

## Coming Events

Thur 31 May	tomorrow Counties North Yr 7/8 winter sports field day at Bruce Pulman Park and Papakura Normal School
Fri 1 June	Remote Control Car Day and lunchtime disco
Mon 4 June	Queens Birthday – school closed
Wed 6 June	Hearing & Vision testing mainly New Entrants Counties Zone Yr 7/8 rugby field day at Pulman Park
Thu 7 June	Class/team photographs
Tues 12 June	Helen Smith Speech Language therapist assessing teacher referrals
Wed 13 June	Counties North Yr 5/6 winter sports field day
Mon 18 June	7.30pm PTA meeting in staffroom all parent welcome
Thur 21 June	University of New South Wales English testing

**Quiz:** I was five times as old as my sister five years ago. I am three times older than her now. How old am I?

**Quote:** ‘Books v TV. If children are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they’ll have with twenty six. Open your child’s imagination – open a book’ *with thanks to Mrs Marquet.*

Best wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: I am now 30 years old. My sister was originally five years old when I was 25 years old. She is now ten years of age.

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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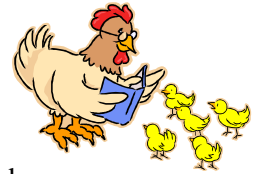
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30 May 2007  
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## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you as we reach the middle of Term Two. Currently, teachers are busy preparing mid year reports that will come home later in June.

**Do You Still Read To Your Children?** Parents need to keep reading to their children – even those who have learned to read. A major piece of research by the New Zealand Council of Education Research in three schools found that parents of 5 year olds and about half of the parents of 6 year olds read to their children most days. Reading to children however, dropped significantly among parents of 8 year olds. Children are read to less frequently and parents are less confident about choosing books for their children to read. Key findings by study authors Sue McDowell and Sally Boyd included:



- By continuing to read aloud with older children vocabulary was extended
- Reading aloud to children helped improve their reading comprehension
- Reading with children enabled them to attempt more complex books than they would otherwise do on their own
- It encouraged children to be introduced to a range of books
- It was a time for being together for positive reasons

So parents, you are indeed your child’s first teacher and also their continuing teacher alongside of the school. Your role is a critically important one.

**Youth Expo:** Last week, the primary schools in the Papakura area took an active part in the biennial Youth Expo. Our pupils were involved in brass band sessions while displays of children’s art were also included. The Year 8 classes attended the Careers Day on Thursday and one of the sessions on the Friday ‘Vibes Day’, when the performing arts featured. This major display was organised to showcase what local youth can do in their schools.

**Travel Wise Study:** As was reported last year Opaheke School has been involved in a major study, working with the Auckland Regional Transport Authority and Papakura District Council to develop a School Travel Plan. The results will be

presented to the Board of Trustees and an action plan drawn up. Thankyou to those families who took the time to respond to the survey. Well done to the Robinson, Steele, Brodie, Wainwright and Bremner families who all won movie passes.

**Road Patrol Parent Supervisors:** At present one lady is supervising our road patrol monitors for 3 mornings a week on Tasman Drive and it would be great if one other person would be willing to take a turn for one morning each week. It involves a maximum of half an hour each morning.



**Driving Habits:** Are you thinking about the safety of all of our children if/when you park on Tasman Drive or Short Street? Are you one of the parents who stop on yellow lines to let your child out in the morning? Realise that such actions put other childrens lives at risk.

**Celebrating Success:** Congratulations to the following:

Reid Fullerton, Aaron Homewood, Ryan Alexander, Joshua Lunny, Tony Kemp, Reef Vehi Vehi Tau, Jonathon Cato, Joshua Cunningham, Dylan Ngatai, Hohaia Brown and Shae Ah Fook who have all been selected to play rugby for Counties North teams at the Counties Zone rugby field day next Wednesday.

**Cake Stall:** On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June Rooms 3 & 4 will be having a cake stall to raise funds for their trip to hear the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Children will be able to buy their morning tea that day.



**Papakura High School:** are offering a limited number of places in their Academic Institute and Sports Institute for 2008. Students currently in Year 8 and academically able are invited to sit entry tests to be accepted into the Academic Institute. Year 8 students with talent and achievement in sporting fields may apply for a position in the Sports Institute. Interested applicants can phone the Papakura High School office on 296 4400 for further information and application packs or see Mrs Gore.

**Winter Sports Field Day:** Tomorrow, weather permitting our Yr 7/8 students will be participating in the Counties North Winter Sports field day at Pulman Park and Papakura Normal School. Games played will be netball, rugby, soccer and tapuae. The Year 5/6 winter sports field day will be Wednesday 13 June weather permitting.

**Bus Pupils:** Thankyou to those conscientious parents who provide a note when their children are not catching the Ponga Road bus after school. This saves

confusion and delays to the bus departure because we do not need to check on their after school plans.

**School Dental Clinic:** Therapists are now operating from the Mansell Senior School Dental Clinic phone 2999770.

**Disco:** Our next School disco will be held on Thursday 28 June. Times will be *NE to Yr 4 – 5.30 to 6.45pm* *Yr 5 to Yr 8 – 6.45 to 8.30pm*  
Please note, because of the smaller numbers in Yr 7/8 this year we have been able to reconfigure the classes at each session. We will need parent helpers, please phone Karen 297 7692 to help out.

**Young Leaders Conference:** Our School Councillors were privileged to spend a day attending the Young Leaders Conference at Telstra Centre. With speakers such as Jason Gunn and Nick Tuitasi the day was sure to be a highlight. A special thanks to Mrs Cantley who organised and went with our School's young leaders.

**Queens Birthday:** This occurs Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. School will be closed this day.

**Can You Help?** Shorts, long trousers are needed for children aged 7 to 10 years. If you have any pre worn clothing that your children have grown out of, we would appreciate them being donated to the School to help out when there are 'accidents'.



**Junior All Black:** One of our school's former pupils played his first game of rugby for the Junior All Blacks against Western Samoa at Apia last Sunday. Congratulations to Kieran Read who is playing for the Crusaders and now the national team. May there be others who follow Kieran's lead.

**Community Notices:**

1. Soccer – due to a shortage of players our 10 year olds have vacancies for 3 players in our 11<sup>th</sup> grade team. Trainings Thursday 5pm no fees for rest of season, ph Helen 298 4709, first in first served!
2. Goodtime Horsepark – Karaka Horse riding holiday programme 5 – 7 yrs & 11 yrs. Thursday & Friday both weeks of the holidays. Book early ph 09 2919153, Lyndsay [www.ingoodtimehorseparksaddleclub.piczo.com](http://www.ingoodtimehorseparksaddleclub.piczo.com)