

Opaheke School

Sharing, Caring,
Learning and Achieving

Established 1968

PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We are a Microsoft Showcase School



Kia ora koutou katoa, talofa lava, bula vinaka, malo e lelei, kia orana, namaste, malo ni, asalaamu alaikum, and warm greetings to you all.

I was fortunate enough to be invited into Kanuka to join their class lesson which focussed on supporting Hawkes Bay after the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. It was a very powerful lesson and I got the sense that the tamariki were ready to understand and appreciate what the Hawkes Bay community are going through. It's a bit like learning to tell the time, the child must be ready. Sometimes things of this nature may be a bit hard to grasp and comprehend for children. This lesson, however, hit the mark in both timing and impact. Thanks for including me, Mrs Pedersen and Kanuka.

I have a feeling that some of you may have received an abridged version of the golf story I delivered at Monday assembly via your children. I thought it was an important korero to share with our tamariki. So here is a summary of the story. I played in a pennant's golf match against Maungakiekie at Maungakiekie Golf Club on Sunday. I had history with my matchplay opponent. A young man who I had previously defeated in last year's Auckland Pennants semi-final. He was motivated to beat this 'old man' at his home course. He had me on the ropes on the 9th hole - the half way point in the match - when we couldn't locate my ball, which we were all confident had gone into a newly formed rock drain (Cyclone Gabrielle). The 3 minute ball search time limit was up. I was poised to trudge back to the tee and replay my shot and likely lose the hole, when my young opponent stopped me. He told me to take a free drop next to the drain without any penalty. I was taken back by the sporting gesture. It was clear that he desperately wanted to win. But he showed immense integrity to relinquish what could have been the final nail in our match, to do what he thought was right and hand me a "get out of jail free" card. It changed the tone of the match. I fought back hard and on the 17th - and



"Every Day Counts"

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem that much but...

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 Years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

The effect of absence on progress

A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80.00%
Very Good	Worrying	Worrying	Worrying	Serious Concern	Serious Concern

Best chance of progress and success.
More likely to be socially happy.

Harder to make progress or experience success.
Harder to make friend and more likely to be less happy at school.

This is persistent absence and Very hard to make progress and social outcomes are often poor. Referral to Attendance Services is likely.

penultimate - hole with the match all square my opponent had a tricky 6 foot putt to halve the hole and avoid going 1 down with 1 hole to play. So I reciprocated his sporting gesture by telling him to pick his ball up and move to the final hole. As it so happens, I missed a par putt on the 18th hole to lose the match. He deserved the win, and I think his spirit throughout the match and that particular gesture gave me assurance that we have some very cool young citizens in Aotearoa.

Attendance

This is our first full week at school. Now is the right time for me to hype up the importance of getting to school. If you are serious about your child's education and are eager to help our school out, getting your child to school is the KEY. It's as simple as that. To give you an idea of what the mark is for excellent attendance looks like, *if your child is away for 3 days in a term they are sitting on the threshold for excellent attendance*. 4 or more days away from school means your attendance will drop to satisfactory, and then to poor, which triggers follow-up action. Our daily school attendance varies between 88-93%. I think we can do better than that, and I would be absolutely delighted if we can get above 94% as a school. I will keep you updated on how we do with this wero (challenge). Let's go!

CONTACT US

Tasman Drive
Papakura 2113
Phone (09) 298 5410

office@opaheke.school.nz
www.opaheke.school.nz

We look forward to seeing your child at school by 8.25am ready to learn each day.
School finishes for all students at 2.30pm.



SELF REGULATOR



THINKER



INNOVATOR



COLLABORATOR



CHALLENGE TAKER

PRINCIPAL'S DESK - Continued

Goal setting meetings

These are happening on the **9th of March**. An important reminder that **school closes at the earlier time of 12pm** that day to allow for these meetings. Buses will be running earlier this day. We kindly ask that you:

- collect your child from school at the earlier time if that is your usual arrangement.
- ensure a supervising adult is at home if your child walks home or arrives home by bus.

Purchasing and bringing your own device

Ōpaheke School is leading the way in terms of delivering learning using digital technologies. As a relative newbie to Opaheke School, I have been really impressed at how engaged our students are when using digital devices, and how efficient they are at navigating through their task work (working faster and learning faster). We are starting to become worried about the dwindling number of students bringing devices from home. Our current pool of school owned devices is massively stretched, and this is becoming an increasing issue as our school experiences rapid growth. Every child having a device to enable 1 to 1 access is hugely important so they can access what THEY need, WHEN they need it. It is currently a juggling act.

So, if possible, please think seriously about purchasing a device for your child which will support their learning from Year 4 right through to Year 8. I understand it is a significant investment, but it is a valuable one in terms of the educational benefits for your child. For more information about what device to purchase please have a look at the information poster further on in the newsletter.



Goal Setting Meetings

**THURSDAY
MARCH 9
1.00–4.15 PM**

BOOK NOW

To book your meeting go to
www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code
and enter code : **yr588**

Or call our office team
to book in with them.

