11 yrs. Each session is \$90 per child.

Contact Lyndsay 291 9153 or Gaylene 291 9152

Westfield Sing like a Star competition. Westfield Manukau City, October 1-5

Registration is from 10.30-11.00 am, show time is at 11.00 am.

There's a total prize pool worth \$22,000 up for grabs and entry is free!

House of Travel: Book your next holiday through the Papakura office of House of Travel. Mention Opaheke School and the School benefits by the Company's support

Travel Wise Tip: Park safely and walk quickly to the School gate to pick up or deliver your child. Although it's nice to chat to other parents be aware that children become bored with adult talk so hold firmly onto little hands'.

Quiz: Who is bigger, Mrs Bigger or her baby?

Quote: Seven days without laughter make one weak. Joel Goodman

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: It must be her baby because he is a little Bigger

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

office@opaheke.school.nz

Web Site: www.opaheke.school.nz

Tasman Drive

PAPAKURA

298 5410 Ph

298 0739 Fax

19 September 2007

Newsletter No 14/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Greetings to all of you as we approach the holidays. This coming Saturday is the official equinox - the time of equal length days and nights.

Eating sensibly: As parents will know, there has been a lot of publicity given to the issue of schools and healthy food.

As a part of our Health programme, we encourage all children to understand the importance of making healthy choices in their eating. Obesity and a lack of fitness are major issues for New Zealanders and we must make better choices. The School though, is only part of the big picture and it is vital that families make responsible choices. Schools have your children for less than 20% of their lives and we do not intend nor want to be the food police, checking that all food sent to school is 100% healthy. Like everything we do we are 'in this together' and we need families to play their part by providing a balanced nutritious lunch for their children. The government has made some clear statements on this, calling on schools to make a concerted effort to make parents aware of the need for balance and good sense. There is nothing wrong with a pie, a lamington or a chocolate bar *occasionally*. We will continue to offer sausage sizzles no more than one a term and we will look at our own practice with food generally. We do need to work in partnership and in the end it's all about moderation and common sense. The core role of this School is enhancing learning and we do not intend to vet children's food but ask parent support by promoting and practising healthy eating habits



Numeracy Meeting: Thankyou to the 60 parents who attended the early morning information session on how the Numeracy programme is changing teaching practices. We hope that you found the time useful and informative. For teachers,

the changes have required a mind shift to the teaching of Mathematics, for example:

- Numeracy sessions are now much more equipment based.
- Assessing student learning is on going and continuous rather than at the end of each unit, or only twice a year for reports.
- Numeracy games form part of most mathematics lessons.
- Working out of equations may go across the page rather than down the page.
- Students are actively encouraged to seek different ways of solving problems by association or regrouping numbers.
- Basic number facts are still taught and are still essential for quick calculations.

Nit Tips: With spring and summer approaching be aware that the age old problem of head lice will be on the increase. Here are a few tips;

- Regular checking and wet combing helps to control infestation
- Discourage your child/children from sharing combs, brushes, hairclips, towels and clothing
- Do not use special shampoos unless you have found a live head lice
- Wet combing is recommended to detect head lice
- Wet comb every 2-3 days, for up to 2 weeks, to remove any lice.
- If your child has head lice please inform class teacher.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following:

School Speech Finals: Yr 7/8; Reid Fullerton 1st, Sonia Everitt 2nd, Zoe Baty 3rd
Yr 5/6: Darby Fullerton 1st, Jeremy Collins 2nd, Charlotte Pritchard 3rd,

Talent Quest; Darby Fullerton 1st in singing, Annie Yang 1st instrumental, Anna Fairweather, Sydney Brain and Halayna Parker 1st equal in dance/ movement.

Interzone Gymnastics held at West Auckland; Helen Natrass Yr 8 was 6th overall in the individual results- an outstanding achievement among national level gymnasts. The Yr 8 girls team that included Natarsha Smith was 3rd overall. The Yr 7 girls team that included Adeline Shaddick and Annaleea Williamson was 2nd overall.

The Y 7/8 boys team that included Alan Robinson was 6th overall while Tony Kemp's boys' team was 8th overall.

A special thank you to Mrs Owen who has helped train and who prepared the teams for Counties North, Counties Zone and Auckland inter zone championships.



Inter school Speech Finals; Reid Fullerton, Sonia Everitt and Darby Fullerton participated in their area interschool speech finals at Te Hihi and Redhill Schools respectively.

Congratulations to Sonia Everitt who won the Yr 7/8 interschool competition and very well done to Darby and Reid who were highly commended.

A special thanks to Mrs Clement who organised our School speech final.

Staff Change Mrs Lopez will be finishing up at the end of this week. We thank Paula for her hard work and wish her well as she goes off to become a lady in waiting. The class will be taught by Miss Nicola Johnston, a former staff member who is returning from teaching service in London.

Science Fair: Last opportunity to view the work of our Yr 7/8 students. The hall will be open today and parents are invited to attend. The students have worked very hard to prepare their major Science experiments and their work deserves publicity.

Junior Art Expo: The junior class teachers have worked hard with their pupils to prepare their art for parent approval.

Kapa Haka; A small but very supportive whanau met at School last week to discuss forming and supporting a School Kapa Haka group. It will be a starter and will prosper providing it is well supported by parents. We are looking to begin in Week Two of next term and there will be a follow up meeting for parents on Thursday 11th October at 8.30 am in the staffroom. A special thankyou to Tyler Gurnick who will tutor the group.

House for Sale- Opaheke area

3 Bedrooms, Study, 2 Lounges, 2 Bathrooms, 2 kitchens Ph 2977 692

Spring Clean-up: Tomorrow afternoon, we are going to take part in a major spring clean up of the School grounds and immediate surrounding area. Gloves and rubbish sacks have been provided by the local council and parents are welcome to come along and join in.

Coming Events: Tonight: Science Fair on display Science fair open from 7-8 pm.

Fri. 21st September Last day of school for term 3

School finishes for students at 1.30 pm. Ponga Road bus departs at same earlier time.

Mon 8 Oct. Term four begins

Thurs. 11 Oct. 8.30 am Kapa Haka group parent support whanau meet. Counties North badminton competition.

Mon 15 Oct. A.P.P.A choir festival rehearsal at Penrose High School 7.30 pm P.T.A meeting in the staffroom. All parents welcome.

Tues. 16 Oct. Board of Trustees Meeting.

Fri. 19 Oct Travel Plan launch