



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.

Greetings to our families and friends

You would have received information about our **Whanaungatanga Week**. This takes place in Week 6, from the 10th to the 13th of March, and is our opportunity to connect with you. Through these meetings, we hope to understand more about your child and your hopes and aspirations for their year of learning. We like to do this early in the year, so that we are set for success. Just so we avoid any potential disappointment I need to make it clear that these meetings **will not** be focused on student progress and achievement. These aspects will be covered later on in the year with reports and *Student Led Conferences*.

I encourage you to complete the questionnaire alongside your child, book a time to meet the teacher, and bring your completed questionnaire along as the basis for the kōrero with the teacher. I look forward to seeing you here in Week 6.

Please note that we will be closing school at the earlier time of 12pm on Wednesday the 12th of March to allow for our biggest day of bookings during **Whanaungatanga Week**. So we kindly ask that you make arrangements to have your child collected at this time, and if your child walks that they have appropriate supervision at home. The bus will be running earlier that day too.

Staff Carpark

Thank you for your support with my messaging around driving into our staff carpark. Obviously, I am speaking to a small number here, but it is a source of frustration, because it boils down to a personal choice between student safety vs convenience. I think we all know what is more important.

Attendance

The Ministry of Education has an attendance target for all schools to aspire to. They want 80% of students attending school 90% of the time by 2030 (we were 60% last year). If we break this down to a daily figure, we need to have 94% of our kids at school each day. Since the start of this year, we have had between 88-93% here each day. This seems good but in reality, it is the start of year, the sun is shining and everything is great, we should really expect to see 97% of kids here. 90% is probably more realistic for terms 2 and 3 when winter illness can knock attendance. Everyday, I print out a report which tells me who is away and why. I see patterns. One pattern I see is a surprising number of extended overseas holidays in the 'reason for absence' column. Our numbers are taking a hit as a result.

Thank you to the many families who are making an effort with student attendance, because you are making a difference. Our 2024 attendance was a significant improvement from previous years, and the Ministry of Education have noted and commended us on the progress we have made.

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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Whanaungatanga Hui

**WED
MAR 12
1.00–4.00
PM**

**BOOK
NOW**



**MON,
TUES, THU
MAR 10, 11,
13
3.00–4.00
PM**

To book your meeting go to
www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code
and enter code : j3ks9

Or call our office team
to book in with them.

**Early school finish time of 12.00pm on
Wednesday 12th March**



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Learning at Ōpaheke



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Welcome



Mrs Anika Lorenz

Kia ora Ōpaheke whānau. My name is Anika Lorenz and I'm delighted to teach 23 amazing year 7's in room 2 this year. Ever since I was lucky enough to study at Auckland University on a scholarship in 2012, I've had wanderlust for Aotearoa and visited

as often as I could. Last year I took the plunge and moved to this beautiful country. By chance I met Miss Pedersen, who told me so many great things about the school that I couldn't help but apply.

I come from Germany and I am excited to add German to the languages offered at the school. This way I get to know all the remarkable students in Maungawhau.

What I find most rewarding about my job is laughing with students and watching them learn, understand, and pass on new things. It's the lightbulb moments, the wordless smiles and the mutual trust that prove to me that teaching is my passion.

I'm married to my patient husband Thomas, who is still working in Germany. So if you see me on the phone before school, he is most likely on the other end. To balance things out, I regularly go to the gym, where I mainly lift weights. You can also spot me on the beach, staring at the vast ocean.

I'm happy to be part of the Ōpaheke whānau and look forward to all the great memories to come.

Mā te wā,
Mrs Lorenz.

Mr Kurtt White

My name is Kurtt White and I'm a learning support teacher. I help in a range of classrooms and assist with the year 7's going to tech. I thoroughly enjoy my job; it allows me to help kids learn and understand in a diverse setting.

Outside of school I love helping on my parent's farm and tinkering on my car. I also love building Lego. Last year I was working remote in the Northern Territory helping educate indigenous kids and now it's great to be back home in Aotearoa.



Stay tuned for more new faces in the next newsletter.

Miss Natalya Bridgeman

Kia ora! My name is Natalya Bridgeman, and I am excited to be the new Year 4 teacher in Room 24.

