

### Coming Events:

Thur 29 Nov	(tomorrow) Rosehill Int School Orientation 9.30am-11.00am
Fri 30 Nov	Yr3/4 to Oamana Regional Park Carols In The Park practice for School Choir 10.00am -12.30pm
Tue 4 Dec	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed 5 Dec	Health talks for Yr7/8 students Yr5/6 Counties North padder tennis tournament
Thur 6 Dec	Yr7/8 Counties North padder tennis tournament 11.30am Rosehill College orientation for Yr8's Disco (see times overleaf)
Fri 7 Dec	Carols in the Park 6.30 – 8.00pm
Mon 10 Dec	7.30pm PTA meeting all parents welcome.
Thur 13 Dec	End of Year Concerts (see time overleaf)
Fri 14 Dec	Grandparents Day
Mon 17 Dec	Year 5/6 classes to Swimarama End of Year reports come home Yr8 graduation 6pm
Thur 20 Dec	Last day of school for 2007 children dismissed at 12.30pm.

**The first day of school for 2008 will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Travel Wise:** The safest door for your child to get in and out of is the door nearest the footpath. Using that door will keep them away from the flow of traffic.

**Quiz:** There's a one story house that's all blue inside. The floor was blue, the lamps were blue, the walls were blue, everything was blue. What colour was the interior staircase?

**Quote:** "Having one child makes you a parent, having two or more makes you a referee"

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: It's a one story house, there are no interior stairs.

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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28 November 2007  
Newsletter No 18/07

## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Greetings to all of you as we come to the final three weeks of school for 2007. So many things to complete and so little time to complete them.

**Student Reports:** Class teachers are busy preparing end of year reports at present and when these do come home, parents will note major changes from the previous report format. So, what's different? The new reports:

- Have moved to reporting on achievement instead of progress.
- Assess each child's achievement compared with national 'benchmarks'.
- Use colour to highlight certain parts in the report.
- Wording used matches that used in the new national curriculum eg 'Key Competencies', 'Inquiry Studies'.
- Social Sciences replaces what we used to call Social Studies.
- In Numeracy several different strands are listed and teachers have assessed pupil achievement in each one. Number knowledge refers to recognising, reading, counting and number patterns. Number strategies refer to how the child performs the tasks and processes to solve mathematical problems.



We hope that parents will find the reports informative, easy to follow and useful for understanding exactly what levels each child is achieving. The assessment sub-committee have worked very hard to ensure that the reports are appropriate, readable and do line up with the Ministry of Education's focus on student achievement. Reports will be coming home on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Auction Evening and Raffle:** The PTA wish to express their thanks to the parents, businesses and other people who supported their auction evening earlier this month. A net total of \$15,116 was raised, which was better than expected. As well, all of those who came had an enjoyable night out. The PTA are planning a

carnival for Friday afternoon/evening 11<sup>th</sup> April and this will focus more on activities for the children.

**Grandparents Day:** Every family would have received an invitation in the previous newsletter to pass on to grandparents for this special day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We have been informed that some of the notices stated that the day was Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> December, you may like to check your 'elders' received the correct date of Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. If you require extra invitation notices please contact the School Office.

This is a very special day in the year of all of those who attend or work at Opaheke School and a highlight for the students. 'Adopted' grandparents are welcome, especially for the child who has no grandparents or the grandparents who live too far away to be able to come for the occasion. Families are asked to send along a plate of food for morning tea for our grandparents. Parents are requested not to attend this event, as due to numbers we cannot cater for everyone on this day.

The PTA still require more helpers for this big day. Please phone the School office if you can help.

**End of Year Concerts:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
10.30am New Entrants to Year Four classes – Rooms 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24  
7.00pm Year Five to Year Eight classes (this will include School wide awards) – Rooms 1 – 8 + 18

As parents will know from other years it can be very hot and crowded in the hall. By holding the Junior School concert at 10.30am we are hoping to avoid the hottest time of the day.



**Walking School Bus Update:** Congratulations to the parents of Lipton Grove and Boundary Rd who are our first walking school bus. They started on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November walking every morning to school. There is a meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at 2.30pm at the junior playground to organise our next walking bus from Bushlands Place. If you live near Bushlands (off Callis Ave) and would like to join in or find out more come along to the meeting. The success of the Walking Buses depends on volunteers to help walk the children.

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

- Rajat Malhotra and Courtney Henson, winners at Counties Zone Athletics. They will compete in the Auckland Interzone athletics.

- Destiny Grace, Adeline Shaddick, Roimata Brown, Analeea Williamson and Annaliese Raynes in the winning teams at Counties Zone Touch Tournament. They went on to compete in the Auckland Interzone touch tournament.
- Natarsha Smith and Rachel Biggelaar winners of the Bookweek colouring competitions.

**PTA Change:** Geraldine Brak has been elected as President of the School's PTA following the resignation of Karen Morrow who will be shifting away to another area. Congratulations Geraldine.

**Year Eight Graduation:** This will take place on Monday evening 17 December starting at 6pm in the hall. All parents are welcome to enjoy the evening of celebration for our fine group of senior students. Graduation certificates awarded this year will be different from previous years. Students will either graduate or not graduate according to an individual student's achievement. Certificates will no longer be categorised as Merit or Distinction.

**Disco:** Last one for 2007. Thursday of next week 6 December. If you can help please phone Lorraine 298 6550. Times:  
New Entrants to Year Fours – 5.30 – 6.45  
Year Five to Eights – 6.45 – 8.00pm  
Year Eights only – 8.00 – 8.30pm  
Admission \$2.50  
Chips and Drinks \$1.00 each.  
Parents please make sure children are picked up promptly when their Disco time finishes.

**Sausage Sizzle:** the School Councillors thank all for their support for the recent sausage sizzle. Money raised will go to the HeartKids and the School native shrubbery which will be developed beside the dental clinic.

**End of Year Trip Yr7/8:** As part of the fundraising effort for the end of year trip to Waiwera Room 2 students are selling tickets for a Raffle. Tickets cost \$2 and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is a Grocery Hamper, second prize a Car Care pack. Tickets can be bought from Room 2 before the 8.25 bell, raffle drawn 6 December.



**Crossing Roster 2008:** Can you help next year or do you know someone who can, someone retired who might like to help? If we have enough volunteers you are usually only rostered on once every 2 weeks morning 7.50 – 8.25, afternoon 2.20pm to 2.45pm. Phone Colleen 2996036 or email [c.j.embling@xtra.co.nz](mailto:c.j.embling@xtra.co.nz)