

### Community Notices:

- Private singing lessons in Papakura, all ages welcome. Contact Jeri Brunton on 299 5430 for further details.
- If you're a Mercury Energy residential customer you can donate a book to our school just by switching from paper bills to getting them online before 30 September 2008. That's a much better use for all that paper. If you are a Mercury Energy residential customer visit [www.mercury.co.nz/onlinebill](http://www.mercury.co.nz/onlinebill) or call 0800101810 to find out how to get Mercury Energy Online Bill today.

### Coming Events:

Thur 31 July	tomorrow dress rehearsal for Music festival
Fri 1 Aug	Choir festival begins
Wed 6 Aug	Counties Zone Netball Field Day Individual Portrait photographs taken at school
Thur 7 Aug	Y7/8 Counties North cross country at Strathallan School
Mon 18 Aug	7.30pm PTA meeting in the staffroom. All parents welcome.
Tues 19 Aug	Board of Trustees meeting.
Wed 20 Aug	Yr 5/6 Counties North cross country at Te Hihi School
Thur 21 Aug	8.00am Numeracy meeting for parents.
Tues 29 July	7.30pm PTA meeting Please note the different night/date.

**Travel Wise Quote:** Save money, become a walking school bus driver and lower your fuel bills

**Quiz:** Which word describes a whip-like movement and is a hair on the edge of the eyelid?

**Quote:** "The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year" *John Foster Dulles*

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt  
Principal

Answer to Quiz: lash

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

[office@opaheke.school.nz](mailto:office@opaheke.school.nz)  
Web Site: [www.opaheke.school.nz](http://www.opaheke.school.nz)

Tasman Drive  
PAPAKURA  
298 5410 Ph  
298 0739 Fax

30 July 2008  
Newsletter No 11/08

## “The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a wet wintry Third Term. Everybody is enjoying being back and we welcomed 14 new pupils on the first day.

**New Teachers:** A warm welcome to Miss Tilly Jolly and Mr Robert James who both commenced teaching responsibilities last week. Both teachers are familiar with our School because they have spent a considerable time working here last year. Miss Jolly has started a new class of Year Ones while Mr James is teaching Year Four in Room 22 after Mrs Laing went on maternity leave. Miss Patel will be on leave for the term but we look forward to her return in Term Four. Congratulations are extended to Mrs Laing who has a new daughter.

**Bullying – But With A Difference:** Yes, many adults were bullied at school in our youth, but today there is a difference – that of text bullying. Cell phones are young people's main method of connecting with their friends, family and the wider world. Another big difference from the time when we were young is the use or misuse of text messaging and the computer, because it is not face to face. The perpetrators cannot see the harm that their actions do to the victim so don't see the impact therefore can't tell when enough is enough and time to back off. A group may send messages to one person each one being unaware of the impact on the victim. While traditional bullying may take place in the playground and on the way to/from school, with text bullying it can be constant. Research collected by Netsafe indicates that about 25% of students feel that they have been bullied at some time with the perpetrators divided quite evenly between boys and girls although girls use texting more than boys. What can children do?

1. Don't text the bully back.
2. Tell an adult whom you trust.
3. Ask the adult you have told to make a complaint to your phone company.
4. Talk about how you are feeling with someone.
5. Give yourself a pat on the back for being brave.
6. Ask your parent to inform your class teacher/class teacher to inform your parent



**Lunch Orders Term Three/Four:** The PTA have set up two different menus following the Healthy Eating guidelines imposed by the Ministry of Education. Tuesdays will be the day for regular 'healthy foods' while Fridays will include those items from Tuesday plus some 'eat occasionally food' such as pies, sausage rolls and doughnuts. We look forward to continuing parent support for the school's lunch system.

**Principal's Annual Conference:** I recently attended the Principals' annual conference this year which was held in Christchurch. It is always interesting to share experiences with other principals from schools around the country and to realise that many issues are similar no matter whether we are based in Auckland or Christchurch. The big national issues currently are special education and student behaviour. It always reinforces to me how privileged I am to lead a school such as Opaheke and it is exciting to be back for the third term.

**Celebrating Success:** Congratulations to the following students and teachers.

- ☺ Commonwealth Essay Writing competition 2007 results: Megan Nairn Yr8 and Sonia Everitt Yr9 Class C Commended, Jessica Petersen Yr7 Class D Highly Commended, Ronnie Shaddick Yr6 Class D Commended.
- ☺ Jonathon Cato Yr8 selected to represent Counties Rugby in Roller Mills representative rugby competition.

**Visit by Starlab:** This will be based at Opaheke School for 4 days in mid September. This will be free for all students because the per pupils costs will be paid for by the PTA. Well done PTA. You're a great group and our School is fortunate to have such a dedicated association.

**Road Patrol Roster:** Parents this roster is being co-ordinated by Geraldine Braks. Geraldine is struggling to get enough parents to help supervise our crossings in the morning and afternoons. Please don't assume that 'someone else' can do it, 'someone else' is as busy as you are! The roster is drawn up each term and helpers are rostered on either morning or afternoon and this duty comes up approximately 1 session every 2 weeks depending on the numbers of helpers we have. You are asked to be available while the Patrol Monitors are on duty and only need to stand to the side of the monitors in a prominent position to give them support if needed. They are all trained and very reliable. Parent supervision ensures that we can make this busy road as safe as we possibly can for all our children to cross. **If your children use our crossings we need your help!** Can you spare 20 minutes every 2 weeks. Please contact Geraldine on 2981176.

**Drinking Fountains:** Over the holidays the very old drinking taps have been replaced by seven smart new drinking fountains. As well there are new water bottle refill stations. Our thanks to the Board for arranging for these to be installed.

**Travel Wise:** Is your driving safe? Do you take extra care when driving close to any school? Our Travelwise group met at the end of last term and some work will be completed in the coming months:

- A kea crossing will be constructed on Short Street during the September holidays.
- Some realignment will be done on Tasman Drive.
- A bus bay has been marked out on the northern side of Tasman Drive next to the School entrance.

**Amenity Invoices:** These have been sent home today. As always, the School values the amenity which is used to fund resources and to supplement the School staffing provide by the Ministry of Education.

**Information Evening For Year Eights:** Tomorrow evening starting at 7pm there is an information evening for parents of Year 8 students at Rosehill College. I would urge parents of Year Eights who will be attending Rosehill College in 2009 to attend this evening.

**Numeracy For Parents:** Don't miss it, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August starting at 8.00am. There will be a presentation/discussion on the Numeracy project for parents which will finish by 8.45am to enable most people to get to work by 9.00am. For those able to stay, there will be sample group activities that the Numeracy Leaders have set up and teachers will be available to discuss and answer questions. Make a note of the date and time.

**Music Festival:** Our School choir has been working hard with Miss Bolstad preparing for the biennial Papakura Principals' Association Music Festival. Dates are as follows: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 12.30pm, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 7.30pm start, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 7.30pm start. Venue is Papakura Normal School hall – adjacent to Army grounds. There are only a few tickets remaining.

**Individual Portrait Photos:** Pre pay envelopes were sent out last week for these. Photos will be taken on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August for children who have returned their envelopes.

