



ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL



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.



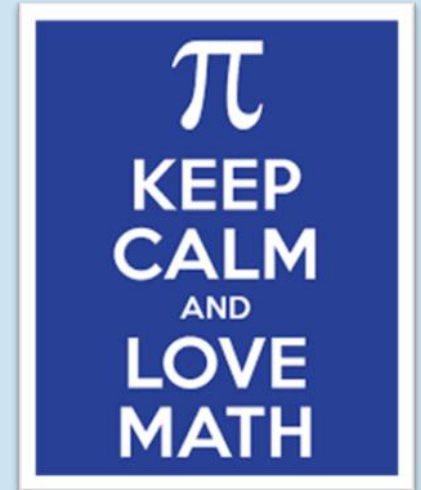
Kia ora whānau

Wow! Week 4 already. Time is flying. I'm picking there have been a few late nights and early mornings in your household as you caught up with all the Olympic action. How good was Hamish Kerr in the high jump? And how good was Sarah Cowley-Ross' commentary call when Kerr claimed the gold? "YES HE CAAAAAN!!".

Maths crisis?

"The Government has broken the trust of the sector and the public has been misinformed," said Leanne Otene, President of NZPF.

You may be aware of the government hitting panic mode, with their use of 'alarming' mathematics achievement data. I would like to provide a bit more clarity on why the data in the government's announcement is misleading and why you shouldn't



panic. The data put forward was based on an assessment attempted by 853 students in 42 schools which assessed students' maths ability at Year 8 **in a draft curriculum not yet being taught**. Not the same benchmark test of previous years. So straight away, apples were not compared with apples.

Below is an illustration of Ōpaheke School's recent PAT mathematics achievement data. PAT tests are rock solid and reliable nationally normed tests that have been around for many years. You probably did PAT's when you were at school. We are the dark blue box, and the light grey box is the national median. So we are well placed and tracking well.

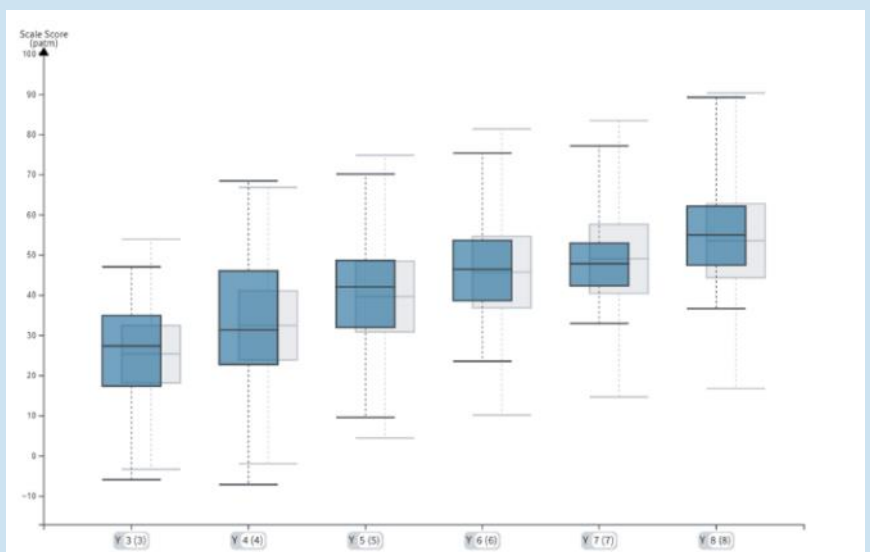
Aside from creating confusion and panic, the most disappointing thing from the government announcement is the lack of credit given to the immense hard work our teachers and learning support teachers are doing daily with our kids in mathematics. The message that has spilled out of the announcement is that we are doing a poor job. This is disheartening for all of our teaching staff.

Many of you have showed your gratitude towards our teachers with lovely comments at our Student Led Conferences. If there was ever a time that I asked our community to show support for our teachers and learning support teachers, I think that time is now. It would be well received.

Kia maiea tō rā.

Have a fulfilling day.

Mr Tawhiti



Above: Ōpaheke School Term 2 PAT Mathematics results.

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.



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Sport

Y7/8 North Counties Cross Country

Congratulations to all runners who completed the 3.2 km North Counties Cross-Country at Strathallan School Wednesday 7th August. It was a great day for cross-country, with clear skies and warm weather. All competitors gave it their best effort and were exhausted at the finish line. Well done to our Year 8 boys team who came 2nd, our Year 8 girls team who came 3rd and our Year 7 boys team who also came 3rd.



