



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.



Meet kids where they are at.

I received an email from the Minister of Education, Erica Stanford, yesterday. The email provided an update on a number of things happening in schools. One thing that jumped out at me was the governments support of a whole class teaching model in mathematics. *"We are encouraging a 'whole class teaching model' where all students benefit from teaching at their year level"*. I support a consistent and sequenced approach when it comes to learning and teaching. Crawl before you walk and certainly don't run before you can walk, if you need an analogy. But a whole class teaching approach within a classroom where we can have a broad range of learning needs, rings the proverbial alarm bell. On any given day at Ōpaheke School, you can walk into a classroom and you will see teachers working with individual students and small groups of students all because they have differing learning needs. Whether the government messaging around 'whole class teaching' or a *one size fits all approach* gets to the general public remains to be seen. But I will give you my take - the Ōpaheke School take on teaching. We will meet the kids where **they** are at, for we are all at different points in the learning journey.

Breakfast Club and Grab 'n' Go Lunches.

You have probably read or heard the debacle surrounding the launch of the new school lunch programme. Although we are not part of the lunch in schools programme we do not want our tamariki to go hungry. So we provide a free **Breakfast Club** programme every morning in the school hall. At breakfast club we also have an optional **Grab 'n' Go** lunch for the small number of children who are without lunch. The lunch items we provide are a variety of donated food items such as fruit pottles, scroggin, sandwiches, and heat and eat meals. If your whānau struggle to provide lunches for your children please feel free to send them to the school hall in the mornings between 8.00am and 8.30am so that we can give them some food to help ensure their body and minds are prepared and ready to learn.

Whanaungatanga Hui

A final thank you to all of our families who have booked or already turned up to meet our teachers during Whanaungatanga Week. We value the opportunity to connect with you and share your aspirations for your child's year of learning and to know a little more about them as young people.

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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THINKER



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CHALLENGE TAKER

Learning at Ōpaheke



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Sport



North Counties Tag Tournament

On Wednesday 26th March four Ōpaheke School teams took part in the North Counties Tag tournament at Bruce Pulman Park. For many of our Year 5 students this was their first opportunity to represent Ōpaheke School at a North Counties tournament. All teams showed great sportsmanship and perseverance – playing hard throughout the day in the sun. Congratulations to our Year 8 boys team who came second, beating Kāuri Flats, and securing a spot at the Counties Tag tournament on the 11th March. It was great to see so many of our whānau come down to support their tamariki too!

North Counties Swimming

Last Tuesday the 4th of March, twelve Year 5 & 6 swimmers took part in the North Counties Swimming event at Massey Park Pools. Swimmers were entered in a range of events including 50m freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke. Many thanks to the parents who helped with transport, time keeping and team manager duties on the day. Special shout out to Miss Johnson's son, Declan, for being our starter – he managed the entire day without a single false start!



Ōpaheke School North Counties Swimming Team – Frankie, Summer, Noah, Lennon, Ethan, Kayne, Akhbar, Payton, Chloe, Athea, Harper, Aurora.

Congratulations to Kayne P whose fast times qualified him for Counties Swimming. Well done, Kayne!

Welcome



Mrs Jessica Bethell

Hello, I am Jessica and I have joined the lovely learning support team focusing on ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).

I am passionate about supporting students and nurturing their confidence so they achieve their best. Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my family and friends,

watching my children with their dance, swimming, basketball and rugby.

I look forward to getting to know you all.

Matua Aidan Craggs

Kia ora I am Matua Aidan, a new member of the learning support team at Ōpaheke School. I am 20 years old and I enjoy working with all sorts of different tamariki. You'll most likely find me out on the field playing sports with the kids. Outside of school, I play rugby union for the Bombay Rugby Club, and enjoy activities like going to the gym. I am enjoying working at Ōpaheke School and am excited for the year ahead. Ngā mihi.



Miss Sydney Wehi

Kia ora koutou! My name is Sydney Wehi, and I am very excited to be in Room 16 this year as a year 2 Kaiako. I am enthusiastic about teaching because every day is an opportunity to connect with others and have those eureka moments! I believe learning should always be fun! Outside of school, I enjoy a good book in the sun, being a plant parent and spending time with my loved ones. I'm a sucker for anything creative or messy and encourage mistakes, it's the only way we learn. I can't wait to share my passion for life and learning with the wonderful tamariki in Room 16 and create a fun, supportive and engaging classroom kaupapa. I look forward to getting to know everyone at Ōpaheke School and making this year full of awesome learning adventures! Ngā mihi nui, Sydney.



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18TH FEBRUARY - 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

CAMP ADAIR



Another year, another successful camp!

