

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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“The Opaheke Way”

NEWSLETTER NO 05/10

21 April 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term Two. Here at School, teachers have been busy preparing for the new term over much of last week.

BULLYING AT SCHOOL:

Put aside child abuse, eating disorders, parents' long work days: bullying and friendship factors are the major worries for kiwi children, a helpline informs us. A free counselling phone line for children and young persons received more than 500,000 calls in 2008. Callers were 50 times more worried about friendships than about child abuse of the 145,000 answered calls. Feelings of loneliness had increased, more young people wanted to quit smoking and more than 100 callers expressed suicidal thoughts or fears. The 2008 summary of calls about peer relationships and bullying showed callers aged 12 and 13 were Helpline's biggest users. While not downgrading those other issues it does indicate that as parents and teachers, all responsible adults need to know who a child's friends are and to be alert to possible difficulties when friends 'fall out'. Interestingly—and of concern—was that bullying was the leading problem for boys overall and for those children aged nine to eleven who sought help. The implications for Opaheke School are thought provoking. Unfortunately children are not intrinsically kind and loving to all other children all of the time and it would be untrue to say there is no bullying at our School. What needs to occur is for someone to tell a responsible fellow student, a duty teacher, class teacher, School Councillor or a Peer Mediator. The peer mediators are senior students who have been trained to take a role as playground mediators who aim to resolve disagreements in a way that encourages pupils to take ownership of problems or disputes that occur during morning intervals and lunch-times. Yes there will still be teachers on playground duty and lunchtime activities teachers but the peer mediators will supplement the actions of the teachers.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *BOT Elections*
- *PTA*
- *Celia Lashlie
Speaking Engagements*

Fun Fact

Mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.



PTA COMMITTEE

Next Monday evening, there will be an important PTA meeting. At the last AGM, there were no appointments to the positions of Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer. For the future of the PTA we will need to ensure that there is a good turn out of parents.

PARENT INTERVEIWS

Thankyou to all of those parents who attended either the parent interviews or student centred conferences at the end of last term. To date we have had 90% of all of our parents attend one or both of the above. For those unable to attend last term teachers will endeavour to set up a time to meet, that is mutually acceptable. Parents, please let your child's class teacher know which time/day would suit you best and a time can be arranged. We are aiming to meet with all of our parents for this important occasion. This year for the first time, the Year 5/6 students participated in the student centred conferences and we would value any feedback from

parents as to how they found the opportunity to discuss their child's achievement with the child being present.

BOARD OT TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Next week, all parents/ caregivers of our current student roll will receive voting forms to elect 5 parent representatives to help constitute the next Board of Trustees. This School has been well served by very able parent representatives on our Board in past years and it is vitally important that this level of competence and wisdom be maintained. It is important therefore that all parents and caregivers exercise their right to vote. Congratulations to Mrs Glennis Williams who has been re-elected to the next Board as the staff representative.

FAMILY CARNIVAL

Once again a huge thankyou to the PTA for setting up this fun occasion. Jacqui Everett, as the leading co-ordinator is to be congratulated on a very successful evening. Thankyou to the staff who stayed on to help ensure that all who came had a relaxing enjoyable time.

ANZAC DAY

Poppies will be for sale at school this week to support the RSA with their collections. Children may like to bring a coin to school to donate and receive their poppy.



MATHLETICS

We are able to take some new enrolments for Mathletics for those students who would still like to join for the remainder of the year. Forms are available from the office and must be returned with payment before Friday 23 April. The cost will be \$22.50.

AMENITY PAYMENTS

A reminder notice will be sent out next week to those parents yet to begin paying the School amenity. Our School relies heavily on this income to provide not only the 'icing on the cake' but also the cake's 'foundation mix'. If we

want our children to grow up taking every opportunity and advantage that this School can provide eg lower pupil teacher ratio in junior classes, enrichment classes, languages for Yr7/8 students, new computers in the ICT suite and additional

reading support it is imperative that all our families play their part in helping finance these initiatives. We are pleased with the response to date and look forward to being able to offer even more options for our students. All amenities paid are tax deductible.

CHESS CLUB

This year Mr James has started a chess club at School. Late last term, the group travelled to Waiuku to participate in a regional competition and were placed 2nd overall. Congratulations to the team and a special award was won by Terry Apera who was 1st individually. Thanks to Mr James.

CELIA LASHLIE'S SPEAKING VISIT

Next Tuesday afternoon, 27th April, Celia Lashlie will be speaking to local teachers about boys and boys achievement at school. Organised by the Papakura Achievement Initiative, Celia Lashlie has initiated significant research on boys and their place in educational achievement including the Good Man project

NATIONAL STANDARDS

At this point in time our school will not be reporting children's progress against the national standards for the pending mid year reports. Our teachers have not yet received any professional learning about reporting against the standards and further time is necessary to carefully evaluate such

which was put into place in 25 boys' schools in New Zealand. Her work also led to a book titled 'He'll Be Okay Growing Gorgeous Boys Into Good Men'. School for students will finish next Tuesday at 1pm to enable all of our teachers to attend Celia's workshop conference in our School hall. For those parents unable to arrange childcare during the afternoon, arrangements will be made for them to be supervised at school until 2.30pm. If you would like the School to provide supervision on this afternoon please write a note to your child's teacher. There will be an opportunity for parents to hear Celia Lashlie's thoughts on raising children that same evening at Kelvin Road School starting at 7.00pm (see flier). Childcare will

fundamental changes to this School's assessment practices. As always our student's achievement will be measured against the NZ Curriculum levels and this is supported by nationally referenced assessments.

be arranged for this time during the evening at that school. Parking will be available in the School grounds. Admission is free and Celia's message for parents would be well worthwhile hearing.

QUOTE

The only person to have everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe. (Anon.)



Community Notices

1. Drury Football - Last few spaces available for ages 7-12. No experience necessary! Contact Angela Ph: 297 7483
2. Caregiver needed for a 4 year old boy from term 3 till the end of the year. This involves up to 4½ hours 3 days a week. The child would be cared for in your own home and would involve drop offs and pick ups to and from Preschool. If you are interested please contact Karen on 2983707.

COMING EVENTS

Sat 24 April	Netball Association parade. Saturday morning competition starts.
Mon 26 April	Voting forms posted ANZAC Assembly 7.30pm PTA meeting in the staffroom
Tues 27 April	School finishes at 1pm for students Ponga Road bus departs at earlier time of 1pm Teachers attending Celia Lashlie's seminar 1.30pm-4.00pm 7pm Celia Lashlie speaks with parents at Kelvin Road " School all parents welcome.
Wed 28 April	7.30pm Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri 7 May	Voting day for next Board of Trustees parents representatives. Year 7 students Mumps Rubella Immunisation talks by

Quiz: 7 months of the year have 31 days, how many have 28?

3 1 12 9 (answer below)

Quote: Experience is a marvellous thing. It teaches you to recognise a mistake when you make it again *Anonymous*

Best wishes

Murray Wratt

Principal