

### Community Notices:

- In Goodtime HorsePark. Riding lessons on miniature & small ponies in Karaka ph 092919153 or [ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ingoodtimehorsepark@xtra.co.nz)
- SuperKids Papakura After School OSCAR Programme currently has vacancies for 5-13 year olds and picks up from Opaheke School. Daily activities include homework supervision, games, afternoon tea and fun filled activities. OSCAR subsidies available Ph 299 9394.

### Coming Events

- Wed 29 July tonight Mathex at Telstra Events Centre, Manukau.  
Thus 30 July 7pm Information evening at Rosehill College for Yr8 students and parents.
- Wed 5 Aug UNSW English competition. Individual photographs taken.  
Thur 6 Aug School Yr7/8 crosscountry. Counties Zone Netball competition at Browns Road Courts Manurewa.  
Sat 8/Sun 9 Aug PTA Family Portraits.  
Mon 10 Aug Bookweek begins. APPA Choir rehearsal a.m.  
Tue 11 Aug Visiting performer in school Yr1-4 kiwi kids music.  
Wed 12 Aug Yr7/8 Counties North crosscountry at Strathallan School.  
Yr7 Hearing and Vision testing.

**Quiz:** Unlike most other fish sharks have no:  
(a) bones (b) teeth (c) gills (d) liver

**Quote:** Remember, the future is not some place we are going to, but a path we are creating' Peter Ellyard

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: (a) bones

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

## *Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving*

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29 July 2009  
Newsletter No 11/09

### **“The Opaheke Way”**

Dear Parents,  
I tenei wiki o te reo Maori. Tena koutou katoa. Greetings to all of you as we move into a very busy Term Three. A welcome to the families of our ten new students who started at Opaheke School last week.

**New Teachers:** We are please to welcome two teachers who commenced work at our school:

*Bienvenido*

- ☺ Mrs Tina Pedersen formerly at Clevedon School who is teaching in Yr 4 Rm 26.
- ☺ Mr David Curtin formerly Ottawa, Canada teaching Yr 7 in Rm 3.

**So What's On This Term?** Plenty. Some examples are:

- The World of Mathematics featured at School last week for 3 days.
- Bookweek – Week Four 10 – 14 August. We will have a dress up day on Friday 14. Children are encouraged to dress up as a a book character.
- Speeches at the end of August.
- Science Fair in mid September for Yr7/8.
- Gymnastics competition for Yr5-8 20 August.
- Crosscountry held during the first half of August.
- School Councillors talent quest in September.
- University of New South Wales competition in English and Mathematics.
- Counties Zone netball field day for Yr7/8 girls 6 August.

The above list does not take into account the usual daily events plus class visits that occur as a part of the learning programmes.

**Teacher Only Day:** Advance notice for parents. This major inservice day will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August. More details later.

**Behaviour At School:** This School does have high expectations of student behaviour with clearly defined rules. It is always disappointing when a student

falls short of this School's expectations and lacks personal responsibility. One major series of incidences on one day during the last week of last term has been addressed by the Board of Trustees. The clear message for everybody is that this School is determined to maintain the environment that will enable our pupils – and teachers – to keep a focus on students' achievement

**Cellphones At School:** Rule 5 of our School rules states 'that all electronic devices are to be left at home'. Lately, teachers of senior students are reporting that there have been instances where cellphones, brought to School in bags have been heard ringing. The School takes no responsibility for such 'items' and if they are 'found' will be removed. Should a cellphone be absolutely necessary for an out of the ordinary reason, they should be passed to the class teacher for safekeeping for that day.



**Swine Flu - should your child go to school?** If your child is sick or displaying symptoms of the flu, you should keep them at home for seven days after their symptoms begin or until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. Parents and caregivers should monitor their school-aged children carefully.

**Signs and symptoms** of the new Influenza A (H1N1) virus are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and can include: fever (a temperature  $\geq 38$  °C), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, some people also experience diarrhoea and vomiting. **Stop the spread of flu germs** by: covering coughs and sneezes, regularly washing your hands and drying them thoroughly, avoiding contact with sick people and reducing time spent in crowded settings.

**New Computers:** During the last holidays, the computers in the School's ICT suite have been replaced with new higher specification computers. Most of those removed will be able to be used for more limited classroom use. A special thankyou to our Board of Trustees for 'future proofing' our students' learning for the next 3-5 years.

**Kapa Haka:** We are pleased to report that one parent has come forward, offering to start up the School's Kapa Haka group again. However, she will need more assistance. Can any other parents/grandparents volunteer some time to help for up to 1 hour per week? Please let me know if you can assist.

**Class Photos/Whole School Photo:** 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. We would also like to inform parents that a whole school photo was taken last Term as an archive for Opaheke School's 40 year anniversary and to mark the

opening of the new classroom block. Parents are welcome to purchase a copy of this. Prints are 50cm x 25cm and cost \$20. A copy is available to see in the school office and an envelope for payment can also be collected from here.

#### **PTA Events:**

- Family Portraits 8/9 August – bookings close this Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Cost \$10 to receive 1 10 x 13 “ family photograph. Please tell friends and family to make a booking.
- Hypnotist Show Saturday evening 12 September in School hall. This excellent show will be well worthwhile attending at \$15 per adult/\$25 per couple. Keep this evening free for a fun night out.
- Vegetable Boxes – to be organised later in Term 3.
- Movie Night – Friday evening 18 September – two sittings, juniors at 6.00pm and adults/seniors at 8pm, in the School hall.
- School Gala – planning is moving along for our School Gala day on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, this term we will focus on collecting the following – books, DVD's, videos, bottles eg wine/preserves/soft drinks for a ticket auction.

**Walking Wednesdays:** This term we are launching Walking Wednesday. We would like students to walk to school and walk home from school no matter what the weather. If you live a bit further away from school you can still participate by parking slightly further away from school and walking. This will allow your children to walk a distance and assist in avoiding cars driving past the school entrance. Each class will have a chart to help keep track of the number of students walking to school. There will be prizes throughout the term.

**Lunch Helpers:** We urgently need help from a parent who can spare 1 hour on a Tuesday or Friday morning from 8.30 – approx 9.30am to collate lunches for ordering from the office. Please phone Gail on 2969303 if you can help.



**Newsletters by Email:** As there was a very low response from parents supporting the use of email for school newsletters, this will now not take place. Newsletters and events will still be available on our website.

#### **Celebrating Successes:**

- Joshua Lowe Yr7 1<sup>st</sup> under 12 year age group guitar competition and 1<sup>st</sup> in open grade guitar competition at modern school of music.
- Chirag Bhakoo Yr4 3<sup>rd</sup> in NZ Maths Mathletics programme. This equates to 17<sup>th</sup> in the world!