

Community Notices:

1. Care needed for 2 pre school children from 7.45am until approx 5pm Mon – Fri, for a short term. Some transportation may be needed ph 2965881 Philip or Nikkie
2. Papakura District Hockey Club Jnrs Yr 1 – 8 muster 11th, 18th, 25th March at Drury School 10.00am – 12.00pm ph Shona 2977045

Coming Events

Thur 1 March	Travel Wise continues Day Two
Mon 5 March	National Walk to School week starts
Wed 14 March	Yr 5/6 Counties North Swimming sports at Massey Park
	Yr 7/8 Counties Zone swimming sports at Pukekohe
Thur 15 March	evening interschool swimming relays at Massey Park
Mon 19 March	7.30pm PTA Annual General Meeting
Tues 20 March	Yr 8 students to Camp Adair, Hunua for 4 days.

Quiz: What do we call a word that can have its letters rearranged to form a different word? Eg Spar can become rasp. Can you think of 2 others?

Quote: Never let your successes go to your head nor your failures go to your heart
Author unknown

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: anagram – tone – note, now – won, net - ten

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 02/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you from a busy school. Already we are into our fourth week of Term One.

Being Road Safe and Road Wise: One of our goals for our school this year is to make our local streets safer for all of our students especially road safe. Congested local roads coupled with poor driving practices demonstrated by too many of our adults, means that younger children especially are at risk. With the help of Auckland Regional Transport Authority, Papakura District Council, Papakura Police and staff a ‘Travel Plan’ will be put together. Actions in a Travel Plan can include:

- Setting up Walking School buses where practical
- Parking restrictions
- Putting in safer pedestrian facilities eg Kea crossings
- Putting in cycle ways
- Having designated drop off points away from the front gate for those children who are brought to school by car

Today and tomorrow, representatives from ARTA will be at school to plot children’s home locations and their methods of coming to/from school on normal days. This programme will link in with National Walk to School week and Cycle Safety week. Keeping our children safe on our roads must be of prime importance for all adults and teenagers who drive vehicles.

Elections for Board of Trustees: Next month all parents will receive nomination forms for the Board of Trustees elections for the next three years. If over 5 nominations are received we will hold a postal vote election. It is important that every parent exercises their vote to choose 5 parent representatives. At the PTA’s Annual General Meeting on Monday 19th March, there will be an opportunity for all attending to meet the candidates for the next Board. The School staff also elect one staff representative and together with the Principal, these 7 people become the next Board.



School Amenity: At long last the issue is now receiving the attention it deserves. In last weekend's NZ Herald 17/2/07, the issue of schools resourcing was brought out into the open. The current Minister of Education came as close as possible to admitting that Schools require an amenity to carry out their prime role without actually saying it. The annual amenity charge is now with every family and parents' prompt payment will assist the Board of Trustees with the School's annual budget. Significantly, the amenity, added to the PTA financial assistance amounts to over 10% of the School's total bulk Operations Grant. This does exclude teachers salaries. At this School we use the amenity to help run the following programmes.



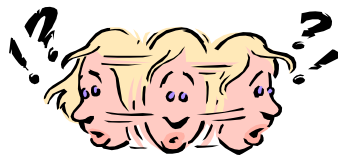
- The overseas languages programme for Yr 7/8 students. This year we are able to offer Spanish, French and Japanese.
- Rainbow Reading programme. This programme is for Yrs 3 to 7 children who are at risk of not learning to read.
- Enrichment programme. The amenity is added to that provided by the PTA's fundraising efforts. This programme offers extension programmes for children with special abilities whether they be in Technology, Science, Music or Literacy. This year Mrs Beals, Mrs Molyneux and Mr Levien will be taking these programmes.

The amenity also supplements our library book buying, sports equipment and IT software budgets. So, as you can see, the amenity is used across the School to benefit as many students as possible.

- One child at school = \$140 reducing to \$130 if paid by 1st March
- Two children at school = \$180 reducing to \$170 if paid by 1st March
- Three or more children at school = \$220 reducing to \$210 if paid by 1st March

Child Concerns: Do you have a concern that affects your child at school. What to do -

- ✓ Make a time to see your child's class teacher. This can be done via a note or phone the School office. The class teacher should always be the first point of contact.
- ✓ If this doesn't resolve the difficulty, see the Team Leader in charge of the class levels. For parent's information they are:
NE/Yr 1 Mrs Williams
Yr 2 Mrs Young
Yr 3/4 Ms Edwards
Yr 5/6 Mr Young
Yr 7/8 Mrs Gore



- ✓ Still not resolved? Make a time to see one of the School's two Deputy Principals, Mrs Cantley Yr 5 – 8 or Mrs Marquet NE – Yr 4.

School Website: Have you had a look at the School's new website yet? Overall we believe it to be a significant improvement on the first effort. It is very much a work in progress and Mrs Laing along with Richard and Gareth our IT supports are adding to it as time permits. Don't forget if you miss the School newsletter you can read it on line.

PTA Annual General Meeting: Come along on Monday evening 19th March at 7.30pm in the Arts Room and find out what the PTA has achieved this year. Your opportunity to see where the fundraising money was spent and a chance to meet other parents. Visit the new library and have a look in the IT room. All parents are welcome to attend the PTA meetings, usually on the 3rd Monday evening of each month. You will gain an insight into the workings of the School and meet other parents who do so much for our School.

Celebrating Successes:

- ❖ Congratulations to our 2007 School Councillors elected by senior students and confirmed by staff - Wyatt Hitchens, Reid Fullerton, Dylan Ngatai, Jonathon Cato, Faith Dorey-Lark, Annaliese Raynes, Leah Strongman-Horn, Destiny Grace. We look forward to their leadership at School this year.
- ❖ Rajat Malhotra (vice captain) and Liam Neems both selected to represent Counties North in the Counties Zone cricket tournament today.
- ❖ Neal McIntosh Yr 9, selected to play for Northern Districts in the zonal tournament in January.
- ❖ Our School swimmers in Counties North swimming sports last week and Annaliese Raynes, Destiny Grace and Stephanie Bolland who have been selected to swim in the Counties Swimming Sports at Pukekohe on 14 March.



Reporting To Parents: This year we intend to revamp our reporting process to all parents. Changes are as follows:

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 6 Term 1 | a short one page report on how the child is adapting to class and work expectations |
| Week 3 or 4 Term 2 | Parents Interviews |
| End of Term 2 | Mid Year report |
| End of Term 4 | End of Year report. These will be a more concise version of previous year's reports |
- More details to follow as this process evolves.