Congratulations to Kade T, William D who will progress to Counties Zone in the North Counties Year 8 Boys team and to Oviya V who will represent North Counties as part of the Year 7 Girls team.

Y5/6 Cross Country

What an amazing cross country our year 5 and 6 students ran on Monday! Despite the weather, they were able to get out and run the course they have been training for since the beginning of term.

Our ākonga did an amazing job at persevering and challenging themselves! All their hard work paid off with each and everyone of them successfully completing the course. Well done to our top 8 runners of each group (year 5 girls, year 5 boys, year 6 girls and year 6 boys) who will continue on to the North Counties competition next Tuesday at Te Hihi School. Also, a massive thank you to the whānau who showed up to support our runners, it was a huge turnout and our tamariki appreciated all the cheering along the course. Well done to our quickest runner Lennon King who completed the 1900m run in under 8 minutes! I'm sure there will be a few future Olympians amongst this group!



Welcome to Miss Emily Kruger

Miss Kruger is joining us as a Learning Support Teacher. She will be assisting students with reading.

Emily enjoys getting to know each student she work with and helping them to achieve their individual goals.

She is originally from a small town in South Africa and moved to New Zealand in February of this year. Going to the beach, baking, and exploring new places are some of her favourite things to do.



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Y7/8 Stardome Trip



Our Year 7/8 students enjoyed a trip to the Stardome Observatory & Planetarium on the 1st August. This was an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of last term's inquiry on migration. They explored how Kupe and Tupaia used the stars for navigation to discover Aotearoa and finished off the trip with a walk up Maungakiekie.

Tongan Language Week

Celebrate: 18-24 August

The 2024 theme for Tonga Language Week is **'E tu'uloa 'a e Lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá** - The Tongan Language will be sustainable when used at home, church and in the wider community. This theme derives from the overarching Language Week Series theme for 2024, 'Sustainability'.



Y6 Camp Bake Sale



Thank you to everyone who supported our Bake Sale last week. The Room 7 and 18 students provided some scrumptious baked goods and we made over \$1,330 in proceeds to go towards the Year 6 camp later this year and next year as well.



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Maths Week/Wiki Pāngarau 2024



Maths can be tricky for children to grasp and it can be challenging to keep them engaged and motivated. We do this in our classroom using activities where our students work individually, in pairs and in small groups. Hands on activities help us to keep the learning approach varied and interesting.

Materials

Handling and manipulating objects can increase and deepen children's understanding of different maths concepts. Using objects allows them to visualise and understand the maths which helps them to make sense of what is actually happening.

Playing games

Maths games are all about having fun. The biggest benefit is that children can genuinely enjoy learning and consolidate their knowledge of a maths concept. Not every child likes the thought of learning about fractions! Putting them into the form of a game will help them to engage further.

Digital tools

We all know our children love technology. This doesn't mean that they instantly learn. Using technology in our classrooms isn't left to chance. Teachers think carefully about what we want our students to achieve and choose digital tools that support the learning purpose.

Benefits of using digital tools in the classroom are that they can be personalised to support each child's learning, enable students to actively practice, consolidate and test their knowledge and provide instant feedback.

Maths at home

One of the most successful ways of engaging children in mathematical thinking is to play a game with them. The playing is the fun part and the game is the place where the learning or the practicing takes place. The wonderful thing about games is that it is also fun time spent together.

Usually when we think of "maths games" we think of card or dice games but there are many ways that build confidence and understanding in lots of areas of maths.

Cooking, reading, gardening, shopping, playing games, puzzles, watching & playing sports and being out and about are all great ways to find maths all around us.

You can find out more on the Ministry of Education website for parents and whānau: <https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/learning-and-development-at-home/ideas-to-help-with-reading-writing-and-maths/>

Here are some links to fun maths games we use at school which you can also use at home with your children:

www.timestables.co.nz/

www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm

www.mathplayground.com/ASB_JetSkiAddition.html

And of course, there is always Mathletics. A fun and interactive website which all our year 3-8 students have access to through their school accounts: <https://login.mathletics.com/>.



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Celebrating!

STAR Award Recipients

Our term three focus is 'Achieving Personal Best'.

Well done to all our students who received awards at the last two assemblies.

Great work team!



Term 3 Week 2



Term 3 Week 3

Library Celebrations



School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa
Te Puna Whare Mātauranga a Kura

AOTEAROA SCHOOL LIBRARY WEEK STORYWALK®

BUT THEN... is generously supplied by Scholastic,
Swapna Haddow and Daron Parton, for use during
Aotearoa School Library Week.



