

### **Community Notices:**

1. NZ Pipe Band Championships 7 -8 March at Bruce Pulman Park from 9am, Concert 7.00pm – 9.00pm Friday Street March 9am Town Centre Saturday.
2. Before/After School care phone Hannah 2991514 or 021 1355413/
3. Blue Light Disco Drury School Hall 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 5.30 – 7pm, Yrs 5-8 7.30 – 9pm, \$3 door charge parent permission slips at school office or at the door on the night.

### **Coming Events:**

Thur 28 Feb	tomorrow, Counties North Yr 7/8 swimming sports at Massey Park pool a.m. for selected students.
Mon 3 March	Walk to School Week – Feet First
Tue 4 March	Counties Zone Yr 7/8 swimming sports at Pukekohe
Wed 5 March	Counties North Yr 5/6 swimming sports at Massey Park for selected students
Thur 6 March	6.30pm George Keown interschool relay races
Fri 7 March	Police Challenge team events for selected Yr7/8 students at Pukekohe Freaky Feet First Friday
Tue 11 March	Board of Trustees meeting 7.30pm
Mon 17 March	PTA Annual General Meeting 7.30pm in the Arts Room

**In Memory:** Opaheke School extends its condolences to Miss Banks whose paternal grandparents both died within a few days of each other. Our sincere sympathy to Viki and her family.

**Travel Wise Quote:** There's no parking fuss on a walking school bus.

**Quiz:** Why does a tall boy eat less than a little boy? (answer below)

**Quote:** Your goal should be just out of reach, but not out of sight.

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: a little goes a long way.

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 02/08

## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you as we approach the extra day in leap year, Friday 29 February, a day that occurs only every 4<sup>th</sup> year.

**School Amenity:** Thank you very much to all of our parents who have paid their School amenity. This year with locally raised contributions our Board of Trustees are funding an additional 1.25 teaching staff in a major move to lower pupil teacher ratio, especially in the junior classes. By lowering class numbers this enables teachers to more effectively assist pupils within each class. The school both values and appreciates this essential contribution. A discount is offered to all families who pay before or on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March and the amenity is also tax deductible.

**Additional Curriculum Options:** At our School there are additional options available for our students mainly in the senior classes. Some of these are:

- An enrichment programme for Year 5-8 students with special abilities.
- A brass music tuition programme.
- A school orchestra which started for the first time last year.
- A kapa haka group from 2pm until 3.30pm on a Thursday afternoon.
- Rainbow Reading programme for those students requiring extra assistance with their reading.
- Languages programme for Year 7/8 students. This year the options will be Maori, Japanese and French. We are working towards offering Spanish again from Term Three.
- Saturday morning netball for girls organised through the Opaheke School Netball programme.

**Bible in School:** This programme for Year 4 to 6 students has just started for 2008. Running from 10.30 – 11.00am each Wednesday morning, the programme is based on ‘Religion in Life’, a non sectarian Christian programme used throughout schools in New Zealand. It is presented by various mainstream Christian churches.

Parents who do not wish their child to take part are to write a note for the class teacher. No reason need be given. Children not participating in the Bible in School programme will be supervised in a classroom during these 30 minutes.

**Internet Safety:** This School asks parents to sign an agreement allowing their child to access the internet on certain bookmarked sites under supervision. For parent's information, the internet policy is available from the school website or from the school office.

**Walk to School Week:** Next week is Walk to School Week and because our School is a Travel Wise School we will be taking part. There will be a special acknowledgement of those children who do walk to and from school. For those parents who live some distance from School and who need to bring their children by car, there will be support, even if the children are dropped off on say Opaheke Road. Local police will assist and we are hopeful that some local dignitaries will join a Walking School bus on 'Freaky Feet First Friday'.



**Celebrating Successes:** Congratulations to the following students:

- ☺ Darby Fullerton and Melanie John in North Counties Tennis Teams. Darby was selected for singles while Melanie made the doubles team.
- ☺ School Councillors for 2008: Alexandra Smith, Destiny Grace, Adeline Shaddick, Darby Fullerton, Joshua Lunny, Jonathan Cato, Finn Taylor and Christian McClure Chappell. We wish them well in their student leadership role.
- ☺ To all of our students, who have made a great start to 2008!

**School Lunches:** The PTA has resolved to change their lunch provider for school lunches by returning to Sunrise Bakery (on the Opaheke roundabout) as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April. The rating of the bakery has gone back up to an 'A' level following hard work by the new owners. There will no change of prices and lunches will continue on Tuesdays and Fridays. The lunch team is still short of helpers. Can you assist for approximately 1 hour on a Tuesday or Friday to put the food items in bags for the children. Please phone Sandy on 2966078.

**Saturday Morning Music School:** A very successful Music school is in action at Mansell Senior School each Saturday morning from 8.00am until 12 noon. Your child can learn to play guitar, drums, recorder, flute, violin, cello, saxophone, trumpet or keyboard. The cost is \$80 for the whole year which is very reasonable. The tuition is subsidised by the Ministry of Education. Further information can be obtained from Lynnette ph 296 7637.

**NZ Curriculum:** Early in December 2007 our School received copies of the NZ Curriculum. This booklet outlines what is to be taught in schools throughout the country to students from New Entrants to Yr 13. For interested parents we do have a limited number of spare copies which can be borrowed and returned. Please contact the School if you are interested.

**After School Care:** Lately we have had some enquiries about the after school care programme that uses the School hall. The After School Care programme is organised and run by the Gateway Trust – a trust set up and linked with the Presbyterian Church. It is not run by Opaheke School. The Board's role was limited to setting up the arrangement as a means of helping our parents whose hours of work are longer than the School day. Any enquiries should be directed to the Gateway Trust ph 298 1807.

**Yummy Stickers:** we are again collecting yummy stickers from New Zealand grown fruit. Classes have a competition to collect the most stickers which are exchanged for sports gear.

**Empty Milk Cartons:** The PTA is once again collecting empty milk cartons (plastic ones) as a fundraiser. Please send empty 2 litre plastic bottles, not crushed and with the lid on, to school for collection.

**Hanging Baskets:** Have you seen the colourful hanging baskets yet? These are located outside Rooms 21, 22 and in the junior quad area. Special thanks to the Brodie family who donated the money for the hanging baskets, to Mrs Wratt who organised and brought them to school and to Mr Chester who has displayed them.

**School Banking:** The School is currently investigating the possibility of setting up a School banking system with a local bank. For this to operate successfully, we would require parent helpers to come in for one morning per week to process and enter the amounts in each child's deposit book. Anybody who could spare an hour one morning each week please let the school know.



**PTA Carnival Day:** A planning meeting for this is being organised for Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Staffroom. To make this a successful event we will need parent helpers. Please come along and help make this a great day for the children. Please phone Marilyn 2995634 or Geraldine on 2967596 so we will know numbers in advance. Look forward to seeing you there.