

## Coming Events

Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Labour Day
Tues 28 Oct	Teacher Only Day – no school for pupils
Wed 5 Nov	Counties North Yr7/8 athletics field day Junior School cross country
Sat 8 Nov	General election
Tues 11 Nov	Board of Trustees meeting
Thur 13 Nov	Counties Zone touch tournament for Yr7/8 pupils
Mon 17 Nov	7.30pm PTA meeting – all parents welcome

## Travel Wise:

- Emphasis Term 4 – good weather, perfect for walking to school, better for children, better for the environment and less traffic at the gate.
- *Week 3, Walk to School Week.* Teachers will record the number of children walking to school and be in to win a prize for their class (ice-blocks). Children walking to school will be in to win spot prizes – Push Play Frisbees, hacky sacks and pencils.
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> will be Freaky First Friday – children to dress up their shoes and walk to school.

**Quote:** ‘Lots of people want to ride with you in the stretch limo but what you want is someone who will catch the bus with you when the limo breaks down’

**Quiz:** What do you call a group of cows?

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: A kine of cows (twelve cows are A flink)

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008  
Newsletter No 16/08

## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you as we move through a very busy Term Four. A warm welcome to all of our new families and our 13 new pupils.

**Staff Changes:** Last week we were pleased to welcome back Miss Patel from her term’s leave and she is teaching in R17 Year Three. The other teacher who is new to Opaheke School is Miss Jane Hamlin and she is teaching in Room 1 – Year Eight. Miss Hamlin has taught in the Franklin area, Central Auckland and has just returned from her O.E. We are pleased to introduce her to our delightful Year 8 students.

**Teacher Only Day:** A final reminder that the Board of Trustees has approved next Tuesday 28 October as a teacher only day. This means that all staff will be taking part in an indepth inservice course on the new New Zealand Curriculum that is currently being introduced to all schools. There will be no school for students on that day. This day which has been granted by the Minister of Education, to all state schools, has been chosen by the Board for minimum effect on our families. Labour Weekend is a long weekend when many families traditionally travel away.

**School Hats:** All students are now expected to wear the School hat during Terms Four and One when the sun’s rays are most damaging. Parents, your support for the purchase of the School hat is appreciated. Hats cost \$10 for a plain hat and \$15.50 for those with an embroidered school logo.

**Year Six Camp:** For much of this week, our Year Six students are attending an outdoor education camp at Ararimu. A special thank you to Mrs Walker, Miss McLeod and Mr Stainton teachers, and to those wonderful



parents who have sacrificed their time, annual leave and perhaps income to accompany the students. This year is the first time that Opaheke School students have gone to Chosen Valley Ararimu. For many years in the past, the School has made use of Totara Springs Matamata, but we are conscious of the costs and now, the bus travel costs would be more than the actual camp itself, if we had continued to attend Totara Springs.

**Pedestrian Crossings:** Alert drivers will now know that as a part of the Travel Wise programme, work has been carried out in the recent holidays to replace the Opaheke Road and Tasman Drive crossings and a new kea crossing has been constructed on Short Street. A special thank you to the School's parent reps on Travel Wise – Mrs Costello and Mrs Deane, and to Miss Banks our staff representative. We are working to make these crossings as safe as possible for our children, but we do need all parent drivers to do their part by driving with safety first in mind.

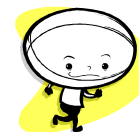
**School Reunion:** Unfortunately the registrations received to date have been less than expected. Therefore a decision has been made to cancel this occasion. We would like to thank the committee who have given their time over the past months to organise this day.

### **Celebrating Other Successes:**

Congratulations to the following students:

- University of New South Wales English tests: **Distinction Awards, 90-99%**; Zoe Baty Yr8, Katie Drennan Yr6, Vincent Diep Yr5. **Credit, 70-89%**, Nevada Lee Yr8, Andrew Cooksley, Neihana Hamilton and Jessica Petersen Yr7's; Michayla Olsen, James Robinson and Sophia Tadi Yr6'; Chhavi Breja, Megan Weir, Kieron Williams, Erin Pepper Yr5's; Anqi Yang, Tione Sroga, Thomas Edwards Yr4's.
- Art – Hannah Fern Yr2 whose picture of takahe has been selected for Mitre 10 2009 calendar.
- Gymnastics – Counties Zone gymnastics held at Pukekohe in early September. Yr 8 girls Team B with Destiny Grace 1<sup>st</sup> and Team A with Teresa McCarthy, Adeline Shaddick, Analeea Williamson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Yr 7 girls Team A with Kyra Fance, Dania Smiley, Natasha Tulp 1<sup>st</sup> and Team B with Hritika Ghaiee, Jenna Homewood, Madison Lunny 3<sup>rd</sup>. Yr7/8 boys Team A with James Natrass and Alan Robinson 1<sup>st</sup>.

**School Touch Teams:** This year the School has entered two teams in the local competition, Opaheke Breakers and Opaheke Accessories. It's also pleasing to see many of our pupils are playing in other touch teams or cricket, softball, athletics, swimming or tennis .....



**General Election:** The School hall will be used as a polling booth for the general election which is to be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**PTA Auction Night:** After our hugely successful Auction night last year our PTA have decided to again hold this major fundraiser for the school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30pm. Some great items have been donated so please keep an eye out for upcoming flyers with information on the fun event. We hope all our families will support the huge effort the PTA put in to make this a successful and fun evening.

**Grandparents Day:** Advance Notice! Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December will be the School's Special day for grandparents. Parents please let your parents know. Parents concerts will be held on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Calendar Orders:** Order forms for these were sent home last week. Orders close on 31<sup>st</sup> of October. These make great Christmas presents and the children work very hard on their artwork for these.

**Vege Boxes:** Orders close for these on Friday so if you want to take advantage of this one off fundraiser please send order form and money in to school before then.



### **Community Notices:**

- 1 Harvest Christian Church Beach Road Papakura – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October – “Dream/Fairytale” dress up night (an alternative to Halloween) gold coin entry Session One Yr1-4 = 5.45 to 7.15pm, Session Two Yr 5-8 = 7.15 – 8.45pm. Ph 2997550.
- 2 After School Care – experienced lady seeks job in after school care ph 2965933 or 0275224655 Lorraine.