

Dental Therapists Notice: Management has directed that we close the Opaheke School dental clinic for the year and move to Mansell Senior School Dental Clinic, Settlement Road on 1st September. We are aware that there are children who have not yet been examined/treated. Should parents have any concerns please phone the dental clinic 299 9770.

Coming Events:

Thur 28 Aug Counties North gymnastics field day for Yrs5-8 at Counties gymsport stadium
Fri 29 Aug Daffodil Day
Mon 1-5 Sept Yr8 students (12) on National Monitoring
Tues 2 Sept Yr5/6 Room 7/8 to Auckland Stardome Observatory
Wed 3 Sept Yr6 classes Rms 23/24 to Auckland Stardome Observatory
Hearing and Vision testing
Fri 5 Sept Teacher Appreciation Day
Counties Gymnastics Day at Pukekohe
Mon 8-11 Sept Starlab at School. This programme is funded by the PTA and will be for all classes at no cost.
Mon 15 Sept 7.30pm PTA meeting, all parents welcome
Tue 16 Sept Board of Trustees meeting
Wed 17 Sept Yr7 classes to Thames – gold mining study.

Travel Wise: Parents be considerate drivers. The school has had a complaint from a resident in Rembrandt Place about drivers' inconsiderate driving and parking practices. Please be considerate of local residents.

Quiz: What are a horse's parents called?

Quote: Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift. That's why it's called the present. Author unknown

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: Sire and Dam

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 13/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you. Will we see some fine sunny days? It is only 4 months or so ago when we were hoping for rain!

Numeracy For Parents: A great thank you to all of those parents who made the effort to attend the Numeracy information morning last Thursday. To have 65+ parents come along, possibly deferring their work commitments to hear an outline of the Numeracy programme made it all worthwhile. For every one attending, a laminated Numeracy activity/game was given out. We hope that all who attended found the session to be both interesting and informative. A special thanks to our Numeracy team led by Mrs McFlinn who set up the whole event.

New Classroom Block: It is pleasing to be able to inform parents that the new classroom building project has been confirmed and work will start during the September holidays. Essentially, this is what will happen:

- The classroom block containing Rooms 21 and 22 will be moved to the edge of the playground by Room 24 during the coming holidays (weather permitting).
- A new two storey classroom block will be built on the site where Rooms 21/22 currently stand. There will be 2 classrooms at ground level and two classrooms upstairs. Four new small group withdrawal rooms will be included for special programmes. No extra ground space will be taken up by the new block.
- When the new block is finished and classes have shifted into their new classrooms, the present block containing Rooms 21 and 22 will be sold by tender (anybody looking for a large beach house?) This will also free up one classroom that could be used for junior activities. Because of this



work, there will be no markings on the School netball court until March 2009.

Speech Finals: By the time this newsletter comes home the results of the Opaheke School Speech Final will be known. Tomorrow evening, (Thursday) our top Year 5/6 speech winner will be competing in the Papakura Principals' Association interschool competition at Redhill School while the Year 7/8 interschool competition will be held at Opaheke School next Thursday week 4th September both starting at 7pm.

Parent Supervision For Road Pedestrian Crossing: Thank you to all of the adults who have volunteered for crossing duty. It will be good to give those parents who have been shouldering the extra workload a rest. All new volunteers will be contacted in Term Four by Geraldine Braks. A special thank you to Geraldine for collating the roster

Daffodil Day: Friday 29th August, School councillors will organise a coin trail and children will be invited to donate a coin(s) which will go to the Cancer Research Foundation for research on cancer. There will be hope bands, 'tattoos' and artificial daffodils for those who contribute.



Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to all of the following students:

- Year 7 girls who were placed 1st in the Auckland Interzone netball competition. Jasmine Desai, Madison Lunny, Charlotte Pritchard, Rebekah Mager, Natasha Tulp and Maia-Jean Watene. An outstanding performance.
- Cross-country for Yr7/8 Counties North: Tayler Mager 2nd and Destiny Grace 3rd in Yr8 girls. Maia-Jean Watene 3rd in Yr7 girls. Six of our students went on to compete in the Counties Zone cross-country held in mud at Paparimu.

National Monitoring Testing Programme: Next week, 12 of our Yr 8 students will be taking part in a National Monitoring programme in Reading, Speaking, Music and Technology. With a span of 5 days, this assessment is carried out by the University of Otago on contract for the Ministry of Education. We welcome such assessments, because it assists the School to benchmark just how well our students are doing and areas of

strength, or those areas requiring further work. Such assessment programmes provide much better cumulative information than any nationwide examination would do, because a wider range of skills and student abilities can be assessed. For interested parents, there will be an opportunity to find out more about what the Yr8 students, who were randomly selected by computer, did over the week. This will be on Friday morning the 5th September.

Netball Prizegiving: A most enjoyable opportunity to celebrate the achievements of about 80 of our girls while at the annual netball prizegiving function. This year the School entered 10 teams in the Saturday morning competition, the most ever. A special thank you to Mrs Watene who co-ordinated the teams and a great big THANKYOU to the team coaches, managers and umpires for their time, knowledge and efforts. The presence of so many parents at the prizegiving was appreciated by the girls.

Book Week: The final week of this term will be Book week. Although we like to think every week is a Book week at Opaheke School, 22nd to 26th September will be a time for having fun with books. Miss Williams and the library staff are planning a wide range of activities all aimed at encouraging and fostering an interest in reading. There will also be a day when students can come dressed up as their favourite book character – probably the Wednesday 24th September.

Teacher Appreciation Day: This is a long standing tradition at Opaheke School when the first Friday in September is a special day for pupils to acknowledge and thank their teachers, letting them know how much they are appreciated. Interestingly a feature piece about our Teacher Appreciation Day appeared in last year's Education Gazette, a Ministry of Education publication that goes to all schools. Apparently, this is a unique practice for any school.

PTA 'Veggie Box' Fundraiser: The PTA are organising a 'one off' fundraiser with one of our local suppliers of fresh vegetables. Order forms will be coming home soon so watch out!

