

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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Newsletter No 15/09

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"The Opaheke Way" 23 September 2009

Dear Parents, greetings to all of you as we come to the end of Term 3. Yesterday was the equinox—the time of equal length days and nights and this Sunday, clocks are moved forward by one hour for daylight saving.

Newsletter Format: We hope that parents enjoyed the new format for our School newsletter. We are experimenting to make the layout more interesting.

Staff Appointment: We are pleased to welcome Miss Stephanie McLachlan to the teaching staff in Term 4. Miss McLachlan will be starting a new class of Year 1 children in Room 12. She has previously taught at the Gardens

School in Manurewa and has had teaching experience in London.

School Values: At the last Board of Trustees meeting, the following values were confirmed as underpinning the new curriculum for next year:

- ◆ Respect for others and self respect
- ◆ Striving for excellence
- ◆ Achieving personal best

The process of deciding on our cornerstone values first began with the questionnaire completed by many of our parents, to a parental workshop

Points of Interest:

- ☺ **Out of Zone Enrolments**
- ☺ **Walking School Bus**
- ☺ **Science Fair**
- ☺ **Health & PE Curriculum**

evening, to a Board workshop and to the teacher only day. It is affirming to record that all groups expressed a strong desire for the concept of respect with parents and teachers both ranking respect as our number one key value for our students. Respect given leads to respect being given! An insert shows parents how the School's curriculum will be constructed.

Out of Zone Enrolments:

Out of Zone applications for enrolments in 2010 will be accepted from 14 September until 16 October and the ballot will be held on 23 October 2009. If you live out of our School Zone and have a child starting at Opaheke School in 2010 you will need to make an application. Forms can be downloaded from the schools

schools website or are available from the school office.

Junior Adventure

Playground Upgrade:

Yes it's started! Last Friday Afternoon, a dozen parents and Teachers assisted Michael Micheal White to remove all of the base bark. During the coming holidays, base mats

similar to those fitted in the senior

adventure playground will be installed and an overhead canopy will be erected. We all wish to sincerely thank Micheal who brought his digger to speed up this major project and ensure a tidy job.



Movie Night: Last Friday evening, two movies were screened for children—and adults to enjoy. A special thankyou to the parents of the PTA—and to the teachers—who helped serve sustenance and supervised the occasion.

Science Fair:

The Year 7/8 students have been very busy this term preparing their Science Research projects. Judging has now taken place

Celebrating Successes:

Congratulations to the following students:

- ◆ Chester Davies Yr8, who was a member of the Yr7/8 boys team placed 2nd at Auckland interzone gymnastics competition.
- ◆ Tim Fern Yr5, designed a poster for local business that was placed in the top ten.
- ◆ Argyle Morling, Carlin Dempster and Joshua Palmer who were part of the 9th Grade Papakura Rangers team that won their Grade Championship in the Auckland wide competition.
- ◆ *Science Fair Yr 8's*
1st = Olivia Foster/Jenna Homewood and Melanie John
2nd Charlotte Pritchard
3rd Natasha Tulp

and tomorrow evening there there will be an opportunity for all to view them. I would commend this to parents, grandparents and friends of the School because the standard of work is high and it provides an incentive for the students if they know that adults are coming to look at their work. It also highlights how access to the Internet has enhanced the quality research completed.

Highly Commended

Cayley Colyer

Ashleigh Bradstreet

Andrew Cooksley

◆ *Science Fair Yr 7's*

1st Joshua Lowe

2nd Kane Wadsworth

3rd = Bruce Rosemergy and Ronnie Shaddick/Ben Grieve

Highly Commended

D'Arcy Knight

Liam Costello

Kendyl Knight

Erin Pepper



The Hall will be open tomorrow from 6-8 pm.

Email Addresses: We are currently updating email addresses. 66% of our families have a current email address on their records. We had 70 slips back in reply to our previous request for updates for contact details. If you have a change of details or a new email address please send them to school.



'Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them' James Baldwin

Last Day Term 3: This Friday afternoon, school will finish at 1.30pm. The Ponga Rd bus will also depart at the earlier Parents please note the early finishing time.

Teacher Aide Term 4: We are wanting a teacher aide for Term 4 for 3 hours per day to work with one young pupil, experience necessary. Enquiries to the school office.

Congratulations To:

Marilyn O'Hara and Sandy Bradstreet who received their special awards for voluntary work at the Papakura District Council function last Wednesday evening. Both Sandy and Marilyn have provided unstinting support for our School over many years and are truly among those who are 'the backbones' of this School's parent community. On Friday evening Wendy Beever will

receive a special award for coordinating our School's Saturday morning netball teams at the annual Counties Sports Foundation annual volunteer awards occasion. Thankyou Wendy for all of your work on behalf of the girls.

Netball Teams 2010:

Early in Term 4 we plan to hold an informal meeting at School one evening for all parents with daughters interested in playing

netball next year, to discuss options available regarding teams. By being

organised ahead of the season, we can be on the front foot in terms of numbers of teams, necessary fund raising and uniforms, managers and coaches.



School Amenity:

We are pleased to report that we are well over what the School had budgeted for in 2009. Very good news. This means that all of the programmes that we wanted to implement can continue and also means that we can keep class sizes in the junior school lower than the Ministry of Education ratio of teachers to pupils. The Board is very appreciative of those parents who pay and wishes to remind all parents that 33% of the amenity can be claimed back when making an annual tax return. We will have the refund form available in the office if you would like a copy when you are completing your tax returns.

Health and PE School Curriculum:

The Health and PE curriculum team have worked hard this year to finalise the school Health & PE curriculum. The insert in this newsletter is our proposed school overview outlining the topic to be covered in odd and even years. Please feel free to comment on the overviews and return the comments slip to class teacher.

Quiz What part of the body will you find the *stirrup, anvil & hammer*?

A) Shoulder, B) Ear, C) Knee, D) Stomach—(answer on back page)

Walking School Bus:

A walking school bus is a group of children who walk to and from school supervised by adults. Like a real school bus it travels at a set time and children leave the bus at special stops situated close to where they live.

Currently we have one WSB operating on Monday and

Tuesday mornings. This 'bus' walks along the Callis Ave walkway, along Fairview Ave, then to school. We are looking for more adult volunteers and children to join this bus and start more buses. If you are interested please see Melissa Brown (R10 teacher) or email melissab@opaheke.school.nz

Community Notices:

1. In Goodtime HorsePark. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
2. Holiday Programme
Papakura Museum 'Our Daily Bread' - make bread the old fashioned way. Tuesday & Thursday 10-12pm \$3.00.
Ph 9782600 to book.



Coming Events

- Thur 24 Sept Science Fair display in the hall for parents.
- Fri 25 Sept Last day Term 4, school finishes at 1.30pm.
- Mon 12 Oct First day Term 4.
- Fri 16 Oct Counties North badminton field day for Yr7/8.
Out of Zone enrolments close for 2010.
- Mon 19 Oct APPA choir full rehearsal at One Tree Hill College a.m.
7.30pm PTA meeting, all parents welcome.
- Tue 20 Oct Board of Trustee Meeting 7.30pm

Best wishes

*Murray Wratt
Principal*

Answer to Quiz: The ear.

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Please make any relevant comments you have regarding the Health & PE School Curriculum overview and return to school:
