

School Anniversary: In 2008, Opaheke School will have been opened for 40 years. The Board of Trustees have agreed and plan to hold some celebrations at some point. More information to come.

Coming Events

7pm tonight	Rosehill College information evening for parents of 2008 Yr 9 students
Tue 31 July	Counties Zone netball at Manurewa
Thr 2 Aug	Yr3/4 selling popcorn at lunchtime
Mon 6 Aug	Individual photographs taken
Wed 8 Aug	Rosehill College in Zone applications close for 2008
Thurs 9 Aug	Yr3/4 classes to Auckland Museum

Quiz: Logic Trick. Say to someone, will the next word you speak be 'no'?
Answer 'Yes' or 'No'. Can either be correct?

Quote: 'The trouble with living life in the fast lane is that you get to the other end in an awful hurry' *John Jensen*

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: both answers can be correct. Yes for yes I agree the next word is no. No for no it won't be the next word – the double negative.

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“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
I tenei wiki o te reo Maori, tena koutou katoa. Welcome back to “Term Three. There were six new enrolments at the beginning of last week and everybody has quickly moved into the daily routines.

New Teachers: A warm welcome to the following new staff:

- Miss Stacey Hull. Miss Hull will be teaching Yr 7/8 class in Room 2 and had already met almost all of the parents attending the three way conferences late last term.
- Mrs Gina Lomax has started a new class of Year 1 children in Room 16. Mrs Lomax is a very experienced junior teacher and we welcome her expertise.
- Miss Joanna Sharp has returned to Opaheke School to teach Yr3/4 in Room 21. Miss Sharp also taught in England for some years gaining valuable experiences there.
- Mrs Vanessa McFlinn has returned to teach Yr 2 children in Room 12 following convalescence. Mrs McFlinn is one of the School's senior teachers.
- Mrs Ruth Fairweather has returned to work part time following parental leave. She will also teach in Room 21 each Friday of this term, while Miss Steward is on leave.
- Mrs Cantley will be on leave until the end of August. While she is on leave Mr Young will be acting Deputy Principal for the senior area of the School.

Parent Interviews: We are pleased to note that 91% of all of the School's families have attended a parent interview or three way conference. We are very keen to involve all of the families and would appreciate parents contacting the class teacher to set up a suitable time. Teachers are endeavouring to contact those parents still to attend. Well done everyone who attended.

Three Way Conferences: This year, for the first time, the Yr 7/8 students were invited to attend a 'Three Way Conference' instead of parent interviews. This gave the students concerned an opportunity to be actively involved, to set some positive goals and to outline how they believed School might be able to help them with their

studies. Congratulations to our Yr 7/8 students and thank you to the parents and teachers who trialled this new format.

Community Questionnaires: A big thank you to all of those parents who took the time to answer the Board of Trustees questionnaire at the end of Term One. A total of over 150 responses were received and the Board has been busy collating all of the suggestions. They will put out a Board response to all parents. Some of the suggestions will form part of the Board's next Strategic Plan for the School which is being prepared at present. Some of the shorter queries/suggestions will be answered in the regular newsletter. A few issues raised are nation wide matters and cannot be addressed by one Board alone but they will still be noted. Special thanks to Mrs Alison Kemp who has collated the returns.

Travel Wise: Two meetings have been held at School with a small focus group led by the Auckland Regional Transport Authority's Hannah Mitchell. Topics covered have included engineering factors and planning while enforcement and education will be addressed in August. The result will be a plan that will hopefully make our streets safer for children coming to school, going home from school and lead to safer driving habits by all parents.



School Gala: Some of you may have heard that the PTA are going to be trying some new and exciting ideas this year instead of the Gala which is usually held. In November we are holding a wine and cheese evening with an auction of the donations we have collected from our sponsors. In the first term of 2008 we will be holding a family carnival day so that the children can have all the rides, face painting, yummy food and entertainment that the Gala would normally bring. It is unfortunate that the Gala couldn't be held this year but due to lack of parent help and support (only four people turned up for the planning), the Gala was not an option. If there is more support next year and the parents of Opaheke School would like the Gala to continue, hopefully we will have your support.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students.

University of New South Wales Science tests: *Distinction Awards 90 – 99%:* Yr4 Navrajdeep Sandhu, Megan Weir, Yr 8 Connal Boyce. *Credit Awards 70 – 89%:* Yr 4; Kieron Williams, Liam Wenzlick, Daniel Minton, Vincent Diep, Chhavi Breja. Yr 5; Tim Meyer, Joel Elwin. Yr6; Alexander Wiggins, Hritika Ghaiee. Yr7 Finn Taylor. Yr8; Curtis Taylor Swan, Sonia Everitt. **The Arts:** Darby Fullerton Yr6; Hamilton Competitions for singing 1st Sacred Song, 1st in Song and Costume Junior Vocal, 1st in Own Choice Selection. Joshua Low Yr5; Modern School of Music Guitar Competitions winner of the Alan Gardiner Cup for under

elevens; Gold, Silver and High Distinction for open category. **Rugby:** Jonathan Cato Yr7 selected to play for Counties Rugby in the Goldfields Tournament. **Hockey:** Rajat Malhotra, Liam Neems, Curtis Taylor-Swan all represented Counties North in the Counties Zone Hockey Tournament in June.

Role Models: Do they exist at School? Most certainly they do. Our School has a student council who provide leadership across the whole school. They frequently lead our whole school assemblies and supervise the bus travel procedure for Yr 7/8 to/from Mansell Senior School. Interestingly, three of the eight outstanding Councillors are Maori students. A few of our senior boys act as mentors for troubled young boys who have difficulty reaching our high expectations of behaviour and effort. Other examples of student responsibilities include School Library monitors, IT monitors, audio visual monitors, sports monitors, lunchtime activities for junior children, lunch monitors, paper recycling monitors, Wet Day monitors, rugby referee monitors who take junior boys for lunchtime games and so the list goes on. In fact it is doubtful if the School could function as effectively without these wonderful responsible young people.

Lunch Money Counters: Can you help? We need helpers to collate and check the lunch orders on a Tuesday or Friday morning from 8.30am to 9.30am. Two helpers are scheduled on each day, please contact Gail on 296 9303 if you can help.

Dental Therapists: The therapists are now operating out of the Rosehill Intermediate School Dental Clinic phone 299 9770 for appointments.

Planet Treasure Guardians: We recently had a visit from the Author of this Series of books who spoke to our Yr 7/8 children. S.V. Bodle's writing style is compelling and totally unique, even able to entice fans of multi-media games into reading. Some children in the Year 7/8 syndicate have purchased copies through the school. The publishers are offering to supply us with further copies of the Books at \$24 per copy with \$3 of this amount being a donation to the School. Planet Treasure Guardians is for readers aged between 8 and 15. If your child would like to purchase a copy of the book please send along \$24 in a sealed envelope with your child's name and Room on it and we will order for them.



Parents – A Warning: beware of adults seeking to pass off strawberry jelly crystals to children. 'Strawberry Meth' and 'strawberry quick' are a new form of methamphetamine or 'P'. Children think that it is candy.