

Coming Events

Thur 26 March:	Performer in school – ‘Storyteller’. Interzone swimming sports.
Wed 1 April	Year 3 / 4 classes sports day 7.30pm Parent workshop on School curriculum
Thur 2 April	Sausage Sizzle School Councillors
Mon 6 April	Board of Trustee meeting
Tues 7 April	Parent Interviews 1pm onwards all children dismissed at 1pm. Ponga Road bus departs at this earlier time
Wed 8 April	Parents invited to observe PMP programme a.m
Thur 9 April	Last day of Term One School finishes at 1.30pm this day.
Mon 27 April	Term Two begins Science Fair at School

Quiz: Unlike most other fish, sharks have no:

(a) bones, (b) teeth, (c) gills (d) liver?

Quote: ‘Whenever you find that you are on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect’ Mark Twain

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

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Homework: please detach and return to school

- I support the idea of the School investigating other forms of homework credits. Yes/No
- I would prefer that the School continue with the existing format of homework Yes/No

Please note, reading will always remain a form of homework even if alternatives were considered. Thankyou for your response.

Answer to quiz: (a) bones

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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25 March 2009

Newsletter No 04/09

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Greetings to all of you as the end of the first term looms.

Parent Teacher Interviews: these will be arranged for Tuesday 7th April during the afternoon and evening. *On this day school for students will finish at 1pm* to enable the interviews to take place. By now all parents should have received a form indicating what time would suit them to attend interviews. It has always been an expectation at Opaheke School that all parents will meet their responsibilities of coming to School for an interview with their child’s teacher. Year 7 and 8 students also have the opportunity to be fully involved in a three way conference and are also encouraged to attend. After all if we want students to be active participants in their own learning, it makes good sense for students to take a leading role. If this Tuesday does not suit you, please name an alternative and teachers will do their best to schedule a time on another day before or after school. Unfortunately evening hours will not be available on an alternate day.

Kids Carnival: What a fun evening! A relatively cheap ‘evening out’ with an opportunity for all to enjoy the occasion. The emphasis was always to be on children’s enjoyment and the PTA could claim that this was there fore a successful occasion. A big thankyou to all of the parents who helped out with the shows, to the staff who worked at various activities and to the PTA committee who organised the occasion.



PTA Annual General Meeting: Nearly 30 parents and teachers attended the meeting a fortnight ago. It was also pleasing to see that a number of parents new to the School came along. Office Holders elected – Marilyn O’Hara-Pepper (Chairperson), Paulette Taurima (Secretary), Grant McLachlan (Treasurer).

Curriculum Responses: Well over 100 responses were received to the questionnaire on school curriculum and Mrs Marquet has been busy collating parents' answers/suggestions/opinions. It has been refreshing to see the interest shown by our parents as to how Opaheke School should formulate its vision and direction for the future years. A workshop meeting will be held in the staffroom next Wednesday 1st April starting at 7.30pm. This will be an activity evening to review the responses and will end no later than 8.45pm. All parents are very welcome to attend. Tea and coffee will be available.

Phoning In Absences: Thankyou to those parents who do leave a message on the office answer phone when a child is sick or late or for family reasons. Each morning and afternoon our office staff spend a considerable time phoning home or work trying to contact a responsible adult about a child's unexplained absence. The phone back system was put in place a number of years back after instances of children being abducted between home and school (not our school) and is a shared responsibility between parents and the School to ensure that our children are as safe as possible between home and school. Parent co-operation is both expected and appreciated. If you have altered phone numbers please advise the office.



Poppy Days : Because ANZAC Day occurs during the April holidays of this year, we will have Poppy Days during the final week of this term from Monday 6th to Thursday 9th April; Friday 10th April being Good Friday and school will be closed.

Saturday Morning Netball Teams: These teams have now largely been finalised and games begin in May. Eight teams will be entered from the School, thanks to the huge efforts of a number of parents and Miss Hamlin at School. Special thanks to Wendy Beever who with help from Lisa Ross is co-ordinating the entries. Fees for 2009 are \$100 and of this total the local Association receives \$65 while the balance helps fund the umpire costs. We are informed that this cost is much less than other local clubs/schools but reflects our School's wishes to involve as many girls as possible.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students.

- Caitlin Pritchard, Ellie Raynes, Jade Tulp and Elizabeth Mills Year 5/6 team who were 1st in the George Keown Interschool Relay.
- Darby Fullerton, Charlotte Pritchard, Natasha Tulp and Maia Jean Watene who were 2nd in the Year 7/8 interschool swimming teams relay.
- Charlotte Pritchard attended the Division 2 National Swimming Champs and placed 3rd in the 100m IM, 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly and 4th in 50m freestyle and 6th in 100m Butterfly.

Sausage Sizzle: Our 2009 School Councillors will be holding their first sausage sizzle next Thursday 2nd April with all proceeds going towards the Saturday morning netball team costs. Ice blocks will also be on sale on this occasion.

Access to School: The School has two designated access ways. One is off Short Street, the other off Tasman Drive. Parents, we do ask that if children are entering or leaving the School driveway off Tasman Drive that they walk up or walk down between the two continuous yellow lines, not go around behind the hall. Because of the new building under construction we are expecting Year 4 to 8 students to pass between the swimming pool fence and the office area.

PMP Programme: The Perceptual Motor Programme in the Junior Area is now fully in operation. A special thankyou to Mrs Williams and Mrs Ruyg who have set up the programme. The equipment purchased, about \$8,000 worth, has been paid for by the Schools PTA. An open morning will be held on Wednesday 8 April and parents are welcome to 'drop' in between 9 and 10am and 10.30 and 11.50am to observe the programme.

Change to Homework: Thankyou to those parents who did respond to the questionnaire regarding forms of homework. For those parents who missed it, a second opportunity is provided in the tear off slip below.

School Banking: Every Thursday. Application forms available from the School Office. Drop them into the National Bank with a copy of your child's Birth Certificate.

Community Notices:

- Superkids After School OSCAR Programme is now open for 5-13 year olds. Pick up from all schools in Papakura (including Opaheke at 2.30pm). Daily activities include homework supervision, games, afternoon tea and fun filled activities. OSCAR Subsidies available. Phone 299 9394.
- In Goodtime HorsePark holiday programme 20 – 24 April. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz
- Norris Studios presents Showcase 2009. Hawkins Theatre Wed 1st April – Sat 4th April 7.30pm, Sat 4th matinee 1.30pm. Adults \$18, Seniors/Children/Students \$12 Ph 2665357 to book, door sales available.
- Helen O'Grady Children's Drama Academy has classes for students aged 5 to 17 years. Aimed at developing ongoing confidence, self-esteem and skills in verbal communication. Enrolling now for Term 2; phone Debbie Napier, on 836 0233 for further details.