

# Opaheke School

Established 1968

Sharing, Caring,  
Learning and Achieving

## 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.

### Kapa Haka

This is back underway at Opaheke School. It has been running for 4 weeks and we have been so fortunate to be able to call upon the expert support of Mahuika Rawiri and Sandy Harman as well as a wider group of parents who tautoko the students. Due to the high demand we have made it available to year 6-8 students only.

### Pasifika Fono

Pasifika fono are starting to grow. A big thank you to Moe Tuipolotu and Katie Hastings for initiating these, and also to the families who have made the effort to turn up. We welcome more Pasifika families to these relaxed fono where we look to build the va between us and discuss ways we can support our Pasifika students. Stay tuned for upcoming fono.

### Social Media

I think now is a good time to talk about appropriate social media use as we head into the term break and daily face-to-face interactions are put on hold for the vast majority of our students. We have seen an unfortunate re-emergence of mean and inappropriate afterschool social media use that has spilled out in school time. Keeping connected is cool, but using it as a way to drag others down and be mean is not cool. I need your help to get on top of it.

So first of all, can I ask parents to be mindful that a number of social media apps such as tiktok, instagram and facebook have a minimum user age of 13 years, that I think speaks for itself. Finally, keep a regular eye on what children are writing and saying online. This may be through online gaming and mobile phone usage. While most of the communication available through online gaming may appear harmless, it is very easy for children to be drawn into the 'rabbit hole' of misuse. Coincidentally, on my drive to school this morning I tuned into a discussion the Mai FM radio hosts were having regarding a game they play called **'Fortnite'**. They explained that it is a game where you play in teams with and against other online gamers. They were discussing and even making fun of the other novice 'online' gamers who join their team and mess up the game. Whilst it was a light hearted discussion, and I am most certainly not taking aim at the Mai FM hosts, you can quickly see how it could get mean if children are playing the same game.

On a lighter note I would like to thank you - our parent community - for your support this term. When you look back to the beginning of the term, there was a fair amount of disruption to student learning as well as likely disruption within your own households. But we appreciate your understanding around some of the decisions our school has had to make.

I hope you manage to get a bit of a break. Do encourage your children to read whenever they are at a loose end, even consider a family trip to the library on a wet day. I hope to get back out on the water at some stage, as it is prime time for fishing.

Take care and see you all back on the 26th of April.

Noho ora mai,

Jade Tawhiti.



### CONTACT US

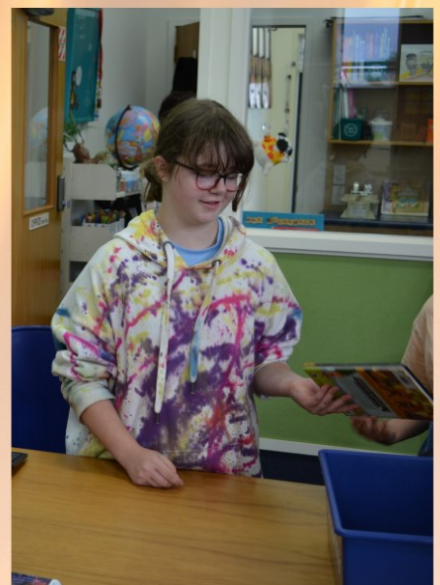
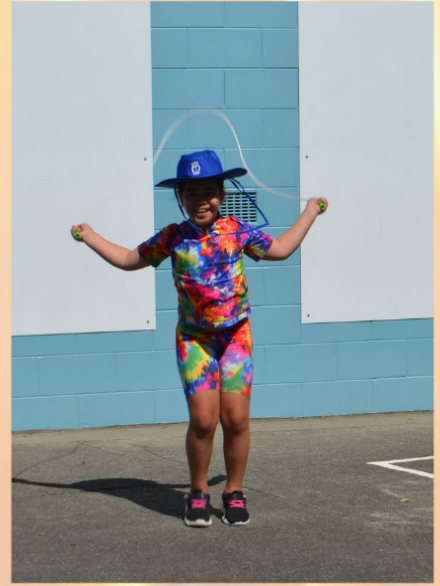
Tasman Drive  
Papakura 2113  
Phone (09) 298 5410

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.



# LEARNING AT ŌPAHEKE



## Sport



### Counties Zone Y7 Boys Football

The Counties Zone Boys Football tournament was held at Drury football grounds on Wednesday 29th March. Our Year 7 boys won their first game, drew their second and lost their third game to place 3rd in their pool.

### North Counties Y7/8 Rugby Trials

On Tuesday 28th March 29 of our Year 7 and 8 boys and girls trialled for places in our North Counties Rugby teams.

The students selected will participate in training sessions on Tuesdays'. The teams will be finalised next term and will play in the Counties Zone Rugby Tournaments. The boys Under 55kg and Open Tournament is on Tuesday 30th May and the Girls Open team's tournament is on Tuesday 13th June.



### Congratulations Lana

On Sunday, 26 March 2023, Lana W in Room 6 took part in the XRACE. It is a mystery adventure race in New Zealand where a parent and child aged 6-14 years race together to locate and complete mystery challenges; racing the clock and all the other family teams.

This was her fourth time taking part in the challenge. We would like to extend a warm congratulations to Lana as she managed to complete the race 3rd in her age group out of almost 400 students taking part.



# whare pukapuka Library and Makerspace

This term has been a busy one for our library!

We have added almost 200 new books, with Minecraft books and graphic novels flying off the shelves.

