

In Goodtime Horsepark Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka.
Ph 09 22919153 or ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz

Superkids Papakura; Superkids Papakura After School OSCAR programme currently has vacancies for 5-13 year olds and picks up from Opaheke School. Daily activities include homework supervision, games, afternoon tea & fun filled activities. OSCAR Subsidies available. Phone 2999394 or email afterschool@hcc.net.nz for more information or enrolment.

Coming Events

Thurs 27 Aug: Year 3 /4 classes 'Living Museum'
Fri 28th Aug: Staff Only Day. No school for pupils.
Tues 1 Sept Auckland Interzone basketball for Yr 7/8 students
7 pm Interschool Yr 7/8 speech competition at Papakura Normal School
Wed 2 Sept: 7 pm Papakura High School Open evening for Year 8 students and parents. Meet in School hall.
Thurs 3 Sept: 7pm Interschool Yr 5/6 speech competition at Redhill School
Fri 4 Sept Teacher Appreciation Day
Sat 12 Sept: 7 pm Comedy Stage Hypnotist Show with Ian Blaine.

Quiz: Earth is catching up to Mars and the two planets will be closest to each other in recorded history. On August 27th (tomorrow) Mars will only be approximately 34,649,589 miles away from Earth. True or False?

Quote: 'Never let your failures go to your heart or your successes go to your head'
Anonymous

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
PRINCIPAL

Answer to Quiz: True

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

office@opaheke.school.nz
Web Site: www.opaheke.school.nz

Tasman Drive
PAPAKURA
298 5410 Ph
298 0739 Fax

26 August 2009
Newsletter No 13/09

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Greetings to all of our families as we come to the end of winter (we hope).



Opportunities: Just as life and work provides opportunities for our adults, at Opaheke School we aim to provide opportunities for our students. Some examples are:

Reading – book week: Celebrating and enjoying reading for information and/or pleasure. 'We learn to read so that we can read to learn. As well there is the Rainbow Reading programme catering for small groups of pupils having difficulty with their reading.

- Mathematics: Mathex for Yr 7/8 students and Mathletics an online website that challenges pupils to compete with themselves or others, improving their mathematical capability.
- I.C.T: With our newly installed computers, the suite is fully used during the day and over many lunchtimes. Our first set of computers on wheels 'COW' is now being extensively used by the Yr 7/8 students
- Languages: There are opportunities for the Y7/8 classes to learn te reo Maori, Spanish, Japanese and German.
- Sports: Saturday morning netball, crosscountry, gymnastics, basketball, rugby, soccer, cricket, athletics, swimming and some outdoor education camps.
- Music : This year there are two choirs and brass band tuition funded by the PTA.
- Enrichment: For able students in Years 5 to 8, these are school based groups that will enable these pupils to stretch their intellectual boundaries.
- External challenges e.g. University of New South Wales tests in Science, English and Mathematics for Years 4 - 8 students. There is also the Commonwealth Essay competition for Years 6-8 pupils.

With all the above in addition to the normal curriculum, there should be no occasions where pupils can claim that they are bored.

Speech Competition: Last Thursday an attentive audience was informed, educated and amused by our speech finalists at the School's annual speech competition. Congratulations to all of the finalists who took part. Place getters were: Year 5/6; 1st Caitlin Pritchard, 2nd Erica Fullerton, 3rd Rachel Biggelaar Year 7/8; 1st Charlotte Pritchard, 2nd Darby Fullerton, 3rd Ronny Shaddick. Charlotte and Caitlin will go on to contest the interschool speeches in early September.

Staff Only Day: This Friday 28th August is a teacher only day. There will be no school for students, because teachers will be preparing the new New Zealand Curriculum which will be compulsory in 2010.

Any families facing major problems in arranging for the supervision of these children on that day, please phone the School by tomorrow afternoon. We are willing to provide supervision for the day at school to help out our parents, if required.

