



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.

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of term 4 as the fun end of year events draw closer, and the allure of summer beaches, christmas and the new year festivity beckons. These can become unnecessary distractions and we tend to forget the basics.

I spoke to our school about this at Friday's assembly. I used the example of free wheeling on a bicycle when riding down a hill. Most of us have tried taking our feet off the pedals and coasting down the hill at pace. Exhilarating and thrilling it may be, but, we are not coasting yet and there is still a lot of peddling to do between now and the terms end. To reiterate my point I asked the children the following patai, "*what happens when you come down the hill and onto flat ground?*". The student responses were as follows, "*You slow down*", "*you wobble*", "*you tip off*", "*you stop*". I then probed further, "*So, how do we avoid losing balance on our bicycle?*". The students chorused collectively, "*Put our feet back on the pedals, and start pedalling*". By all means enjoy the fun and excitement of the final term of the year. But don't go overboard. Enjoy the downhill coast, absolutely, but don't keep your feet off the pedals for too long or else you slow, down, wobble, and fall over. Get your feet back on the pedals and regain control of your bike, your learning journey, and keep moving forward at a steady pace.

What does this mean for our children in their school day?

- Celebrate success in learning. Fly down the hill and take your feet off the pedals every once in a while.
- Put your feet back on the pedals when you hit flat ground. Regain control and switch back on. *What are your next learning steps in maths, reading, writing? What equipment do I need for my snorkelling trip to Goat Island? Where do I need to put my book bag? What does good behaviour in the classroom and playground look like again?*
- Start pedalling. Get back to work. Do the mahi and get the treats.

I couldn't help but think that our tamariki were not the only ones who got something from my message. Big people, myself included need to think about this when things get a bit hectic and exciting. Keep our feet firmly planted on the bike pedals and find that steady pace where we don't miss doing the basics well. I think focussing more on the basics will help us cope with the distractions of this time of year.

I hope to see you at the Funfest!! And don't get too carried away when I am on the Dunk Machine!!

Have a great rest of the week,

Mr 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.



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Learning at Ōpaheke



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Sport

Y5-8 Athletics Day

The year 5-8s headed down to Massey Park for our annual senior Athletics Day yesterday. It was an awesome day with everyone participating in all events and giving it a go! We had some awesome results! Whether it was a personal best or trying something new, the students were outstanding! A huge mihi to the parents who came to help out or support our tamariki, as always, without your support these events can't be held!



Congratulations to Year 8 student TYLER T who has had an awesome year of sports.

SOFTBALL

Tyler has had a very successful Softball season, with her teams winning every competition/tournament that they were in.

* Rookie Sox (North Island) U13 Girls 2024 Winners - Counties Manukau U13 Girls



Tyler was selected to represent New Zealand for the International Softball Academy Under 13 Girls team, which competed in the New South Wales U14 State Championship in late September.

NETBALL

Tyler played Netball for Manurewa Marlins Intermediate team and was awarded Most Valuable Player for her team. Counties Māori Netball, out of 3 teams, selected Tyler to represent Te Manukanuka o Hoturoa Poitarawhiti Team 1.



In the first week of School holidays, Tyler attended the Taiohi Kohine Wananga in Whakatu, Nelson. A weeklong wananga for a select group of kohine where they spent time with Wakatū Incorporation gaining knowledge of tangata whenua history and traditions,

with a strong focus on performing arts and the natural environment. They spent 3 days out in the Abel Tasman National Park hiking, staying in DOC Huts and doing waka ama. From this week away, Tyler has received commendations from Wakatū Incorporation for her future endeavours.



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YEAR 5 EOTC 2024



The Year 5 students participated in a three day Education Outside the Classroom programme from October 23rd to 25th. The focus of the programme was to enhance their positive communication skills and foster team building while encouraging them to embrace challenges.



During the three day programme from October 23 to 25, Year 5 students engaged in hands-on learning experiences. On Wednesday, they worked in teams at Motat to explore design thinking. Thursday featured in-school activities led by teachers and parent volunteers, including building a shelter, orienteering, cooking, a treasure hunt, and a Trash to Fashion challenge. On Friday, students participated in small group activities organised by Youth Town staff, such as an obstacle course, bottle rockets, and flintstone carts, all designed to promote teamwork, problem-solving, collaboration, and positive communication.



