

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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“The Opaheke Way”

Newsletter No 11/10

I tenei wiki o te reo, tena koutou katoa

28 July 2010

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of you as we are well into a busy Term Three. Last week we enrolled 10 new pupils and this week another 5 began at our School. Welcome to those parents and children new to our School.



STAFF CHANGES

It's welcome back to Miss Jane Hamlin who has been teaching in London over the past year and to Ms Karen Edwards returning from parental leave. Ms Edwards is teaching Year 6 in Room 5, while Miss Hamlin is teaching Yr 8 in Room 2.

MID YEAR REPORTS

All parents with children attending our School as at the end of June should have received a report showing how their child's achievement matched up with the NZ Curriculum. Senior staff are presently considering any changes to our reports to allow for reference to national standards.

PARENTAL SURVEY

Thankyou to those parents who replied to the questionnaire sent home by the Board of Trustees. Such a survey enables the Board to be sure that they are keeping in touch with parental aspirations for the

School and its students. This time the Board enabled parents to respond electronically as well as in hard copy format and they will be interested to find out if this form of response is the preferred one. Two prizes will be presented to two families who returned signed questionnaires in either format. Our thanks to Deborah Honan who has prepared a gift basket and to Snow Planet who have provided a family voucher.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- School Curriculum
- Individual Portrait Photos
- What's on this Term?

SCHOOL AMENITY

The following is the Bank Account for the Opaheke School Board of Trustees if you would like to set up an automatic payment.

ASB Bank
12 3031 0728049 00

Fun Fact
Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.



SO WHATS' ON THIS TERM?

In addition to the usual daily classroom programmes there will be several events occurring:

- * Speeches for Yr 5-8 students.
- * University of New South Wales for selected Yr4-8 students in English and Mathematics.
- * Bookweek in Week 5 starting 16th August.
- * Cross Country running both at school level and Counties North.
- * Gymnastics competition for Yr 5-8 at Counties North.
- * Mathex for Yr7/8 teams 11th August.
- * Papakura Primary Schools Music Festival in early August.
- * Hip Hop competition during lunchtimes.
- * Talent quest in lunchtimes organised by School Councillors.
- * Papakura Achievement

Initiative with a focus on literacy will be the main professional development for teachers.

INDOOR GAMES

Thankyou to those families who have donated some indoor games for children's use during the wet winter lunch hours. We are always grateful to receive any more from homes where children have grown past enjoying them.



ROSEHILL COLLEGE ENROLMENTS 2011

Last week Ms Blakeley, Acting Principal Rosehill College spoke with our Yr8 students about college enrolments for 2011. Tomorrow evening Thursday 29 July at 7pm there is an

Information Evening for parents of Yr 8 students. We would urge all parents intending/applying for entry for their son or daughter to attend this session.

NETBALL

Players need to contact their Manager or Coach asap to let them know if they cannot make a game so that substitutes can be organised.

QUOTE

*Clothes make the man.
Naked people have little or no influence on society.*

Mark Twain

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

Individual children's photographs will be taken on Tuesday 3rd August. All photos must be pre paid. Your child was given an envelope to bring home last term and if you wish to order a photo of your child please return the envelope with payment before

Tuesday 3rd August (this will be the final day for payment). Please note that children will only be photographed individually not in family groups. Please make sure each child to be photographed returns a pre pay envelope thank you.

CLASS PHOTOS

For those parents who ordered a class photo for your child/ren last term we are hoping for delivery of these in the next 2 weeks.



A BALANCED SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Over the last year there has been a major focus in New Zealand primary education on national standards. It would be all too easy to buy into a curriculum that covers only reading, writing and mathematics. However, children do have a mind, a body and a spirit, and therefore education for the 21st century, must continue to focus on the intellect, physical and moral development of each individual. At the physical level, there is plenty of research that shows that active children have a lesser risk of diabetes, cardio vascular diseases and obesity. This habit of physical exercise will usually carry over into adulthood. While casual physical activity is fine, organised sports do provide major benefits. They emphasise teamwork, commitment, self discipline. Sport is a means of keeping the body healthy and fit. Apart from building up a young person's body, sport provides an excellent recreation and past time. Other curriculum areas such as The Arts are also vitally important. We would be a poorer society without music while visual art adds richness to our lives. Dance, drama, crafts all help us to be better people and enable us to appreciate our world that we live in.

What of Science? The ability to ask scientific questions, to wonder why things happen the way they do, to satisfy our curiosity about the living world as well as other galaxies all helps make people educated in the widest possible sense of the word.

Having a curriculum that focussed only on the three areas of the national standards would mean that school would be a far less challenging and interesting place.

CELEBRATING SUCSESSES

Congratulations to the following students:

✪ Joshua Lowe Yr8 Modern School of Music guitar competition; 2nd under 13's, 2nd open and 1st duet.

✪ Pulkit Bhakoo Yr3 Mathletics 1st in NZ, 7th in Mathletics World Hall of Fame.

✪ Brandon Field ex Opaheke School student selected for men's artistic gymnastics team to compete at the Commonwealth Games in New

Delhi this coming October.

GYMNASTIC COMPETITON

This programme is now well underway for students in Yrs 3 to 7 at Counties Gym Sport Stadium, Bruce Pulman Park. There are 4 sessions per group and all costs are covered by a grant from a local trust. This is an opportunity for these classes to enjoy learning more about gymnastics in a national level stadium.

QUIZ EVENING

On Friday 17th September our PTA is organising a Quiz Evening. This will be a fun event and we hope parents will support this venture. Start some strategic planning, get your teams together now and be ready to book your table! Further details will follow closer to the time.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

1. Papakura Swimming Club now taking registrations for Monday Club and Competitive Swim Squads. Sessions held at the Massey Park Aquatic Centre indoor pool and Rosehill College outdoor heated pool. Text 021 157 4037 or ph Robyn 292 7910.”
2. The Silver Ferns will be at **Papakura New World 40-44 East Street Papakura** **Date:31/07/2010****Time: 11am-12pm** Competitions with giveaways of signed netball, thunder sticks, drink bottles and more.
3. Pool Party Fundraiser for the Epilepsy Foundation. Free tickets are available for this event on Saturday 14th August. Free entry, hydro slide available, sausage sizzle and entertainment. Please advise the office if you would like some of the free tickets we have available.
4. Rosehill College will be presenting 5 shows of ‘Grease’ and tickets are available from Rosehill College - Senior Citizens/Students\$12, Adults \$15

COMING EVENTS

Thur 29 July	7pm Rosehill College Information Evening
Fri 30 July	Music festival full rehearsal a.m. at Te Hihi School
Mon 2 Aug	Music festival 12.30pm Matinee performance at Te Hihi School
Tues 3 Aug	Individual Photographs at school
Wed 4 Aug	Counties Zone Yr7/8 netball Yr 5/6 classes cross country University of New South Wales English 7.30pm Music festival at Te Hihi School
Thur 5 Aug	7.30pm final Music festival at Te Hihi School
Fri 6 Aug	Yr5/6 classes begin Kia Kaha programme with Police Youth Education Services
Wed 11 Aug	Counties North Yr5/6 cross country at Te Hihi School Mathex Yr7/8 teams at Telstra Centre—evening
Thur 12 Aug	Counties North Yr7/8 cross country at Strathallan School

Quiz: I’ll lap at your heels, if you give me the chance. Though I won’t fetch or stay, I will dance. What am I ?

Best wishes

Murray Wratt