

Coming Events:

Thur 27 March (tomorrow) Year 7/8 Summer sports field day
Fri 28 March Japanese students at School
Sun 30 March Year 8 students to Hunua
Mon 31 March – Thursday 7 April – Year 7's on outdoor education activities
Wed 2 April Year 8's return from Hunua
Tues 8 April 7pm Dare programme parent's information evening Year 7's
7.30pm Rock and Water Parents information evening Year 8's
Fri 11 April PTA Carnival – after school into the evening.
Wed 16 April Parent Interviews school closes at 1.00pm

Travel Wise Quote: 'Help on a walking school bus; burn carbs not carbon' Yes we do need extra parents for the Callis Avenue/Bushlands Place Walking School Bus.

Quiz: Sweet Potato is a nickname for what musical instrument – flute, bagpipes, ocarina, or accordion?

Quote: Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. *Anonymous*

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: ocarina (ancient round flute)

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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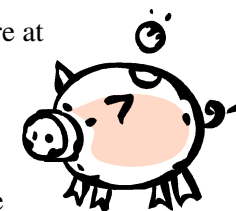
26 March 2008
Newsletter No 04/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we near the end of daylight saving for this year's autumn.

How Old Are We?: This year our School will have been open for business for 40 years! It's older than many of our parents! Opaheke School first opened in 1968 when a number of pupils transferred from Papakura South and possibly the former Central School opposite the police station. Rooms 1 to 8 were the only classrooms here and Rooms 9 to 12 were opened in 1972. The point of all this is that a reunion/celebration is being planned for Saturday 22nd November. A sub-committee made up of former Board members, PTA members and present day staff have begun planning the occasion. At this stage people are invited to indicate their interest via the School's website. Details will be advertised on the Old Friends website at a later date. If you would like to assist in some part of the anniversary please let us know by email or phone the office. The next meeting for the planning committee will be 7.00pm Monday 12th May in the staffroom.

School Partnership: Do you remember banking when you were at primary school? Many parents will recall the days of the Post Office Savings Bank, Trustbank or ASB Kashin account when we could make a deposit into our own savings account.



The National Bank has formed a School Partnership Programme with our School with the intention of providing a school banking process for all children who wish to start saving by opening their own accounts. With support of the Board of Trustees, PTA and staff children will be able to begin School banking next term.

Thursdays will be the day for school banking and the process will be supervised by bank staff with senior students playing a large role in running the programme. More details will come via a flier enclosed in the School newsletter.

PTA Annual General Meeting: This was held last week in the Arts Room. Office Holders re-elected at the meeting were Chairperson: *Geraldine Braks*, Secretary: *Marilyn O'Hara*, Treasurer: *Grant Mac Lachlan*. At the meeting the Board of Trustees and the staff offered special votes of thanks to our hard working committed PTA parents who 'Positively Take Action'.

Carnival: Friday 11th April after school through to the evening. This is an occasion for the children to enjoy. The PTA's aim is to provide lots of activities for all pupils and parents to enjoy, including an after school disco. It is not designed to make lots of money, rather the PTA intend to simply cover their costs.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students:

- ☺ Alexandra Smith and Joshua Lunny selected to be our School's Head Councillors for 2008.
- ☺ Opaheke Dodgers netball team who won the Tournament at Pukekohe two weeks ago.



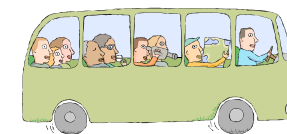
Saturday Netball Teams: This year our School will be entering 10 teams in the Papakura Netball Association Saturday morning competition. All girls in the teams will have received notices with dates of grading games etc listed.

Year Eight Camp: Next Sunday 30th March our Year Eight students along with their teachers and parents will be travelling to Hunua for their 4 day annual outdoor education programme. We wish them well as they prepare to meet new challenges in their lives.

Parent Interviews: An advance notice that these will be held on Wednesday 16 April after lunch and through into the evening. Parents please note this day and make a resolution to attend. Year 7/8 students will have an opportunity to be part of a three way conference. School will finish at 1.00pm on this day.

Dare Programme/Rock And Water: There will be an information evening for parents of Year 7/8 students about the Dare programme for Year 7 students and the Rock And Water programme for Year 8 pupils. Police personnel who have a leading part in both programmes will be present to explain the programmes, answer questions and provide resources. Tuesday evening 8th April at 7.00pm in the staffroom.

Ponga Road School Bus: If your child uses the school bus you need to be aware of the following criteria laid down by the Ministry of Education for bus transport of students:



- if you live closer than 3.2km to school and if your child is under 10 years old
- or**
- if you live closer than 4.8km to school and if your child is 10 years old or over your child/ren are not eligible to receive transport assistance.

The cost for use of the school bus if your children come under these restrictions is \$100 per year. The school sends out accounts at the beginning of each year to those families who this affects and this money is passed onto the Rosehill Network which operates the bus services for all of Rosehill College's contributing schools.

Absences from School: Please remember that we have a 24hr phone service for parents to call and advise of absences from school. The school endeavours to find out every day why students are not at school. This is a safety issue for everybody school as we need to know that every child who should be at school is accounted for each school day. A phone call can save our office many hours of phoning families to find out where children are. Our phone service also has Term dates and upcoming events.

School Sun Hats: Due to increased purchasing costs we have had to increase the costs of the school hats. The price will now be - Plain Hat \$10.00, Crested Hat \$14.00

Term Dates:

Term 1	Tuesday 5 February	to	Friday 18 April
Term 2	Monday 5 May	to	Friday 4 July
Term 3	Monday 21 July	to	Friday 26 September
Term 4	Monday 13 October	to	Thursday 18 December

Community Notices:

1. Drury Junior Rugby registrations 5-12yrs phone Tony 2947294 for details
2. St Mary's Gala day 9 - 1pm on April 5th.