

Coming Events:

Thur 13 Dec End of Year concerts – see times on previous page
Fri 14 Dec Grandparents Day
Mon 17 Dec Reports come home
Year 5/6 classes to Swimarama
Year 8 Graduation 6pm
Thur 20 Dec Last day of school for 2007
School finishes for students at 12.30pm
Tues 5 Feb School starts Term One 2008

In Memorium

The School records with sadness, the death last Saturday of Mr Arthur Sanderson, the School's former caretaker. Arthur had worked at Opaheke School from 1985 until 1999 and was very highly regarded by all who knew him. A humble man who had a distinguished service record in the Second World War, Arthur was respectful and respected. Rest in peace Arthur.

To the family, relatives and friends of James Kearney, the School extends its sincere condolences for the tragic death of a young adolescent. James had been a former pupil at Opaheke School

The staff and I wish all of you an enjoyable, restful blessed Christmas 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 19/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Greetings to each and all of you as we draw near to the end of the school year. People used to say that the older they became, the faster each year went. I am sure that for many parents as well, 2007 has quickly passed.

Staff Changes: Mr and Mrs Young have resigned their respective positions at Opaheke in order to shift to Tauranga. Warren has been a Senior Teacher since first commencing here nearly 10 years ago while Juleen, a current Team Leader, has been employed with the School for 11 years. Both have brought commitment, a passion for teaching and have set high standards for their successive classes. Mr Young's contribution in leading several school camps has been a feature of his time at Opaheke while Mrs Young's ready sense of humour and items for concerts will be remembered at length. We will miss them both, but wish them all the best for their future.

Miss Loveday has resigned her permanent position in order to gain experience in different schools and with different students. Susie has been employed at the School for 5 years and contributed significantly to the Arts, Physical Education, Sport and Outdoor Education programmes. We wish her well in her future career moves.

Appointment of New Staff: The Board has confirmed the appointment of the following teachers to permanent positions: Miss Patel, Mrs Clement, Mrs Walker and Miss Cindy Williams who is currently working at Papatoetoe Central School. Other appointments are still to be confirmed.

End of Year Reports: These will come home next Monday. As outlined in the previous newsletter the emphasis has changed from reporting on progress to reporting on achievement. The format has altered as well to include use of colour.

We hope that parents will appreciate the many hours of work that were put in to formatting the reports and discuss the implications of what is stated with their children. As always, we welcome any constructive feedback from parents about the reports format.

Grandparents Day: Friday 14th December. Only two days to go. For new families, this is a special occasion to acknowledge and thank our ‘more mature’ adults who contribute so much to our childrens lives.

Parents: please send along a plate with some ‘goodies’ for the grandparents morning tea. With hundreds of grandparents attending, our resources are insufficient to provide 700 or so morning teas and grandparents do enjoy their morning ‘cuppas’.

- If you wish/allow your child to go home with their grandparents after lunch can you please write a note stating that permission is given. On past occasions, grandparents have ‘taken’ their grandchildren with them without notifying the parents and it has been embarrassing when a parent comes to collect their child at 2.30pm to find that ‘gran’ has taken them off for a special treat’...

A special Thankyou to those wonderful PTA parents who are organising the morning teas for Friday. As the concert on Grandparents Day is basically a repeat of the End of Year concert tomorrow, we request that parents do not attend as the School is unable to cope with the large numbers.

End of Year Concerts: These take place tomorrow (Thursday 13th December) 10.30am New Entrants to Year Four classes – Rooms 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24

7.00pm Year Five to Year Eight classes (this will include School wide awards) – Rooms 1 – 8 + 18

As well as class items the School’s concert band will perform and the kapa haka groups will perform at both concerts.

Walking School Bus Update: Congratulations to the parents of our second walking school bus from Bushlands Place. Thankyou to the 21 families who returned their walking school bus surveys. We will contact the rest of you in Term One. Please note to make the walking school bus work we do need parents on the bus, if you can spare a morning or afternoon a week a walking bus could work from you area.

Swimming Pool Use: The Board have once again decided to make the School pool available to families who have paid the Amenity. Keys are \$30 each and may be purchased until Tuesday 18 December, please call at the office for an application form.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students:

- Hannah Fern and Timothy Fern, winner and runner up respectively in a colouring competition run by Mitre 10.
- Courtney Henson and Rajat Malhotra who were both placed in the interzone athletics at Auckland. Courtney in the 400 metres was placed 3rd in Intermediate Girls while Rajat, in the 200 metres was placed 4th in Senior Boys.
- Troy Martin placed 1st and Adam Wainwright placed 2nd at their checkpoints when they participated in the Heartkids cycle race around Lake Taupo.
- Destiny Grace, Adeline Shaddick, Maia-Jean Watene and Analeea Williamson – these 4 girls were in the Auckland Interzone Touch Open Grade tournament representing all of the Counties schools. The girls team was placed 1st, an outstanding achievement. Special thanks to Mrs Watene who coached and managed the team.

Year Eight Graduation: Next Monday evening 17th December beginning at 6pm. All parents and grandparents are invited to attend the graduation evening for our 53 Year Eights who will be going on to several colleges in 2008.

Are You A Movie Goer? If you are, Sky City cinemas offer a donation equal to 10% of the net price to our school. All that is required is to nominate Opaheke School when purchasing your movie tickets and that is recorded beside our School’s name. Sounds easy? Yes it is and you do not pay any extra on the cost of your movie passes.



Yr7/8 Fundraiser: American Hot Dogs will be made on Thur 13 Dec. The cost is \$2 for a frankfurter (bun, tomato sauce, mustard & cheese). Pre-sales only on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Term Dates 2008:

Term 1	Tuesday 5 February	to	Friday 18 April
Term 2	Monday 5 May	to	Friday 4 July
Term 3	Monday 21 July	to	Friday 26 September
Term 4	Monday 13 October	to	Thursday 18 December

Community Notices: Harvest Christian Church presents a production of ‘The Grinch’, Sunday 16th December 10.15am, 2.15am & 6.15am Phone 299 9395 to book.