

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.

Challenge: If you are reading this newsletter, ask your school parent friends if they have read it. If they say "Not yet, why?". Tell them they "need to read it". Thanks.

Attendance

Monday Blues and Fade Away Friday? I have noticed a trend. We have less kids here on Mondays and Fridays. Every Monday and Friday for the last term and a half we have had 17-19% of our students away which equates to 105-115 tamariki NOT learning.

But last Friday we had more kids at school than usual. Coincidentally, we had a **Bake Sale** that day. If I wind the clock back to last term, we had a similar record for Friday attendance when it was **Pyjama Day** and sausage sizzle. Please tell me I don't have to run special and fun events to get kids to school. We are better than that. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, **Feel Good Friday** is the best school day of the week without the need for any special events.

Mondays are poor too. *Why is that?* I thought we agreed to starting the Sunday afternoon habit of getting sorted for the school week. Making lunch, finding library books and packing bags. I am sure I mentioned it in a newsletter last term.

Other than Monday and Friday, our daily attendance is stable, NOT great, but stable. With Tuesday - Thursday attendance of around 87-90% we are close to being where we want to be. Opaheke School sets high standards across the board and attendance is no different.

Why am I making such a big deal about this? All the legal implications for non-attendance aside, we are starting to see really exciting gains with student learning. Teaching staff are putting in massive amounts of effort into fast tracking student learning. The shifts are happening now! I have had at least 15 students sent to me in the last fortnight who have made staggering progress. This always excites me because right in behind these children will be a whole lot more making big leaps. But we lose steam when a child fails to turn up. It is frustrating. There is no other way to put it.

We want to help you get your kids to school, so we have started **Breakfast Club** in the hall every morning from 8.00- 8.25am. Kids can have breakfast here if it is a rush at home, and even if they forget their lunch we have 'grab 'n' go' lunch items available each day at **Breakfast Club** and in the office if they arrive late. All free. Your children know about it.

Next thing we want to nail is transporting kids to school. We hope to get the **Walking School Bus** underway for families who are within walking distance and need assurance that their child will get to and from school safely. For those who are beyond walking distance and who have no car or alternative transport arrangements, can you please call the office as soon as possible and let us know your exact situation. We may be able to help out. Car pooling setups come to mind.

NZ School Library Week

A school library is a very special place. None more so than the beautiful library we have at Opaheke. Littered with an array of novels, picture books, puzzles and comfortable furniture. Our library represents what a library should be - a place of calm and a happy place where tamariki immerse themselves in the wonder of books. I do find the new direction that some public libraries are taking rather interesting. With an increasing number of computers, and even video game consoles appearing it seems they are getting away from what is central to a library - books. Anyhow this week is all about our **school** libraries and I look forward to spending time in it with our tamariki. Next week is our annual 'Book Week'. Look out for our Book Week events.

Mission, Vision and Values Survey

Thank you to those who have taken the time to fill in the *Mission, Vision, and Values survey* that was sent out last fortnight. I will keep it open and keep promoting it because we appreciate every single voice that comes through. We have had over 100 responses so far and we know there will be many more families out there that will be able to add value to our collection of responses.

Have a great week.

Noho ora mai,
Jade Tawhiti.



CONTACT US

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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.



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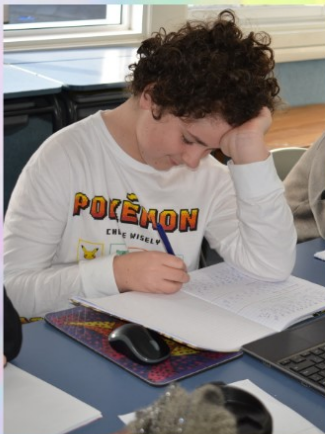
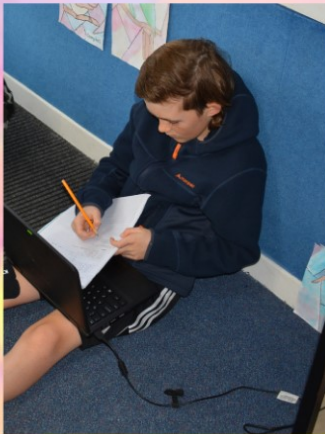


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LEARNING AT ŌPAHEKE



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Sport

Y5-8 Opaheke School Cross Country

A Triumph of Resilience!

Congratulations to our incredible senior school students in years 5 to 8 for their outstanding performance at the School Country event! Your determination and resilience shone through as you tackled the challenges and pushed yourselves to be the best you could be.

Despite the rain and a last-minute change at the end of course, you all took it in your stride and demonstrated true sportsmanship. We are immensely proud of each and every one of you for showing such a positive attitude and embracing the spirit of the event.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the parents who came along to support and cheer on their children, as well as those who cheered on other students - your encouragement and enthusiasm made the day even more special!