Early school finish time of 12.00pm



Reinvigorating Kapa Haka

Our kura is very motivated to reignite this very important kaupapa. Our initial whakaaro (thinking) is that we want to re-establish a senior kapa haka group of committed tamariki who are ngākau Māori (have a Māori heart / a heart for Māori people and culture) and want to deepen their understanding of te ao Māori. The group will take part in a journey of mātauranga Māori (knowledge), tikanga Māori (protocols/practices), as well as learning performance aspects in the form of waiata and haka. Through this kapa (group) we envisage, strengthening te ao Māori across the school and providing more opportunities for all Ōpaheke School tamariki over time.

We have engaged a very small group of whānau willing to assist this kaupapa, but we need to tīrara i te kupenga (broaden our network of support) in order for our kapa haka programme to be meaningful and sustained. So, we are

warmly inviting any whānau members who are willing to tautoko (support) this kaupapa, to a hui on **Tuesday 7th March at 8.30am** in the staffroom. This includes whānau from all backgrounds, of senior and/or junior students at the school.

The whānau friendly hui will be relaxed so please bring along babies and toddlers too. We will start at 8.30am and will finish no later than 10am. So if you are late or can't stay for the full hui, that's kei te pai, we would still love to see you there.

In the meantime, I am happy to be contacted by whānau via email at office@opaheke.school.nz, and I can start connecting whānau prior to the hui if you so wish.

Noho ora mai,
Jade Tawhiti.



DEVICE SPECIFICATIONS

MY MOBILE LEARNING @ ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL



ABOUT MY MOBILE LEARNING

At Opaheke School, students in Years 4 - 8 have the option of bringing their own device to use at school. The device will provide the opportunity for students to enhance their learning as part of the daily classroom programme.

WHEN CHOOSING A DEVICE PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

HARDWARE

- Minimum 4GB RAM
- Minimum 128GB HDD or SSD
- Minimum 5 to 6 hours of battery life

SCREEN SIZE

- 10" to 15"
- 11" devices are easiest for our students to manage

SOFTWARE

- Windows 10 or 11
- Up-to-date antivirus
- Quick start up time, less than 3 minutes



WHY CAN'T WE CHOOSE A CHROMEBOOK?

Well actually, you can! A Chromebook will work in our environment, although it will have limited functionality in some of the apps we use everyday such as OneNote and Word. **We prefer Windows devices** because they provide us with more choices and functionality. We want our students to have more browser choices, more productivity programs, more types of file support and more hardware options.

Computers can be brought from home for students in years 4 - 8. These devices need to meet our minimum requirements. A school personal device user agreement must be completed and returned before devices can be brought to school- forms are available from the office. We work in partnership with our local Noel Leeming store. Please visit them with these requirements and they will help you find a great device.



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CHALLENGE TAKER

Welcome



Mrs Brittany Johnson

Talofa lava, Malo e lei lei, Kia ora, Hello

My name is Brittany Johnson and I will be teaching the year 7 ākonga of Manuka this year and am really excited to join the Ōpaheke whānau.

A little about me; I am a mum to four, who keep me on my toes! I love being in the outdoors and spend most of my free time involved in kids sports and activities. Life is busy but I love it!

I came from an intermediate school where I worked with year 8 students so am looking forward to the challenges and experiences that come with being in a primary school, particularly building the relationships and learning where our tamariki come from.

I look forward to getting to know you.

Mrs Jaimie Nayagam

Currently I am teaching part-time in the Junior Team. This term is my first term back at school after having my daughter in 2021. My new challenge is juggling being a mum and being a teacher too!

The thing I love the most about teaching are those "ah-ha!" moments students have when they understand something. Watching them confidently practise that skill or apply the strategy and run with it independently is very rewarding. I enjoy the variety and the constant challenge of thinking on my feet to adapt a lesson or extend a child's thinking. Every day is different from the last.

Born in Auckland, I have two amazing parents and a younger sister who is a paramedic. Our firstborn is now two and we have five nephews & nieces among our families, which is loads of fun. My extended family is all over the globe - mostly in Europe.

My husband and I got married in 2015 and we share a last name which is from Sri Lanka. He's my biggest supporter and we have accomplished a lot in the last seven years including building our own home, adopting two rescue kittens and of course starting our own family. I love to read, take photos and spend time with my friends and family.



Updated My Mobile Learning and Student User Agreements

Thank you to everyone who has already completed and returned our updated MML (My Mobile Learning) and Student User Agreements for 2023. These have been sent out via email and are also available at the school office.

All students need to sign and return the updated Student User Agreement to be able to use digital technology at school. There is an agreement for Y1-3 students and a separate agreement for Y4-8.

Students in year 4-8 bringing their own device to school will also need to have the MML Agreement completed and returned before they can use their device at school.

If you need another copy of either of these agreements they can be found in the forms section of our school website: <https://www.opaheke.school.nz/notices/>. If you require a paper copy please let us know and we will get one sent home with your child or you can collect them from the school office.



