

### Community Notices:

- In Goodtime HorsePark. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or [ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz)
- SuperKids Papakura After School OSCAR Programme currently has vacancies for 5-13 year olds and picks up from Opaheke School. Daily activities include homework supervision, games, afternoon tea and fun filled activities. OSCAR subsidies available Ph 299 9394.
- 4 bedroom house for rent Opaheke area \$430/week ph 2961357 or 0210484484
- Rosehill College Fundraiser for Concert Band – Car Boot Sale + sausage sizzle + raffles Saturday 23 May ph 2946322 to book a car space \$10.

### Coming Events

Tue 26 May	Hearing & Vision testing at School
Wed 27 – Fri 29 May	Papakura Youth Expo
Fri 29 May	Y5/6 classes to Auckland Zoo
Mon 1 June	Queens Birthday public holiday
Thur 4 June	Counties Zone rugby field day Yr7/8's at Pulman Park 7.30pm Gala Committee meeting at School in the staffroom – all parents welcome.
Tues 9 June	Board of Trustees meeting

**Quiz:** What am I? As fast as an eagle as slow as a slug. As tall as a tree as small as a bug. Sometimes in front, sometimes behind, never on top, always aligned.

**Quote:** ‘the way to predict the future is to invent it’ Alan Kay

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

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(please detach and return to school)

I support the plan to have a Gala on 1 November this year	<b>Yes/No</b>
I would be willing to assist with the planning	<b>Yes/No</b>
Although unable to be on the planning committee I would be willing to help out on the day	<b>Yes/No</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Answer to Quiz: a shadow

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

## *Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving*

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20 May 2009  
Newsletter No 07/09

### “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you as we appear to be beginning an early winter season.

**Dads: Get Into The Boys Good Books:** Now that winter time is here with longer evenings, it's a great time for fathers to read to and with their sons. That's one secret to improving the literacy rates for boys. Researchers worry that boys do lag behind girls when it comes to reading and they believe that a part of the problem is because so many boys do not have an adult male role model who reads. Boys follow the behaviours of people whom they respect and if they see a male adult reading books for enjoyment or information they will emulate that example. Schools can only do so much to improve reading and need the family home to support and encourage reading also. Reading to boys (and girls too) is a time to treasure and enjoy. Ten minutes per evening is better than 1 hour one night a week because it is regular.

In Britain, there is so much concern about boys' literacy levels that the government has set up a special programme that provides schools with free books for boys from a recommended list. This list includes stories about aliens, Doctor Who, football and spying. Although New Zealand boys read at a higher level overall than English boys their achievement lags significantly behind New Zealand girls. Dads you are an essential part of your boy's reading development!

**New Classroom Block:** Work is continuing rapidly on this now with the classrooms scheduled to be available for use by mid June. The contractors are about 4 weeks ahead of time.

**Being on Time For School:** Our School values students being on time for each school day. Teachers have noticed some improvement but there are still significant number of pupils



arriving after the 8.25am bell has rung for the start of the school day. Parents your support is requested to ensure that your children do get every opportunity to be on time each morning when school is open.

**Extra Help at School:** At Opaheke School, teachers and support staff do run many extra programmes/activities all aimed at providing extra assistance or opportunities to enhance learning. The list below will give parents some indications



- Reading Recovery – for 6 year old children at risk with their reading. Lessons occur daily for 30 minutes. This year, two teachers take Reading Recovery.
- Rainbow Reading: small groups of students from Year 3 to 8 who need a ‘reading booster’. This programme provides an aural/oral approach with students listening to tapes, reading with the tapes and working on activities all aimed at increasing understanding.
- Enrichment: This programme operates one day per week for Yr5-8 students and provides enhanced learning opportunities for more able students.
- Brass tuition: A number of senior students - currently 10 are learning to play a musical instrument – in most cases brass instruments.
- Computer Club: This occurs during some lunchtimes and gives students further opportunities to enhance their computer capabilities.
- Choir: This year there are two choirs. One choir group prepares for the Kids For Kids concert while senior students participate in the major Auckland Primary Principals’ Association music festival at the Auckland Town Hall in early November.
- Second Language Students (ESOL) receive English language support working in small groups.
- Perceptual Motor Programme or PMP for short. This is a new programme first started in our School in Term One for Year One and Two children. It aims to improve motor skills, co-ordination and spatial awareness.
- One on one help with learning programmes.

The above list does not include our lunchtime Library Club or our sports activities, many of which occur during the lunch hour. Examples this term are gymnastics, netball, rugby and chess.

**Gala:** At a meeting last week a number of parents discussed the suggestion that the PTA, working with parents, re start the school gala later this year. Subject to sufficient support from all parents, not just PTA or staff, there is a proposal to organise a gala for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Please return the slip at the end of this newsletter.

**Netball:** This Saturday Opaheke has Club duty at the Papakura netball centre. Thank you to all the parents who have offered to help with this as the school is fined if we fail to complete our duty day. We still have some slots that haven’t been filled yet. Please phone Wendy (2995161) or Jane (school office) to advise where you will be able to help if you have not done so already. Thanks again to those parents who have already offered to help.

#### **Special Thankyou:**

- ☺ To Lesley Ruyg and her group of parent helpers who are hard at work helping our younger children with our PMP programme.
- ☺ To all of those wonderful parents who act as team manager, coaches, umpires of the School’s Saturday morning netball teams – and all of those parents who carry out any of the above duties in other sports for our students. You’re stars!

**Class/Team Photographs:** Students will have brought home an envelope to pre purchase a class group photo of their class or netball team. Photos will be taken on Friday 12 June. Please return envelopes with money before this date if you wish to purchase one. Photolife require a separate envelope for each child in your family.



**Homework Survey:** No we haven’t put this aside. Mrs Walker will be doing further research and consideration and will report back to staff.

**School Banking:** The National Bank want to help... If your child’s saving is important to you, it’s important to us! School Banking with the National Bank operates from the library every Thursday morning. Applications are available at the Bank or from the School office.

**Mobility Parking Spaces:** It has been brought to our notice that in the mornings there is a problem with vehicles without mobility parking permits on display being parked in carpark spaces reserved for people with a disability. The School therefore requests that people letting their children off outside the School gate avoid parking in those areas that are reserved for drivers who possess mobility parking permits. It may be a bit further to walk, but the extra exercise is good for adults and certainly for the children.

**Children’s Forest** – On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Papakura District Council is again planting trees to commemorate the birth of children born or resident in the Papakura District between June 2008 and to date. Registration by Wednesday 20 May to Fax 2981906 or [gstreet@papakura.govt.nz](mailto:gstreet@papakura.govt.nz) (Full Name, Date of Birth, Contact Person, Address and Phone)