And let's not forget to recognise our dedicated teachers for their hard work and preparation leading up to the event. Your commitment to our students' growth and development is truly appreciated.



Y7/8 North Counties Cross Country

Despite the rain, Year 7/8 Cross Country yesterday was a blast! We braved the weather together and emerged victorious!

Congrats to Logan P(2nd) for year 8 boys, Charlotte T (8th) year 8 girls, and Kade T (5th) year 7 boys for qualifying for counties zone!

As a team, we achieved incredible results: 3rd in Year 7 Girls, 2nd in Year 7 Boys, 2nd in Year 8 Girls, and 2nd & 3rd in Year 8 Boys!

A huge thank you to our parent helpers who supported us all the way!



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Maths Week



Did you know the easiest way to help increase your child's maths knowledge is by playing games with them? Repetition is the key to embedding knowledge.

There are lots of cool games on the Maths Week website:

<https://mathsweek.co.nz/>

Other fun and exciting websites where your child can play maths games to help them learn include:

www.timestables.co.nz/

www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm

www.mathplayground.com/ASB_JetSkiAddition.html

And of course for our Year 3-8 students there is always Mathletics. A fun and interactive website which all our year 3-8 students have access to through their school accounts.

As well as these cool online games you can also play games with simple things like a pack of cards. If you would like a pack of cards to play games with your child at home please let the office know and we can supply you with a pack (limited stock available). Counters and dominoes can also be used to instil number knowledge or practise basic facts.



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Book Week



Next week is Book Week and we have some amazing events planned.

On Thursday the whole school will be treated to an engaging performance from the team at Perform Education. The theme is 'Celebrating Aotearoa Book Week in Schools 2023' featuring a selection of the best New Zealand children's books. Students will be immersed in storytelling and an engaging, original narrative filled with music, adventure, and intrigue! This is an annual event during Book Week generously sponsored by our PTA. We want to give thanks to the PTA for their continued support of this event, giving students a chance to see a live performance is something very special indeed.

On Wednesday students in years 1-4 will hear from award-winning author and illustrator Vasanti Unka. Vasanti has written and illustrated many books and we are so excited to hear about her processes and inspiration.

On Friday we end our week on a high with our Book Character Parade. This is a long standing Ōpaheke tradition where students and staff come to school dressed in a costume representing a book character. Our parade will start at approximately 8:50am leaving from the school hall. We then walk along Tasman Drive towards Ōpaheke Road. We walk along Ōpaheke Road and down Short Street and back into our gate. Parents and whānau are invited to watch, wave and cheer on our students as they take part in the parade.

The health and safety of our students is important and we will make a call if the parade will go ahead at 8:25 am, taking into consideration a range of health and safety factors. In the event the parade is cancelled this decision will be communicated across all our normal channels, email, Skool loop, and Facebook.

Aotearoa School Library Week

Next week we celebrate books, but this week we are celebrating our Whare pukapuka/ Library alongside other schools across the motu. Our library is a hub of activity every day and our



students are fortunate to have access to a wide range of reading resources and a cosy space to sit and read. Students from all levels come together in the library at lunchtime to connect over completing a puzzle or sharing a book together. The adjoining Makerspace is utilised at lunchtime for clubs and this term we have two Lego groups creating inventive structures on our new

Lego wall. Libraries are no longer just for books, with many turning into community hubs - our library is no exception. We have a wonderful team of student librarians who help to keep our library tidy and also support students at lunchtime, they can often be seen reading to younger students too.

Many families have visited our library on a Monday morning and we are extending our open mornings until the end of the term. Pop in Monday - Thursday from 8:00 - 8:20 am to read together before school starts - what a way to start the day!



Celebrating!

STAR Award Recipients

Our term three focus is 'Achieving Personal Best'.

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

Great work team!



Term 3 Week 2



Term 3 Week 3

Gold Award Mathletes

Congratulations to Kyle R7, Frankie and Nora R21, Cyrus R22, Vincent and Eni R24, Destin R25 and Ngahuia R26 who have attained their gold award certificates for Mathletics over the last few weeks. It takes 20 weeks of consistent effort to achieve one of these awards.

So much hard work!



Anywhere except a chair

Anywhere except in a chair!

**WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT ALL THE
AMAZING WAYS AND PLACES WE CAN
READ AND SHARE STORIES!**

Be imaginative, take a photo of you
reading - anywhere except in a chair!

**Email photos before
Thursday the 10th of August to:
library@opaheke.school.nz or
send via messenger on the Ōpaheke
School Facebook page.**

We have some wonderful prizes and
winners will be announced during
BOOK WEEK - WEEK 5



Last call - entries close tomorrow, Thursday the 10th! We have had lots of creative entries and even our staff have been showing off their reading spots too, check out some of the ways our staff have been reading. Winners will be announced during Book Week and all entries will be displayed in our library foyer.