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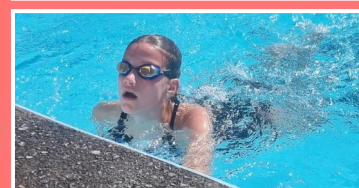
Sport



Y5-8 Swimming Sports

On Friday 17th February our Year 5-8 students participated in the Ōpaheke School Swimming Sports at Massey Park Pools. It was a lovely day and it was great to see so many students giving it a go.

Special congratulations to our place getters in the 50m freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and breaststroke as well as the 100m freestyle. These students will be representing our school at the North Counties Swimming Sports on Friday 24th February.



	Year 7 Girls	Year 7 Boys	Year 8 Girls	Year 8 Boys
100m Freestyle				
1st		Kade T	Lizzie C	
2nd			Maia H	
50m Backstroke				
1st	Mila A	Kade T	Nevaeh M	Logan P
2nd	Tyler T		Tyla Y	Braith C
3rd	Skylah S			Colby D
50m Freestyle				
1st	Mila A	Tyreece H	Lizzie C	Logan P
2nd	Tyler T	Kade T	Caja S	Noor D
3rd	Skylah S	Pres	Maia H	Braith C
50m Breast Stroke				
1st		Kade T	Lizzie C	
2nd		Jonah V	Maia H & Charlotte T	
50m Butterfly				
1st		Tyreece H		

	Year 5 Girls	Year 5 Boys	Year 6 Girls	Year 6 Boys
100m Freestyle				
1st	Lana W	Giovanni T		Akhbar M
2nd				Kayne P
50m Backstroke				
1st	Lana W	Giovanni T	Molly C	Kayne P
2nd	Mia M & Chimamanda A		Blayke S	Akhbar M & Eli R
3rd			Elly K	
50m Freestyle				
1st	Lana W	Giovanni T	Blayke S	Hakawarua R & Kayne P
2nd		Lennon K	Briannah M	
3rd				Deimos T
50m Breaststroke				
1st			Adella F	



Celebrating!

STAR Award Recipients

Our term one focus is 'Teamwork'.

Well done to all our students who received awards this week.

Great work team!



Term 1 Week 4

PTA Notices



PTA MEETING

22 February

7pm - Ōpaheke School Staffroom

All welcome (including children)

Board Notices

TERM 1, 2023 POLICY REVIEW

Review topics this term:
Legislation and Administration Policy (main policy
and section)

REVIEW CLOSES: 6 APRIL 2023

Have your say!

Follow the instructions below to read and review applicable policies.

1. Visit the website
<https://opaheke.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (opaheke) and password (achieving).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the Start your review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
9. Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit review".

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.



SchoolDocs
Policies and Procedures



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Maungarei Water Safety

Check out what Room 25 have been learning in the pool!



Maungarei students have been busy in the pool over the past two weeks learning a range of important water safety skills. Instructors from Massey Park have been teaching our tamariki about personal safety in the water, how to float, and swimming skills such as strong kicking.

Learning to swim is a life skill. Find out more about water safety and learning to swim at www.watersafety.org.nz or Swim School Massey Park Pool (clmnz.co.nz)



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IMPORTANT DATES

22 Feb	PTA Meeting 7pm
24 Feb	Loud Shirt Day - Postponed
24 Feb	Y5-8 NC Swimming Sports
28-3 Mar	Y7 EOTC / Y8 Camp
7 Mar	Kapa Haka Whānau Hui
7 Mar	Gardasil Dose 1
9 Mar	12 noon School Finish
9 Mar	Goal Setting Meetings from 1pm

TERM DATES FOR 2023

Term 1 - Wednesday 1 Feb to Thursday 6 Apr
 Term 2 - Monday 24 Apr (TOD) to Friday 30 June
 Term 3 - Monday 17 July to Friday 22 Sept
 Term 4 - Monday 9 Oct to Friday 15 Dec

TEACHER ONLY DAYS

Term 2 - Monday 24 Apr

STAR AWARDS

Term 1 - Teamwork

Room	Week 1	Week 2
R1		Jonah
R2		Tyler
R3		Tammana
R4		Te Kuiti
R5		Ryleigh
R6		Daniel
R7		Heretaniwha
R8		Katarina
R9		Jordyn
R10		Brylee
R11		Blake
R12		Alan
R15		Sophia
R21		Ishman
R22		Gemma
R23		Kavish
R24		Ausami
R25		Alyssa
R26		Jaiysheil

No Assembly - School Closed

Junior Hub
 Kanuka
 Manuka

YOUTHTOWN

SINCE 1932

Be in to win one of ten \$50 supermarket vouchers

Simply fill in the survey at the link below (or use the QR code) and tell us about your needs for out of school care/ activities. Include your contact details and you are in the draw.

We know many families requirements for out of school care has changed in the last few years and we'd love to know your thoughts.

CLICK
HERE
FOR THE
SURVEY



SCAN ME

Terms & conditions apply - see [here](#) for details.

A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS!



DOWNLOAD OUR SKOOL LOOP APP TO
 KEEP TRACK OF ALL SCHOOL NEWS
 AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023.



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