Out of Zone Enrolments: Out of Zone applications for enrolments for 2010 will be accepted from September 14th until October 16th and the ballot will be held on 23rd October 2009. If you are living out of our school zone and wish to have your child attend Opaheke School in 2010 you will need to apply. Applicants will be informed of the decision within five days of the ballot. If the application is successful there will be further procedures to complete.

Bookweek: This was great fun and everybody entered into the spirit for Friday's dress up as your favourite book character- including the teachers. The visit by 'The Three White Rabbits' alias Mr James, Mr Curtin and Mr Stainton provided a highlight. A special thankyou to our School Librarians who prepared and presented a data show of different cultures in New Zealand, to Mrs Pryor and Mrs Smith who worked hard to set up the whole week.

National Excellence In Teaching Awards: Has your child's life been enriched by a competent teacher who goes that extra distance to lift their achievement and instil a love for learning? Yes, you can recognise that extra special teacher. Simply collect a 'National Excellence in Teaching Award' application form from the office. Entries close on 31 August.

Teacher Appreciation Day: This is a special Opaheke School tradition, part of our School culture. On the first Friday of each September we hold a Teacher Appreciation Day when students recognise their wonderful teachers. Most children know what their teacher enjoys and bring along a small gift. It may be a home made card, a special drawing, perhaps a chocolate bar or something tasty. It needs to be stated now, it is not necessary to supply a new BMW or a helicopter. The recognition that our teachers do make a major difference in the lives of their students is not to be underestimated.



Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to these students.

University of New South Wales Science test.

Distinction Awards 90-99 %: Neihana Hamilton Yr 8, Connor McCormick Yr6
Credit Awards 70-89%: Yr 8 Jessica Peterson, Alex Wiggans.

Yr 7; Ben Grieve, Hayden Krissansen, Lindon Lewis, Joshua Lowe, Sevia Luapene, Erin O'Hara-Pepper.

Yr 6 Vincent Diep, Jay Hunter, Megan Weir

Yr 5 Anqi Yang

Yr 4; A.J. Cameron, Dale Capper, Amy Duffell, Connor Paul

Netball: The Counties North team competed at the Auckland Interzone championships recently, gaining 3rd place. Madison Lunny, Charlotte Pritchard and Maia Jean Watene were in the team. An outstanding achievement..

Crosscountry Yr 7/8 competition at Strathallan; Natasha Tulp 5th in Yr 8 girls The Y 8 girls team 2nd, Yr7 and Yr 8 boys teams both 3rd overall. Yr 5/6 crosscountry held at Te Hihi School: Jade Tulp 2nd Yr 6 girls, Sean Henson 3rd in Yr 6 boys. The Yr 6 girls team was 1st overall and the Yr 6 boys team was 2nd overall.

Netball Prizegiving: On Saturday afternoon the School netball teams held their annual prizegiving . As well as team results it was an opportunity to acknowledge and thank those parents, former students and senior pupils who gave of their time, skills and energy to coach, manage or umpire our present teams. A heartfelt thankyou to those people, who are the backbone of our School's support. A huge thankyou to Mrs Wendy Beaver who co-ordinated our School teams. She is a real star!



School Amenity: The Board of Trustees wishes to thank our parents who have paid their amenity or who are making a real effort during these hard times. There has been a good response with many opting for automatic payment throughout the year.

Measles Outbreak: The Ministry of Health has notified schools of a rapid rise in cases of measles with the number of notified cases already 7 times higher than the 2008 total for the whole year. Measles is a highly infectious notifiable disease with serious complications. To stop the spread it is necessary to keep a child with measles at home. Immunisation is free from family G.P's.

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Totara Park Pony club: if you don't have a pony but love horses and are really wanting to learn how to look after ponies and get to be involved, then join our riders without ponies course. For more details contact Rosalie Maihi 298 9633

Dance Classes for children, ages 5 to 12. In Ballroom, Latin American, Rock'n'roll and fun dances. Small classes of ten only. Ph Leo Walters on 2996198 or 027573223, boys especially welcome.