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PTA Notices

Ōpaheke School PTA Seed Fundraiser

Order forms out now!

Flowers, Organic vege, sprouts, herbs and vegetables.



Gather orders from friends and family.

Order forms and payment due: August 25th

One payment per family/whanau order via internet banking or cash payment at office.

Delivery end of term 3 (date TBC)

Contact the PTA if
you any questions or
you can help to pack
orders at the hall.



PTA@opaheke.school.nz or phone 298-5410



Check out the website for info on
seed varieties!



The next PTA fundraiser for term 3 is one that will get your hands dirty! We will be fundraising via seeds for your Spring garden. There are vegetables, herbs, flowers, sprouts and organic vegetables. Order forms have been sent home with children this week and are due back August 25th. Seeds can be viewed on the Kings website <https://www.kingsseeds.co.nz/>

Please share the love and our fundraising efforts with family and friends. These usually sell themselves, so you don't need to do much work to fill in your form with lots of orders.

Please mark clearly on the form what is ordered, and please have one payment only per family for your orders. This will make it easy to collate orders and payments. Account information is on the order form. Payment is via cash at the office with form, or internet banking (to the PTA Account) stating child's name and room number with 'Seeds' as a reference. As this is a PTA fundraiser EFTPOS is not available sorry. All students whose whānau put in an order will go in the draw to win a prize pack.

If you need more order forms, please see the school office. If you have any questions, please contact the PTA via PTA@opaheke.school.nz or phone 298-5410.

Thank you once again for your support in raising funds for the school.

Bake Sale



Huge thank you to everyone who supported our Year 6 bake sale last week to raise funds for their camp later this year. There were so many yummy treats to choose from. They raised over \$1,256.



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IMPORTANT DATES

7-11 Aug	Maths Week
11 Aug	Y5-8 Mathex Competition
14-18 Aug	Book Week
15 Aug	Y5/6 North Counties Cross Country
16 Aug	Y1-4 Author Visit
17 Aug	Perform Education
18 Aug	Book Character Parade
22 Aug	Y5-8 North Counties Volleyball
25 Aug	PTA Seed Fundraiser Orders Due

TERM DATES FOR 2023

Term 3 - Monday 17 July to Friday 22 Sept

Term 4 - Monday 9 Oct to Friday 15 Dec

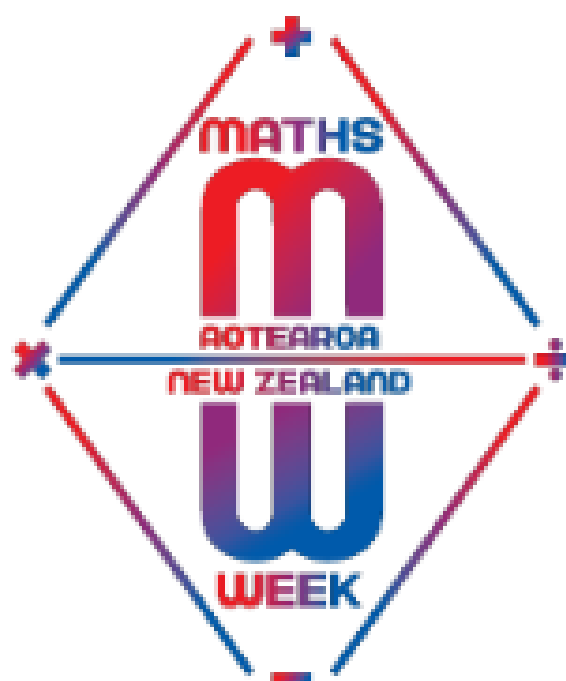
STAR AWARDS

Term 3 - Achieving Personal Best

Room	Week 2	Week 3
R1	Harlem	Abhay
R2	Ruby	Madison
R3	Maia	Louise
R4	Freya	Amanda
R5	Chloe	AJ
R6	Mecedes	Gurnoor
R7	Eli	Kourtney
R8	Molly	
R9	Reuben	Eva
R10	Kiaan	Jace
R11	Rose	Conary
R12	Lillian	Loushyn
R15	Walid	Ricky
R16	Azariya	Kaho
R17	Makaio	Lily
R21	Nico	Max
R22	Marlee-Jane	Aiden
R23	Jermaynn	Tyler
R24	James	Zayd
R25		Vivian
R26	Cameron	Lincoln
Junior Hub	Hunter	Indy
Kanuka	Clarissa	Jordyn
Manuka	Hannie	Nikita

Maths Week/Pāngarau Wiki 2023

Monday 7 August – Friday 11 August

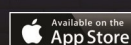


- Receive instant notifications to your device about school news and notices
- Translate school notices to your native language
- View newsletters
- Notify us of your child's absence



Simple free download:

In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.



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