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the parents and teachers who attended and played a vital role in making this camp such a success. Without your support, it would not have been possible.

It was incredibly rewarding to witness our students build resilience and push themselves beyond their comfort zones. Seeing them encourage and cheer each other on—whether facing the knee-knocking fear of the Leap of Faith, enduring the physical challenge of the hike, or braving the stench of the mud on the confidence course—was truly inspiring.

A heartfelt thank you to our PTA and the Ōpaheke School Board for your generous contributions. Your support makes experiences like this possible!

Stacey Madden
Maungawhau Team Leader.



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HOW CAMP STRENGTHENED MY HAUORA



My Taha Wairua (spirit) was strengthened when I attempted the Leap of Faith. It was challenging and scary, but I still made it to the top. When I reached the top, I felt proud because I didn't think I would get that high. However, when I looked down, I regretted going on it even more because it was so high!

My Taha Whānau (friendship and family) was strengthened when my activity group and I had to work together to build a hut. At first, we didn't work well together, but we soon realized that teamwork was necessary. We gathered wood and leaves to make the hut stronger and more stable. At the end, we had to test it—water was poured over it to see if it would leak. I got soaked, but that was the fun part!

My Taha Tinana (body) was strengthened when I tackled the cargo net. It was tough because my hands started hurting quickly, and the rope kept swinging. Climbing was difficult, and I felt sore from gripping the rope, but I still gave it a go. I didn't make it very far, but it was funny because I did it with my friend.

Overall, it was just a really hard climb!

My Taha Hinengaro (mind) was strengthened when I got a good night's sleep, even with lots of people in my cabin. It made me feel energized and ready for the next day, which was important because we had lots of activities to do.

My Taha Whenua (connection to the land) was strengthened when I got to relax in the river after a long, hot day. Being in the water felt refreshing and peaceful, and it made me feel good.

By Jasmine Atoa

HOW CAMP STRENGTHENED OUR HAUORA

My Taha Tinana (body) and my Taha Hinengaro (mind) were challenged by the Leap of Faith because, when you're about to reach the top, your Taha Tinana stops as your hand grips the last hold, and your Taha Hinengaro starts racing. You don't know whether you want to jump or just stand on the tip of the pole. At that moment, you think, I can't jump, and you feel scared, even though you're tied to a rope. That is why the Leap of Faith challenged both my Taha Tinana and my Taha Hinengaro.

My Taha Wairua (spirit) was challenged by the hike because, as you're climbing the stairs, you just want to stop and rest. But then, your Taha Wairua tells you to keep going, even though it's extremely hard and exhausting. After climbing a huge number of steps, you finally get a break. Then, you continue walking until you reach Hunua Falls, which is about a 3 hour hike each way, making it a 6 hour hike in total.

My Taha Whānau (friendship and family) was challenged by the camp itself because I missed my parents and my home. Also, the activities were difficult, and the water tasted like actual tap water. Just thinking about home made my time at camp feel miserable.

The whenua (land) challenged me during the hike in the rain because it made the ground more slippery and difficult to walk on. On the way back, we had to go downhill, and since there were a lot of stairs, we couldn't go too fast, or we would have fallen and injured ourselves.

By Akbah Meng



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MY EXPERIENCE AT CAMP...

From the 18th of February to the 21st of February, the Year 8s enjoyed their camp at Camp Adair. We slept in cabins and ate in our activity groups. We had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities at camp, as well as complete a hike to Hunua Falls from Camp. We had to draw on our learner dispositions while at camp.

One of my highlights was when I built my shelter in the bush because it looked so cool, and I did it with one of my best friends.

My favourite highlight was when we did the Camp Adair challenge because my friend Japleen carried me, and she's shorter than me. It was just so funny.

The activity I found the most challenging was the Leap of Faith because I am afraid of heights. I only got to the top of the ladder, and I cried while I was up there, so it was hard to see. But I got down in the end. Overall, that experience was something I don't want to do again.

Next time, something I would do differently is to try to get to the top of the cargo climb and not only five feet off the ground. Also, I would try not to look down when I am almost at the top.

I feel proud that I dunked my head under the muddy water during the confidence course, even when I was so scared to go in or put my body into the water.

Something I learned about myself is that if I push myself to my limits, I can do anything (as long as it doesn't involve heights :D). But depending on what it is, maybe I could do it even if it is high.

My overall impression of Camp Adair is that it was amazing, fun, scary, and sore. Above all, I loved going there to hang out with friends and meet new people.

Amelia Pearce

MY EXPERIENCE AT CAMP...

What were my highlights during my time at Camp Adair?