Our library is open on Monday mornings from 8-8:20 am for whānau to pop in and read together, this is a chance to enjoy a book from our large collection and maybe discover a new favourite story.

We have a dedicated team of new student librarians, with many enthusiastic Year 6 students training to support Mrs McCormack and classes during lunchtime and class sessions.

The Makerspace has been a hive of activity. Students enjoy crafts at lunchtime on a Thursday, trying different crafts and techniques.



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## Celebrating!

### STAR Award Recipients

Our term one focus is 'Teamwork'.

Well done to all our students who received awards over the last two weeks.

Great work team!



Term 1 Week 9



Term 1 Week 10

### Gold Award Mathletes

Congratulations to Wanessa and Gunreet Manuka, Aaron Kanuka, CJ R2, Nina R3, Cooper R5, Lucas, Aria and Gurnoor R6, Winnie R7 who have attained their gold award certificates for Mathletics over the last two weeks. It takes 20 weeks of consistent effort to achieve one of these awards. So much hard work!



## ANZAC DAY

### POPPY WEEK

3 – 6 April 2023

**LEST WE FORGET**

BRING A GOLD COIN  
FOR A POPPY!

**We will start selling poppies from  
Monday 3rd April, so get your gold  
coin ready!**

**COUNCILLORS WILL BE GOING AROUND  
EACH CLASS TO COLLECT DONATIONS  
IN THE MORNINGS.**

Thank you to everyone who has already donated a gold coin for poppy week this week, our school councillors will be going around classes to collect any further donations tomorrow and hand out poppies. All donations will be given to the RSA Poppy Trust.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April, some of our school councillors will be taking part in the Papakura Civic Parade where they will lay a wreath on behalf of the school.

The councillors will also run our annual Fields of Remembrance Ceremony on the first day of term 2, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 9:30m. A field of white crosses will be placed on the grass area in front of the flagpole. We will remember and honour those soldiers who have fought, died or been injured during World War 2 and later other military or peacekeeping operations.



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## PTA Notices

# Easter Raffle

The PTA would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who donated chocolates to the Easter raffle. We received so many that we were able to increase the number of prize hampers from 6 to 8. Thank you also to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. We sold over 2,000 which means the PTA are able to donate approx \$3,500 to the school to help reduce the cost of camps, sports, equipment and resources. Congratulations to the winners.

We are incredibly appreciative of all the support and generosity received during this fundraiser. The success comes down to the school community. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you once again.

On behalf of the PTA, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter. Be safe over the holidays and enjoy your time together.



ORDER  
THURSDAY

DELIVERY  
FRIDAY



## SCHOOL LUNCHES

RETURNING TERM 2!

PARENT HELPERS NEEDED FOR BOTH  
DAYS.

CONTACT:

PTA@OPAHEKE.SCHOOL.NZ

OR PHONE: 298-5410

Order forms out soon!



## NEW TIMES

OUR ŌPAHEKE PTA INVITES YOU TO  
THE END OF TERM

# Ōpaheke School Disco!

FOOD! GOOD MUSIC!  
ADMISSION \$2

**WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL, 2023**

YEARS 1 - 2 5:00PM TILL 5:45PM  
YEARS 3 - 4 6:00PM TILL 6:45PM  
YEARS 5 - 8 7:00PM TILL 8:00PM  
ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL HALL



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## IMPORTANT DATES

|        |                                    |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 5 Apr  | PTA Disco                          |
| 6 Apr  | Last day of Term 1 - finish 2.30pm |
| 24 Apr | Teacher Only Day                   |
| 25 Apr | ANZAC Day                          |
| 26 Apr | First day of Term 2 - start 8.25am |
| 26 Apr | Field of Remembrance 9.30am        |
| 3 May  | PTA Meeting 7pm                    |
| 9 May  | Board Meeting 7.10pm               |
| 11 May | NYLD                               |

### 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 9      | Week 10    |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| R1         | Cory        | Mila       |
| R2         | Stella      | Robbie     |
| R3         | Lizzie      | Louise     |
| R4         | Elly        | Manik      |
| R5         | Eden        | Eden       |
| R6         | Aria        | Whitney    |
| R7         | Aangel      | Athea      |
| R8         | Cara        | Haukawarua |
| R9         | Laker-Rowen | Lily       |
| R10        | Ella        | Hamish     |
| R11        | Zoe         | Arshman    |
| R12        | Ava         | George     |
| R15        | Taini       | Kane       |
| R21        | Nora        | Karman     |
| R22        | Celeste     | Grayson    |
| R23        | Aurelia     | Khaleesi   |
| R24        | Macy        | Josen      |
| R25        | Joshua      | Arlen      |
| R26        | Ben         | Imran      |
| Junior Hub | Gurnoor     | Paula      |
| Kanuka     | Tyla        |            |
| Manuka     | Wanessa     | Nikita     |



## Paid Advertising



**4 weeks free**

### Little Gems Childcare

**Are you looking for a home for your child!**

**Then come and visit us at Little Gems Childcare, we are a small and homely centre located at 88 Opaheke Road, Papakura. We provide a safe and healthy environment for children. Our staff is highly qualified and we believe in a child-led environment.**

#### Why us:

- A home away from home
- 30 hrs free for 3 to 5 years
- Healthy morning and afternoon tea provided
- Highly qualified and experienced teachers
- Transition to school programme
- Primary caregiving
- Contact us on 0211611125/ 0212580063



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