The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in
collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier Vermont.
Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

This week we are celebrating our Wharepukapuka/Library, during Aotearoa School Library Week and next week is our annual Book Week!

We have a long-standing tradition of a **Book Character Parade** during Book Week, this year our parade will be on Friday the 23rd of August. Costumes do not need to be expensive or elaborate and can be as simple as a paper mask. It really is a highlight of Book Week and students enjoy wearing costumes on this day. Whānau are invited to come and watch the parade that will start from the school hall, walking along Tasman Drive towards Ōpaheke Road, along Ōpaheke Road and returning into school via the Short Street entrance. We aim to get the parade started at around 8:45am, please come along and cheer for our tamariki.

There are lots of other events over the fortnight, including, author and illustrator, Toby Morris visiting and speaking to years 3+4 and 5+6, a live performance by the team at Perform Education for the whole school and our first ever StoryWalk!

The Story Walk will be on Monday 19th of August from 8am, you will be able to walk along and read the story 'But then...' The almost true story of an overdue book. The walk will start from the library and head around past the sandpit and towards the Junior Hub. Do come along and read this hilarious story, it will be a fabulous way to start our Book Week!

We want to acknowledge the continued support of our PTA for their sponsorship of the Perform Education performance, this is such an exciting event for our students and without their support this event couldn't take place.

Books and reading are celebrated everyday here at Ōpaheke, but the next fortnight is a chance to really highlight the way that reading, books and our library enrich the lives of our community!



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PTA MEETING

21 Aug 2024

7.00pm - Ōpaheke School Staffroom
All Welcome (including children)



email: pta@opaheke.school.nz for more info

SAVE THE DATE

PTA Term 3

Disco

Thursday 26th
September

Ōpaheke School PTA Seed Fundraiser

ORDER DUE IN THIS WEEK

Flowers, Organic vege, sprouts, herbs and vegetables.



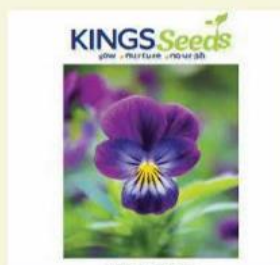
Gather orders from friends and family!

Order forms and payment due: Friday 16th August

- Order payment via internet banking or cash at office (one payment per whanau please).
- Delivery TBC, before end of August (in time for spring planting!)

Contact the PTA (details below) if you have any questions or to help to pack orders at the hall.

Order forms available online - please email us, or [use this link](#).



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

Check out www.kingsseeds.co.nz for info on seed varieties!

Kings Seed Fundraiser

Just a friendly reminder, the PTA seed orders are due by the end of this week, so don't forget to return your order form along with the cash or feel free to internet bank your payment direct to the PTA Bank Account (note it is a PTA fundraiser so it needs to be paid to the PTA bank account not the school bank account). If you require another printed order form just let the school office know and we can send this home with your child.



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IMPORTANT DATES

12-16	Maths Week
12-16	NZ School Library Week
16 Aug	Y5-8 Interhouse Mathex
18-24 Aug	Tongan Language Week
20 Aug	Y5/6 NC Cross Country
21 Aug	PTA Meeting 7pm
23 Aug	Book Character Parade
28 Aug	Y3/4 Gymnastics
28 Aug	NC Basketball
30 Aug	Daffodil Day
30 Aug	Counties Rugby League

TERM DATES FOR 2024

Term 3 - Monday 22 Jul to Friday 27 Sep

Term 4 - Monday 14 Oct to Friday 13 Dec

STAR AWARDS

Term 3 - Achieving Personal Best

Room	Week 2	Week 3
R1	Eli	Cyrus
R2	Charlotte	Ethan
R3	Borislav	Jojo
R4	Cooper	Haukawarua
R5	Lilian	Finn
R6	Vivian	Ausami
R7	Lameycia	Michael
R8	Reshu	Eseta
R9	Joseph	Wolf
R10	Tony	Kaho
R11	Keehan	Alivia
R12	Lily	
R15	Nevaeh	Thomas
R16	Aimainu	Hannah
R17	Milica	
R18	Alyssa	Alan
R21	Luca	Taylor
R22	Georgia	Lily
R23	Jensen	Everleigh
R24	Ruhi	Yunus
R25	Amaira	Yaamin
R26		Gurmukh
Junior Hub	Ashely	Ashley
Kanuka	Japleen	Mila
Kauri		
Manuka	Manraj	Anne

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