- One of my highlights was when I hit the bullseye in Archery because it was my first time hitting a bullseye
- Another one of my highlights was when I stood up on top of leap of faith because I thought I wouldn't even be able to make it to the top.

The activity I found the most challenging was the hike because it was so challenging and tiring. It got the point where I fell 3 times near the end because my legs were shaking so much.

Next time, something I would do differently is challenge myself a little bit more because in some activities I was scared to do things and didn't give it my best go and now I feel like I could have done so much better.

I feel proud about finishing the hike because 10 minutes into the hike I wanted to give up and go back but I pushed myself and finished the hike. It was difficult the next day because my legs were so sore but after that I felt proud.

I learnt that working with others is important because you get to know them better and you can see different perspectives of how people see things and you can understand multiple ways of doing one thing.

My overall impression of Camp Adair are that Camp Adair is really fun and a good place to challenge yourself. The activities are extremely fun and hard. My favourite part of Camp Adair was definitely the mud slide. It was so much fun.

By Japleen Kaur



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18TH FEBRUARY - 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

EOTC



An epic EOTC adventure for our Year 7s!

Over four action-packed days, our Year 7s scaled towering rock walls, shot bullseyes, scoured for ancient artefacts at the museum, conquered team challenges, and became plastic-bottle-rocket scientists! 🚀💥

We are so proud of their enthusiasm, courage, and teamwork—it was a week full of unforgettable moments!

A huge shoutout to our incredible parents and teachers who dedicated their time and energy to making this all possible. Your support means the world, and we couldn't have done it without you.

We also want to send a massive thank you to the PTA and the Ōpaheke School Board for their generous support. Experiences like this truly shape our students' learning journeys, and we're beyond grateful!

Jess McBain

Year 7 Classroom Teacher.



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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 4



Term 1 Week 5



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



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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!

19th March @ 7pm

ALL WELCOME!
INCL CHILDREN

ORDER
THURSDAY
FOR
DELIVERY
FRIDAY



SCHOOL LUNCHES

Lunch orders have started back for the term. Order each Thursday 8-8:20am in your class. Lunch delivered Friday to your lunch spot.

SEE THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO -
INFORMATION / LUNCH ROOM / MENU

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

In Zone Enrolments

Do you live in our school zone?

Do you have a child who is 3 or 4 years old?

ENROLL NOW

For future planning of classes, we would like to request that you let the office know if you have other children soon to join Ōpaheke School. Thank you to the parents who have already contacted us to put their preschoolers on our enrolment list. Ideally, we would like to have your child on our database by the time they turn 4 to ensure we have sufficient staffing and resources to allow for the best transition into school possible for your child.

You can contact us on 09 298 5410 or alternatively email office@opaheke.school.nz with your preschoolers name, date of birth and home address.

HARVEST FAMILY CARNIVAL

a free Children's Day event

pony rides kids ferris wheel
games kids merry-go-round
parents café sausage sizzle
shows + more

Sunday
16 March

3pm-
6pm

3 Beach Road, Papakura

(09) 299 9394  **harvest**
www.hcc.net.nz christian church



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IMPORTANT DATES

10-13 Mar	Whanaungatanga Hui
12 Mar	EARLY FINISH - 12 noon
13 Mar	Y3/4 WSFL Massey Park
14 Mar	Y5/6 WSFL Massey Park
17 Mar	Eye on Nature
19 Mar	PTA Meeting / AGM - 7pm
24 Mar	Board Meeting 7pm
26 Mar	Y8 Gardasil Dose 1
26 Mar	Y7 Boostrix Talk
1 Apr	NC Football

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



ChillOut
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



Read our digital newsletter on our Skool Loop app

Simple free download:
In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.

Read Instantly

STAR AWARDS

Term 1 - Teamwork

Room	Week 4	Week 5
R1	Malosi	Eli
R2	Oliver	Jazzleen
R3		Kahurangi
R4	Isla	Ethan
R5	Carol	Kavish
R6	Katalina	Libby
R7		Pariya
R8	Nora	Lucas
R9	Surinder	
R10	Joseph	Michelle
R11	Zorawar	Avleen
R12	Tauleilei	Gurnoor
R15	Mathew	Jayda
R16	Hannah	Isobel
R18	Te-Arikinui	Samuel
R21	Xavier	Zara
R22	Marshall	Luke
R23	Amaira	Ava
R24	Ajo	Mackenzie
R25	Lily	Zoe
R26	Taylah	Brylee
Pikopiko		Abhinoor
Kānuka	Japleen	Zavier
Mānuka	Giovanni	Ryleigh
Kauri	Emma	Michael



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