

Coming Events

- Fri 21 Nov: 7 pm Auction evening in the hall
Tues 25 Nov: 7.30 pm P.T.A MEETING. All parents welcome
Wed 26 Nov: Yr 5/6 Counties North athletics field day at Massey Park
Sat 29 Nov: 10.00 am Saturday morning music school concert at Mansell Senior School
Tues 2 Dec: Year 4 classes to Sonshine Ranch Ardmore for outdoor education
Wed 3 Dec: Yr 5/6 padder tennis field day
Thurs 4 Dec: Yr 7/8 padder tennis field day
Disco 5.30 pm on
Fri 5 Dec: Yr 8 students attending Rosehill College 2009 Orientation
Thurs 11 Dec: End of School concerts:
10.30 am new entrants to Year Four
7.00 pm Year Five to Year Eight
Fri 12 Dec: Grandparents Day

Travel Wise Tip: 'Every child loves to play but roads are unsafe places to play on. Take them to a safe play area away from the roads'

Quote: 'Success is never ending, failure is never final'. Dr Robert Schuller

Quiz: How can a cat go into a basement and return with 8 feet?

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: It catches a mouse.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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19 November 2008
Newsletter No 18/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you. Already we are over halfway through the final term for 2008.

Auction Evening: Only two evenings until the Grand Auction evening on Friday night- 21st November. Some outstanding goods are available for bidding and everybody attending will have the opportunity to get something that they want at a very competitive price. We can make it a really enjoyable evening – bring along your friends too.

Tickets are available through the School office or from Geraldine Braks Ph 2981174 hm or 2967596 wk. Doors open at 7pm, auction begins at 7.30 pm.

Teacher Appointments: The Board of Trustees have confirmed some teacher appointments recently.

- Miss Kim Skipper, currently teaching at Waikowhai Intermediate, will commence work at Opaheke at the start of next year.
- Ms Cindy Powell who has worked at Opaheke School earlier this year has been appointed also.
- Miss Pulman, Miss Jolly and Miss McLeod have all been appointed to the permanent staff. Congratulations to all of these teachers.



Review of the Curriculum: Last year the former Minister of Education signed off on the 2007 New Zealand Curriculum. Throughout 2008 and 2009 Schools will be setting up their curriculum plans with the intention that as from 2010, the curriculum will be compulsory. The Board of Trustees have already considered the curriculum and the School will be seeking parental input and consideration of values that we all believe are important for the School to promote.

Pool Keys: Again this year the Board of Trustees has decided to open up the swimming pool for use during out of school hours, for families who have paid their School Amenity Donation for 2008. The pool may be used from Friday December 19th through to and including Monday 2nd February 2009 between 8am to 8pm. The pool will not be heated over the holiday period. Keys will cost \$30.00 We have a limited number of keys available and these will be distributed on a 'first in basis' and will be available for sale from 24th November up to Friday 12th December. If you would like to apply for a key please call into the office or send your child to the office for an application form and return it with money BEFORE Friday 12 December.



We do need some parents to help come once a day to test the pool water. Full instructions are given and if you are interested please phone the school office on 2985410.

Attendance At School: A reminder that our school starts at 8.25 am every morning and that students are expected to be in class, ready to begin the day's programme at this time. There are significant numbers of children arriving after the morning bell which means they are missing out on valuable organisational and learning time by being late. Please ensure that your child is on time and ready to start their day with all of the necessary equipment. Teachers are now marking the roll electronically and this will eventually speed up the necessary check up time each day.

Bus Pupils: If your child is an afternoon bus pupil and leaves school during the day for any reason, the office must be notified in order to take their name off the list for that afternoon. When ringing the School in the morning to notify the School office of your child's absence, please ask that their name is taken off the bus list for that day. If names are not removed, there is confusion and time lost in the afternoon, as teachers search for missing bus pupils.

Vegetable Boxes: The P.T.A Are pleased that 65 boxes of vegetables were sold in the recent fundraiser. It was an example of hard work by the P.T.A, a wonderfully generous gesture by Bernard Boyce and every family needing healthy food.

Sausage Sizzle: The School Councillors recent sausage sizzle raised \$350. Most of that money will help fund the Year 4's outdoor education day at Sonshine Ranch, Ardmore on the 2nd December. The Councillors intend to

have one more sausage sizzle in early December to help fund next year's Year 8 camp to Hunua in mid February.

School Amenity At its November meeting, the Board of Trustees set the amenity for 2009. **One child \$ 150, Two Children \$200, Three or more children \$240 (with a discount of \$10 if paid by 1st March 2009.)**

While communities around the country may 'wail and gnash their teeth' to quote an ancient source, the simple fact is that schools do require supplementary funding from their parents and the wider community to have in place the programmes and teaching staff that our parents expect. This annual agonizing is not helped by a Ministry of Education that makes public statements about the legalities of Amenities. Further, to say that education used to be free is misleading because even when the writer was at school during the sixties, education was not free. Quite simply, if we want our students to have the best possible educational opportunity at Opaheke School including learning other languages, enjoying a lower pupil to teacher ratio in the junior classes, receiving additional assistance with their reading or taking part in enrichment classes, we need to ensure that the amenity is paid to the School. By notifying parents in good time, we trust that this money can be budgeted for during 2009.

Road Patrol/School Councillors/Bus Monitors: Today, these senior students are enjoying a day at Rainbows End in acknowledgement of the significant responsibilities they carry while at School. Originally this day was arranged by the police as a day of thanking the road patrollers and bus monitors. All of these students enter at a special concession rate. The year Three classes from Rooms 5,6,17 & 18 are also out of school today visiting the Howick Historical Village.

Reunion cancellation: A final reminder to all of our families that the 40th anniversary of Opaheke School has been cancelled or if you prefer, postponed for ten years.

Dental Therapist: The dental team are on the move again! The Mansell Senior School Dental Clinic is closing on 14.11.08. The Rosehill Intermediate School Dental Clinic is opening on 17.11.08 Phone/ fax will remain the same. PH 2999770 Fax 2999532.

Lost Property: There is lots of lost property outside of Room Ten. Parents, please feel free to come and check the large quantities of clothing.

Swimming Time Now that the warmer weather is here, classes will be starting the swimming programme. If your child is swimming, please ensure that they have the correct gear.