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Y6 Camp

On the 23rd of October the year sixes from the Rangitoto team went to Chosen Valley Camp and came back on the 25th of October. We came back happy with lots of great memories and better confidence in ourselves. The activities that we did at camp were balance island, confidence course, downhill trolleys, archery, team balance, kayaks, raft building and orienteering. We did a bushwalk on Friday before going home, it was a challenge but the view from the top was awesome! The camp also had optional activities which we could do in our free time. We could do the waterslide, the zipline, the jumping pillow, flying fox or the playground. At night the teachers organised three extra activities for us which were a bonfire with roasted marshmallows, capture the flag and a quiz.

We were all assigned to different activity groups lettered from A-H and had to stay in these groups for most of the camp.

This camp had a lot of challenges, which is why we had to use our school dispositions. Many students found activities difficult or even impossible to complete, but everyone still pushed through and gave it their all while still having fun. For many students camp was an all-new experience, with things that were miles away from their comfort zone. This was also the majority of students' first time away from home, which might have made them anxious and worried. However, everyone ended up feeling fantastic.

A huge thank you to the caterer (Reyna at Moonlight Catering) for making sure we were all fed, the food was delicious!

By Eli and Arhaan

The teaching staff would like to acknowledge the support of our parent helpers that stayed overnight and ran the activities. A big thank you to Aaron and the day helpers that worked tirelessly in the kitchen. Also, thank you to SKU Limited as well as Turners and Growers for the donation of bananas and apples. Every little contribution from companies and people helps make camp a success for everyone.



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Celebrating!

STAR Award Recipients

Our term four focus is 'Striving for Excellence'.

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

Great work team!



Term 4 Week 3

Anything But a Back Pack Day



We had so many creative students participating in 'Anything But a Backpack' day last week. We raised over \$241 to go towards the Year 8 Camp next year. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated.



Papakura High School

Invites all enrolling students to our Annual Year 8 Orientation Day

Monday 9 December 2024

9:30am – 2.30 pm

Students will:

- get a tour of our kura
- be introduced to different subject areas
- meet key people including:

Kaitohutohu (tutor teachers)

Kaitiaki (prefects)

Kaiāwhina (student leaders)



Students should meet in our school hall at 9:15 am wearing their intermediate uniform. Lunch will be provided.



Email: enquiries@papakurahigh.school.nz

Phone: (09) 296 4400 Web: www.papakurahigh.school.nz



ROSEHILL COLLEGE
MĀ TĀTAU E HANGAHANGA AI TE TĀIAO HIRANGA

Year 8 Transition Day 9th December

For Ōpaheke School Students

Transition Day will begin at 8.40 am with students gathering at the Rosehill College Hall, and finish at 3.10pm. Students need to go straight to Rosehill College in the morning and not be dropped off at Ōpaheke School.



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PTA Notices

FAMILY FUNFEST

Friday 8th November
4pm to 7:30pm

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN FOR
THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE ENTRY

- Food Trucks, Mussel Fritters, Hot Chips & Drinks •
 - Cakes, lollies & Candyfloss •
 - Carnival games & Prizes •
 - Raffles, Market Stalls •
 - Bouncy Castle & Rock Climbing Wall •
 - Pasifika & Kapa Haka Performances •
 - Dance Performances & Music •
 - Dunk the Teacher •
- More details to follow!

Cash & Eftpos
available

Cash & Eftpos
available

OPAHEKE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: ORGANISED BY THE PTA

For more information email: opahekecarnival@gmail.com

ORDER
THURSDAY

DELIVERY
FRIDAY



SCHOOL LUNCHES

SEE THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR:
INFORMATION - LUNCH ORDERS / MENU

Order forms out now!

We need more helpers for Thursday. If you can help
please contact us asap!

PTA@OPAHEKE.SCHOOL.NZ
OR PHONE: 298-5410

Dunk the Principal



COME DUNK MR TAWHITI, THE TEACHERS OR ONE OF
YOUR FRIENDS!!

