

Community Notices:

Anyone interested in Marching? We are looking for girls aged from 6 – 12 please call Leah on 2984990 or 0274384882.

House for Sale: Opaheke School Zone 3 bedroom + study ph 0274385916.

Coming Events

Thur 23 Aug	tomorrow School Fun Run, postponement day for this will be next Thursday 30 th if tomorrow is too wet
Fri 24 Aug	Counties North Gymnastic field day at Counties Gym Sport Stadium for Yr 5 - 8
Tue 28 Aug	Counties Zone cross country at Paparimu School
Fri 31 Aug	Counties Zone gymnastics at Pukekohe Daffodil Day
Tues 4 Sept	8.00am Numeracy workshop for parents in Hall. All parents welcome. School Speech finals in Hall 7.00pm
Thur 6 Sept	Yr 5/6 Counties North cross country at Te Hihi School. Rosehill College out of zone applications or Yr9 close.
Fri 7 September	Teacher Appreciation Day.

Travel Wise Tip: Waiving or beckoning your child across the street is not a safe thing to do. Meet them on their side of the street and cross together.

Quote: ‘Don’t worry be happy. Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but doesn’t get you anywhere. *Anon.* Thanks to Mrs Marquet.

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

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22 August 2007

Newsletter No 12/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Greetings to all of you. Already we are over halfway through Term Three and hopefully spring will soon be here.

Numeracy Workshop: A reminder that on Tuesday 4 September staff have organised a workshop for parents starting at 8.00am and finishing by 8.45am. Venue will be the School hall. The Speaker will be Anne-Marie Simpson from the advisory service, Team Solutions. She is leading the teacher development programme for our teachers and is also working in a number of other Auckland schools. Come along and learn more about how the Numeracy programme is changing the teaching of Mathematics in Schools. We have chosen the morning rather than an evening because:

- Most people can get to work by 9.00am, a definite cut off time of 8.45am.
 - Nobody will miss their favourite television programmes such as ‘Coronation Street’.
 - Childcare will be easier – your children can simply come to School with you.
- All parents welcome and there will be an opportunity for questions to be answered.

Parent Interviews: It is pleasing to report that 98% of all of the School’s families attended parent interviews either at the end of Term Two or the start of Term Three. Well done everybody who came. It would be great to report that 100% of our parent population attended. Parent Interviews for Room 20 pupils will be in Week Eight of this term.

Out of Zone Enrolments 2008: The School is currently accepting out of the area applications from parents who wish their child to attend Opaheke School in 2008. Application forms are available from the school office or on our website and close on September 7th. See this week’s Papakura Courier for further information.

Netball Prize giving: Again, a most enjoyable occasion last Saturday afternoon. It was a privilege to attend the end of season function in the



hall. Organised and fronted by the senior girls it was great to hear of the achievement of each of our eight teams from Yr4 to Yr 8. All of the girls obviously enjoyed being part of a team and most will have formed enduring friendships as a result of playing weekly with other team mates. A special thankyou to those wonderful parents who coached, managed, umpired or supported the teams. Some of our former students are now umpiring or coaching School teams and this is greatly valued. Our sincere thanks to Mrs Fiona Watene, the School's co-ordinating teacher who did so much background work. This year, for the first time, the School had a collegiate grade team made up of former pupils who now attend college. Thankyou to the Turvey family who set up this team.

Ready for School?: For both parents and five year old children, school can be an overwhelming experience especially if the child is the first born. Our School does have a pre enrolment visit but there are many things to do, items to remember and places to go. What can parents do to help their child before they begin school? Start talking about some of the things that happen in the School day:

- ☺ when the bell rings – at 8.25am come in and sit on the mat
- ☺ eating occurs only at morning play and at lunchtime
- ☺ sitting on the mat, listening to the teacher as she speaks, putting up a hand to ask a question, asking to go to the toilet are all important classroom behaviours
- ☺ following the teacher's instructions, waiting one's turn and completing a simple task independently are social skills, valued in a New Entrant class
- ☺ reading books is both learning and fun
- ☺ trying one's hardest is important, but it is okay to make mistakes

Daffodil Day: Friday 31st August (Friday week) is Daffodil Day. Our School Councillors are organising a coin trail to raise money for cancer research and all children are invited to contribute to this worthwhile cause.



Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students.
University of New South Wales English tests: *Distinction Awards 90 – 99%:* Yr4; Megan Weir, Yr5 James Robinson, Yr8 Sonia Everitt. *Credit Awards 70 – 89%:* Yr 4; Chhavi Breja, Luke Doggrell, Caitlin Steele, Yr 5; Katie Drennan, Tim Meyer, Erin Pepper Yr6; Hritika Ghaice, Perrin Hastings, Jessica Petersen, Alexander Wiggins Yr8; Curtis Taylor-Swan.

Music; Andrew Cooksley and Troy Martin who are learning to play brass instruments at school have been invited to join the Papakura Junior Brass Band.

Sport – Destiny Grace, Adeline Shaddick, Katie Maihi, Maia Jean Watene and Leah Strongman-Horn all selected to represent Counties Netball at the Interzone

championships in Auckland. The Yr 7 team won this competition while the Yr 8 team was 3rd overall. Counties North Crosscountry – Ghalesha Singh 1st in Yr 8 girls. The Yr8 girls team was 2nd overall. Yr 7 girls 4th and both Yr 7 and Yr 8 boys teams were 5th overall.

Mathex: This year for the first time the Papakura Schools held a Mathex competition at Te Hihi School. Teams of 4 students work together to solve advanced problems. We were delighted to report that our;

Year 8 teams were 1st and 2nd = overall

Year 7 teams were 1st and 2nd = overall

Last Thursday evening the same teams competed in the Auckland Mathex competition at the ASB Stadium where the opposition is very tough. All of our teams competed to their best and we finished up in the middle of the Yr7 and Yr 8 competitions. Congratulation to Yr 8's Sonia Everitt, Alister Holmes, Rajat Malhotra, Dylan Ngatai, Connal Boyce, Reid Fullerton, Sheree de Malmanche and Curtis Taylor-Swan. Yr 7's; Ryan Alexander, Troy Davies, Adeline Shaddick, Alexandra Smith, Aseem Anand, Jayden Robinson, Finn Taylor and Teresa Whale.

Sausage Sizzle: Thankyou to families from the School Councillors for supporting their recent sausage sizzle. A total of \$400 was the net profit and this money will go towards their major 2007 project of creating a native shrubbery beside the dental clinic.

School Speech Competitions: Our School's annual speech competition will be held on Tuesday 4 September beginning at 7pm in the hall. All parents welcome. The awards are: Charlotte Graham Cup for best Yr5/6 speechmaker, Board of Trustees Cup for best Yr7/8 speechmaker. The winners of these go on to the Papakura Schools Championship.



Crossing Roster: Firstly a big thankyou to Sue John who has been organising our crossing roster helpers over the past few years. Due to work commitments she can no longer continue to do so. This job just entails making up a roster once a term and allocating dates for our helpers. Sue has all the information and is happy to pass on her experience. Please phone Karen on 2977692 to help out.

Crossing Roster Helpers: Monday 27 August 8.00am and Thursday 30 August at 2.00pm parent supervisors to meet with Constable Purdie in the school staffroom.