I love being a teacher because every day brings new learning experiences. I find it incredibly fulfilling to watch my students grow, develop their skills, and gain confidence throughout the year.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and pets. I'm also passionate about playing sports and getting creative with different craft projects. I can't wait to share my love for learning with the wonderful students in Room 24 and create a fun and engaging classroom environment.

I look forward to getting to know everyone and making this year full of exciting learning adventures!



PTA Notices

PTA MEETING

SCHOOL STAFFROOM

Come join the team to hear about the Family Funfest, Disco, Events and other PTA activities for **2025**. All welcome!

26th February @ 7pm

**ALL WELCOME!
INCL CHILDREN**



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Sport

Water Skills For Life

Our students have been continuing to enjoy the Water Skills for Life programme in our school pool and our Y3-8's are looking forward to their final session at the Massey Park Pools coming up. Permission slips have been sent home with students and emailed out, please ensure these are returned asap so your child can enjoy their final session at Massey Park Pools.



ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL SPORTS UNIFORM 2025

NEW DESIGN

Phased Rollout - We have a newly designed PE Uniform and Hats which are now available to purchase from our new supplier, Uniform Hub, in Papakura. These will only be available online or instore through the Uniform Hub, we will not be stocking the new style at the school office. The old style will continue to be available from the school office until sold out and are permitted to be worn until your child grows out of them.



ALL STUDENTS (TERMS 1 AND 4)

- Wide brim hat \$20
- Bucket hat \$18.

YEAR 5-8

Old design - Limited stock available at the school office

- Shirt \$30
- Shorts \$20
- Shirt & Shorts combo for \$48.

New design - available at the Uniform Hubb, 117 Great South Road, Papakura

- Shirt \$40
- Shorts \$35



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Celebrating!

STAR Award Recipients

Our term one focus is 'Teamwork'.

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

Great work team!



Term 1 Week 2



Casual Vacancy for a Parent Representative

A casual vacancy has occurred on the Ōpaheke School Board for an elected parent representative.

The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent to:

Doug Johnson - Presiding Member

Ōpaheke School Board

12a Tasman Drive, Papakura

or email office@opaheke.school.nz

by: 26 March 2025



Board SchoolDocs Review

TERM 1, 2025 POLICY REVIEW

This term we are reviewing topics in the
Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy section

REVIEW CLOSES: 11 APRIL 2025

Have your say!

Follow the instructions below to read and review applicable policies.

1. Visit the website
<https://opaheke.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (opaheke) and password (achieving).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the Start your review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
9. Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit review".

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.



SchoolDocs
Policies and Procedures



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IMPORTANT DATES

26 Feb	PTA Meeting 7pm
28 Feb	Y8 Gardasil 9 Talk
4 Mar	Y5-8 NC Swimming
10-13 Mar	Whanaungatanga Hui
12 Mar	EARLY FINISH - 12 noon
12 Mar	Y7/8 WSFL Massey Park
13 Mar	Y3/4 WSFL Massey Park
14 Mar	Y5/6 WSFL Massey Park

TERM DATES 2025

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

Paid Advertising

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

EATS 'N' BEATS

PARK FEST '25
SAT 8 MARCH

10.00AM - 2.00PM
CENTRAL PARK, OPAHEKE RD, PAPA KURA

food / live entertainment
face painting / free fun
events for the whole family!

Papakura Local Board
PAPA KURA
scw
#LovePapakura

Don't forget to turn on notifications on your phone to receive **instant alerts** from us via the **Skool Loop App**.

SKOOL LOOP Simple free download: In Google Play or App Store search "Skool Loop" & choose our school once installed



STAR AWARDS

Term 1 - Teamwork

Room	Week 2	Week 3
R1	Aria	
R2	Kyle	
R3		
R4	Nikita	
R5	Kavish	
R6	Leo	
R7	Jaiysheil	
R8	Roman	
R9	Terrence	
R10	Samson	
R11	Clayton	
R12	Toby	
R15	Braelyn	
R16	Harnoor	
R18	Eni	
R21	Joseph	
R22	Alivia	
R23	Isabella	
R24	Abby	
R25	Arlo	
R26	Dylan	
Pikopiko	Vaishvi	
Kānuka	Aangel	
Mānuka		
Kauri	Gurmukh	

No Awards Assembly



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