Bring your own change of clothes, and a towel if you
want to have a go;
5-6pm Mr Tawhiti & Teachers. 6:30 Open to all.
Friday 8th Nov 4-7:30pm

Board Notices

THANK YOU

THURSDAY 28TH
NOVEMBER FROM 6PM

AS A WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HARD
WORK YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR SCHOOL, THE
ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL BOARD WOULD LIKE TO INVITE
YOU TO OUR

THANK YOU TO PARENTS
EVENING IN THE STAFFROOM

WHERE THEY CAN SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION
WITH DRINKS AND NIBBLES

Please let the school office know if you can make it
RSVP: 09 298 5410 or office@opaheke.school.nz by
22nd November



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IMPORTANT DATES

8 Nov	Maungakiekie Gymnastics
8 Nov	PTA Funfest 4pm
12 Nov	Y6-8 Mathex
13 Nov	Y7/8 NC Athletics
14 Nov	Epro 8 Semi Finals
15 Nov	Y7/8 Goat Island Trip
15 Nov	Y5/6 NC Athletics
26 Nov	Y3/4 Athletics
28 Nov	Board Thank You to PTA

TERM DATES 2024-2025

Term 4, 2024 - Monday 14 Oct to Friday 13 Dec 2024

Term 1, 2025 - Tuesday 4 Feb to Friday 11 Apr

Term 2, 2025 - Monday 28 Apr to Friday 27 Jun

Term 3, 2025 - Monday 14 Jul to Friday 19 Sep

Term 4, 2025 - Monday 6 Oct to Wednesday 17 Dec 2025

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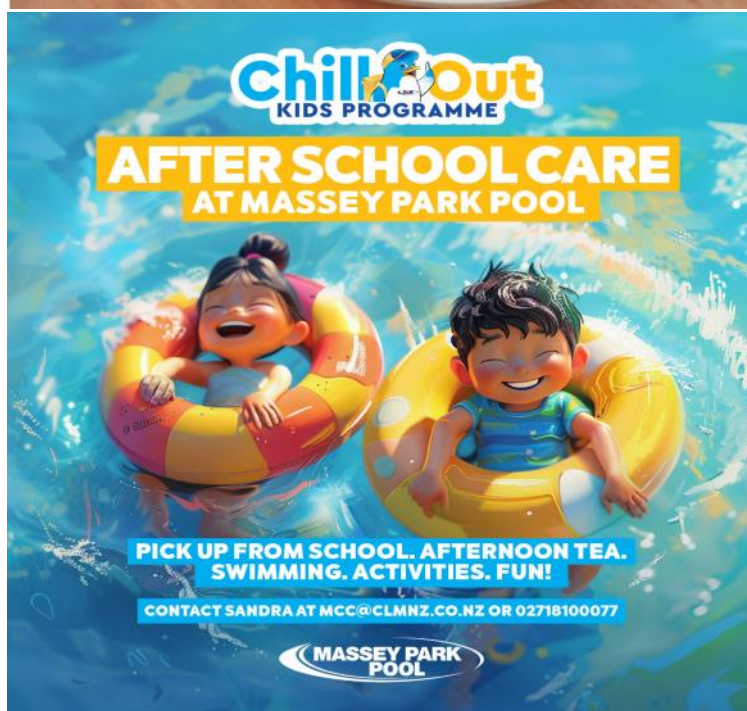
74 Mercer Street, Drury
09 294 6138
drury@bhnewzealand.co.nz

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Open from
7:00am - 6:00pm

**BRIGHT
HORIZONS
NEW ZEALAND
CHILDCARE
LIMITED**



**Chill Out
KIDS PROGRAMME**

**AFTER SCHOOL CARE
AT MASSEY PARK POOL**

**PICK UP FROM SCHOOL. AFTERNOON TEA.
SWIMMING. ACTIVITIES. FUN!**

CONTACT SANDRA AT MCC@CLMNZ.CO.NZ OR 02718100077

**MASSEY PARK
POOL**

STAR AWARDS

Term 4 - Striving for Excellence

Room	Week 2	Week 3
R1		Giovanni
R2		Zarah
R3		Reihana
R4		Adella
R5		
R6		
R7		Freya
R8		Calais-Reign
R9		Violet
R10		Xavier
R11		Gurnoor
R12		Ben
R15		Madison
R16		
R17		Layla
R18		Florea
R21		Arlo
R22		
R23		Jensen
R24		Jacqueline
R25		Niko
R26		Amaal
Junior Hub		Hine
Kōwhai		Sehaj
Kānuka		Caleb
Mānuka		Stella
Kauri		

No Awards Assembly



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