

Coming Events

Thur 29 March	Yr 7/8 Summer Sports field day in softball, cricket and touch 7.00pm Keeping Ourselves Safe parent consultation 7.30pm Rock and Water consultation Yr 8 parents.
Fri 30 March	Yr 5/6 classes to Cashmore Bay seashore study
Wed 4 April	Yr 5/6 Summer Sports field day
Thur 5 April	Board of Trustees voting results published Last day Term One, pupils dismissed at 1.30pm
Fri 6 April	Good Friday no School
Mon 23 April	School opens for Term Two
Wed 25 April	ANZAC Day school closed
Thur 26 April	Disco 5.30pm onwards

Quiz: What do you call a crash between two tyrannosauruses?

Quote: 'Life is a great big canvas and you should throw all the paint on it that you can' *Danny Kaye*

Best wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: a tyrannosaur wrecks

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 04/07

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we come towards the end of Term One. Have you voted yet for your next Board of Trustees? These should be completed and posted in the reply paid envelopes as soon as possible.

Pride in our School: Last week while visiting the Year Eight students at camp at Hunua I was given news that I believe all parents associated with Opaheke School can be proud to hear.

- The camp staff who prepare the meals always enjoy hosting our pupils because they display consistently high standards of behaviour.
- The parents who accompanied our two classes spoke openly about the enjoyment they gained from being at camp with our Year Eights.
- Miss Banks and Mrs Gore who led the camp spoke of how much they too, enjoyed the experience. Congratulations to our Year Eight students.

Decile Ratings: All schools in New Zealand are rated on a decile number between 1 and 10. It is not a success rating with Decile 1 being for failing schools with Decile 10 being a top rating. The Ministry of Education uses Decile ratings as a funding method. Every 3 years state schools (both primary and secondary) are ‘re-deciled’ according to a number of criteria, eg household incomes, number of people per house, number of Maori and Pacific Island families and number of people on benefits, all obtained from census information. Those schools with high numbers of families meeting the criteria are rated as Decile 1 while households with high incomes and who are considered ‘advantaged’ are rated as Deciles 9 or 10.

As such, the present system of funding disadvantages a School such as Opaheke which is Decile 7, and provides significant additional funding for schools on Deciles 1 or 2. That is why dear parents, it is vitally important that our School receives its amenity support from all of our families.

School Amenity: Don’t forget that this should be paid if at all possible, this term. As mentioned previously our School amenity, when added to the PTA support

amounts to about 10% of our School's available funding. Last Monday, three lucky prizes were drawn for 3 families who have paid their amenity and there will be a further prize draw early next term for all families recorded as having paid. Congratulations to the following pupils' families: Aseem Anand Yr 7 Rm 2, Timothy Fern Yr 3 Rm 19, Tony Kemp Yr 7 Rm 3.

Phone In Absence Record: As most parents will know, our School provides an answer phone service for parents to let the School know if their child is away sick or for any other justifiable reason. This can be done any time of the day or night. All class teachers are required to keep a legal register of each child's attendance at School each half day of the School year. Parents co-operation in this matter is appreciated and expected.



Parent Teacher Association Annual General Meeting: This took place on Monday evening 19th March. Those attending had an opportunity to meet candidates for the next Board of Trustees, to hear some of the School's brass instrumentalists and to view the Travel Wise road safe programme. Office holders elected were President *Karen Morrow*, Secretary *Marilyn O'Hara*, Treasurer *Grant MacLachlan*. A special thanks to the PTA for all of the good things that they do for the School.

Brightening The Junior School: Last week a group of parents worked to paint up the Opaheke dragon and to draw some happy scenes on the boundary fence. This is very much a work in progress and will continue over the next few weeks. Thankyou to Mrs Young for initiating this project and to those helping parents.



Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students -

- ❖ Reid Fullerton and Kayla Rubin who represented Counties Zone in tennis at the Auckland Interzone tennis championships last week. Reid won a boys Plate final at this event and Kayla was runner up in the girls Plate final.
- ❖ Annaliese Raynes, Stephanie Bolland and Destiny Grace who were placed 3rd swimming for Counties North Zone relay teams in the Swimming sports at Pukekohe.

International Principal's Conference: Next week, I will be attending the first New Zealand international principals' conference in Auckland. This is an excellent time to hear of issues in education from top international researchers and educational leaders. With some 2,500+ principals attending it is sure to generate much debate about directions in education.

Last Day Term One: A reminder that Term One finishes next Thursday 5th April. Children will be dismissed at 1.30pm that day following a final assembly. The Ponga Road bus will also depart at the earlier time of 1.30pm. The next day 6th April is Good Friday. School for Term Two resumes on Monday 23 April.

Special Thanks: To Mrs Marquet who has been the School's staff representative on the Board of Trustees for 11 years. This has been an undertaking requiring patience, endurance and understanding. An outstanding achievement. Mrs Glennis Williams has been selected to be the staff representative on the next Board of Trustees.

Parent Consultation: Tomorrow evening in the School Hall, there will be a parent consultation meeting in the hall for the 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' and 'Rock And Water' programmes. Led by Constable Purdie of the Papakura Police Youth Education Services, these two sessions are to inform parents about keeping children safe. More details were explained in Mrs Cantley's notice to all parents last week.

Lost Property: Lost property will be put out for display each Monday. Parents can access this at anytime throughout the School day.



School Disco: Helpers are needed for supervision at the PTA School Disco on Thursday 26 April. Three shifts available 5.30 – 6.30, 6.30 – 8.00, 8.00 – 9.00. Please phone Karen 2977 692 to help

Community Notices:

1. 'In Good Time Horse Park Saddle Club' on miniature and small horse for ages 3 -11 years. Holiday programme phone Lyndsay 09 291 9153 or Gaylene 09 2919152
2. Drury Junior Rugby Club 5 – 19 year old players boys and girls welcome all gear supplied except footwear ph Tony 09 2947294.
3. Papakura Swim Club block courses second week school holidays at Rosehill College pool 1 hour/day ph 292 7446 or 291 0359.
4. Stardome Observatory holiday programme each day Tue – Fri 10am – 1pm \$10/person ph 624 1246 to book.
5. Saturday 31st March St Mary's School Gala 9 – 1pm.
6. Easter Monday Family Day 10 – 3pm Summerfields Farm 189 Walters Rd Karaka \$5/person.
7. Planet Action the after school care operating out of the School Hall now has places available, phone 298 1807.