

Sharing, Caring,
Learning and Achieving

Opaheke School

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.

Welcome back to the new year! First of all I would like to thank you all for your understanding with the delayed start to school. It certainly wasn't ideal, but we are glad to be back on deck and excited by the prospects of the year ahead.

Welcome

We have a number of new faces on our teaching team this year. Jasbindar Prasad, Brittany Johnson, Elena Bernardo, and Rajwinder Kaur. A special and very warm welcome to our new families, many of whom I met at the front gate.

Bananagrams

I found, well actually no, my wife Nikayla, found a very cool game called **Bananagrams** over the break. It is a vocabulary game. Think of doing a wordfind, but in reverse. It is a lot simpler than it seems and caters for a wide audience including adult wordsmiths and little ones who have limited vocabulary. The game is an excellent way to develop vocabulary (bank of words) which in turn strengthens a child's ability to read and write. My youngest son (11 years) has become very sharp, very quickly. Whilst not a keen reader, he is experimenting with words and often checking with me if his word is legitimate. All the while expanding his repertoire of words and also confirming that certain 'child' slang and abbreviations are not actual words. If there is a game I would like to recommend for your family, then get this game. It is worth noting that it is a quick game too. Head down to your local book store or warehouse and treat your family. Let me know if you get it.



Property

A fair bit has been happening over the break and will continue to happen on the school property front.

- The school is getting a full repaint starting this month. In order for this to happen we have had a building wash team on site, as well as builders doing cladding repairs around the school.
- Mr Kitchen (school parent) and his team have done extensive scrub clearance and landscaping behind the junior block. This has freed up a significant play area for the juniors. Thanks Mr Kitchen for your superb work.
- Staff carpark and walking lines have been repainted, you shouldn't miss them when you enter the school.

Goal setting afternoon

This is a new initiative and coming up very soon. In response to a sharper focus on student progress and achievement this year, as well as some of the parent feedback from last years community survey, we are introducing 'Goal Setting Meetings' on the 23rd of February (Week 4). These will be short 5 minute meetings with your child's teacher, where initial learning goals for the first half of the year will be discussed. We strongly encourage your child to be present so that the goals are crystal clear for them as well. Standby for more details next week.

Noho ora mai,
Jade Tawhiti.

CONTACT US

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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.



Welcome

Mrs Elena Bernardo

I will be the classroom teacher of Room 2 (Year 7).

I enjoy teaching especially when my students are actively participating and achieving.

I am married with 3 grown-up daughters. My eldest is a nurse, my middle child is a micro-biologist, and my youngest is studying veterinary medicine. My husband is an engineer and we are originally from the Philippines. I love playing volleyball and badminton, I have a mini-garden, and I love NZ outdoors and travelling.

I am currently studying horticulture and I hope to contribute to Ōpaheke's sustainability garden and encourage my class to plant and look after the environment.



Mrs Rajwinder Kaur

My name is Rajwinder Kaur and I will be a year 3 teacher in Room 23. Originally, I am from Punjab and moved to New Zealand in 2011. I had been teaching in ECE since 2013 and moved to primary teaching in 2022. I love being part of this beautiful community. I am married and have two kids. I love spending time with my family. My other favourite things include reading books, watching movies, spending a day at the beach and gidha (folk dance).

I love being a teacher because teaching is really rewarding. Its satisfying to see children progress academically and non-academically as rounded people and future citizens.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all and spending the year ahead full of learning, fun and adventures!



PTA Notices

Ms Jasbindar Prasad

Ni Sa Bula
Vinaka/ Kia Ora

My name is Jasbindar Prasad. I hail from the Pacifica Island, Fiji. It is a pleasure being in room 5 with year 5 students. I believe it is critical to teach children self-esteem and respect for others, as well as promote healthy and enjoyable exploration of their surroundings. As a result, my initial goal is to cultivate positive relationships with tamariki, parents, family/whānau, and the wider community.



PTA MEETING

22 February

7pm - Ōpaheke School Staffroom
All welcome (including children)

The graphic features a blue background with white and blue Christmas ornaments (snowflakes, stars, and concentric circles) hanging from the top.



CHALLENGE TAKER



COLLABORATOR



INNOVATOR



THINKER



SELF REGULATOR

Sport

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sports - Term 1

17 Feb - Y5-8 Swimming Sports at Massey Park
24 Feb - Y5-8 North Counties Swimming Sports
1 Mar - Y5-6 North Counties Ki-o-Rahi and Cricket
9 Mar - Y5-6 Swim for Survival Lessons at Massey Park
17 Mar - Y5-8 North Counties Football and Touch
28 Mar - Y7-8 North Counties Rugby Trials - Boys and Girls

Swimming Lessons

This term our Year 3-6 students will be doing regular swimming lessons starting from Monday 13th February, some lucky students are even starting to have a swim this week. Please ensure your child brings their togs and towel to school each day so they can participate in lessons. It is expected that all students participate. If your child is not able to participate for any reason please ensure you inform the class teacher or school office.



SELF REGULATOR



THINKER



INNOVATOR



COLLABORATOR



CHALLENGE TAKER

Religious Education

This is due to start on 21st February. It is an opt-in system for Year 4-6 students. If you would like your child to participate in this programme please return the completed opt-in form which was emailed out to the school office.

You can view the full letter sent out to families and see more information on the programme on our school website:
<https://www.opaheke.school.nz/bible-in-school/>



My Mobile Learning



We are a Microsoft Showcase School and we use digital devices to help with teaching and learning.

We have a new MML agreement form for 2023. This has been sent out via email. All students in year 4-8 bringing their own device to school will need to have this form completed and returned before they can use their device at school, this includes those who have previously returned the older version of this form.

Please note, this is a digital form which can be filled out on your computer or phone and returned via email. However, if you do need a paper copy please let us know and we will get one sent home with your child. The form can also be found

in the forms section on our school website: <https://www.opaheke.school.nz/notices/>

Lunch Time Activities

Pause and Connect Lunch Time Programme

Starts
Tuesday
Week 3

Open to
those who
need some
quiet time



We run a lunchtime programme for students who find the playground an overwhelming place to be.

We call it 'Pause and Connect' because it is a chance for the busy-ness of the lunchtime to be paused and for students to connect to themselves, to others and to the staff running the programme.



IMPORTANT DATES

13 Feb	Tech and Languages Start
14 Feb	Board Meeting 7.10pm
17 Feb	Y5-8 Swimming Sports - Massey Park
21 Feb	Y4-6 Bible Starts (Opt-in required)
22 Feb	PTA Meeting 7pm
24 Feb	Loud Shirt Day
24 Feb	Y5-8 North Counties Swimming Sports

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 - Team Work

Room	Week 1	Week 2
R1	No Assembly - School Closed	No Assembly - Public Holiday
R2		
R3		
R4		
R5		
R6		
R7		
R8		
R9		
R10		
R11		
R12		
R15		
R21		
R22		
R23		
R24		
R25		
R26		
Junior Hub		
Kanuka		
Manuka		

HATS REQUIRED FOR TERM 1

Our school hats are required during the summer terms one and four. You can purchase these at the office for \$14 each. We accept cash or EFTPOS.



A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS!



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

