



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.

A couple of frosty mornings haven't deterred our tamariki from getting straight back into the learning climb. I have had visits from little writers in Pikopiko, learning talks with some of our babies in our Junior Hub, Room 10 showed me how to skip count, and the seniors on the other hand are so busy working that they haven't had time to talk to me. Great to see and interesting what learning looks like at different ages.

Attendance Superstars

There are some kids and families who need a pat on the back for having super attendance.

This time last year we had **71** students receive 100% attendance for Term 2 and **30** students with 100% attendance in both Terms 1 & 2, 2024.

This year we have **105** students with 100% attendance for Term 2 and **53** students with 100% attendance both Terms 1 & 2, 2025.

So, comparing 2024 to 2025 that is close to a 50% increase in kids who never missed a day in term 2 and a nearly 80% increase in kids who haven't missed a day ALL YEAR!!

I think we may see a record number of kids at the special end of year lunch with the principal this year.

Support Staff



**I'VE
GOT
YOUR
BACK**

NZEI
TERIURUA

Mā te Kotahitanga e whai kaha ai tātou.
In unity we find strength.

Our support staff have been in pay negotiations with the government. The offer presented to them by the government - a \$1 hourly increase over three years - was a huge shock to me. Disappointing is an understatement. This offer falls short of addressing cost-of-living concerns, but probably what hurts the most is how the offer devalues their essential work. What it means is that as a result, our support staff may go on strike. If our support staff go on strike, this will have a massive impact on school operations and student learning, such is the vital role they play here and at schools across the country. I can assure you that striking would not be a decision taken lightly by our support staff because they have a huge heart for the children they work with and are committed to our school and their colleagues. But at this point in time, they need to make a stand, and myself along with the wider Ōpaheke staff are right behind them.

Can I encourage you to keep abreast of the school support staff negotiations through the various media outlets, and tautoko (support) their cause and whichever course of action they take. Because they do amazing work for our tamariki and school and deserve better.

Stay warm and stay well.

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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2025 LEARNING CONFERENCES



IT WAS SO LOVELY TO SEE YOU ALL!

If you were unable to make it, we would still love to see you! Please contact us so we can arrange a time to share our awesome learning experiences with you.



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Learning at Ōpaheke



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Sport



North Counties Netball

Congratulations to all the girls who played in the North Counties Netball Tournament at Bruce Pulman Park on the 24th June.

It was a fabulous day for it and they represented our School well. Thank you to the parent helpers involved.

Congratulations to all teams

Our Year 6 girls who came second.

Our Year 7/8 girls who were announced the winners and will be off to compete in the Year 8 A grade of the Counties Zone competition on Tuesday the 29th of July. Go well girls!



Year 7/8 Cross Country

Congratulations to all students in Year 7 & 8 who have participated in cross-country running over the final few weeks of Term 2 and the first week of Term 1. It has been great to see so many students pushing themselves to achieve their personal best.

We have not had the best luck in carrying out our cross-country race this year. In addition to the rain it has become increasingly difficult to manage the traffic, road works, building sites and dogs in our school's immediate area.

To the disappointment (and elation) of our students, we had to call the race off midway due to an aggressive loose dog. Thank you to our Year 7 & 8 team of teachers who have worked hard to ensure the safety of our tamariki.

Next year we are looking at using Ōpaheke Park for our school cross country venue.

Over the course of our trainings we have recorded our top runner's results and have selected the following students to represent Ōpaheke School at North Counties which will be held at Strathallan on the 31st July.

Year 8 Boys – Xavier, Chidubem, Rakshen, Kayne, Devam, Damien, Dayton, Jermaine, Lucian, Akhbar

Year 8 Girls – Kourtney, Oviya, Jasnoor, Mika, Mia, Aria W, Ariyana

Year 7 Boys – Lennon, Quinn, Rhys, Damien, Anraj, Rahul, Giovanni, Izz, Gurnoor, Alan

Year 7 Girls – Aria T, Aurora, Athea, Chloe, Ariana, Lana, Jazzleen, Maria, Sakinah, Grace G

All the very best to our teams for Strathallan! Whānau are welcome to come and support our team.



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Get excited! Book Week is coming!

BOOK WEEK WEEK 6

AUGUST
18TH - 22ND

In week 6 we will celebrate books and reading! During this week we have a long standing tradition of a book character dress up day and parade. Costumes do not need to be elaborate and can be as simple as a paper mask.

We have lots of other book themed activities and events planned, including a performance from Perform Education which is generously sponsored by the PTA, and a visit from New York Times best selling Author Graci Kim for students in years 5-8!

LOTS
OF
ACTIVITIES



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Welcome

Mrs Ellen Ventura

Ellen is the new teacher for Te Rito based in the Junior Hub. Ellen has worked in the early years sector for over 15 years across the Philippines, Singapore, and New Zealand. She holds a masters and bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Ellen is passionate about creating an environment where tamariki are encouraged to learn how to think, rather than what to think.



Having worked with children for many years, Ellen has always found joy in witnessing their 'aha' moments - when they discover something new or overcome a challenge. She also enjoys curriculum planning and engaging children in activities that spark their curiosity and imagination.

In her free time, Ellen likes to bake, play instruments or enjoy outdoor activities with her whānau.

Miss Libby Bickley-Barry

Libby is the teacher of our new Kākano class (the youngest and newest students to Ōpaheke this term) based in the Junior Hub.



She enjoys the spark, energy and smiles of all the students as well as seeing their growth both academically and in who they are as individuals.

Outside of school Libby plays squash and golf regularly. She also loves reformer pilates. The beach, or being in, on or around the ocean is a happy place for Libby. She tries to travel as much as she can; her favourite countries so far have been Norway and Vietnam.

Whitebait Connection

The **Whitebait Connection** is a nationwide environmental education program aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of freshwater ecosystems. This program plays a vital role in fostering a deeper connection between communities and their local freshwater resources.

The Rangitoto Team has the privilege of working with the facilitators from Whitebait Connection to protect and maintain our local waterway (the stream at the bottom of Short Street).

On Friday 18 July, selected students from each class went to do some weeding and clearing around the trees that have been planted in previous years by our students.

In Week 2, each class is participating in two Whitebait Connection facilitator led sessions in class. Students are being introduced to the water cycle and freshwater environments, and what makes a healthy stream. We are considering how humans affect freshwater and discovering freshwater biodiversity - what lives in the stream?

This learning will culminate in a field trip to the Short Street / Greenhaven Reserve to participate in ecosystems activities at the beginning of Week 3. Here we will look at Wai Care water quality testing and macroinvertebrate (bug) identification. We will also put our hands to planting in the reserve to make a positive, long-term contribution to our local environment.



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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 assembly.



Board SchoolDocs Review

TERM 3, 2025 POLICY REVIEW

This term we are continuing to review further topics in the Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy section.

REVIEW CLOSES: 19 SEPT 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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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS - ONLINE

The boards of all state and state integrated schools are required to hold elections every three years, and this will be happening again in 2025.

The School Board is an important part of our school as they set the strategic direction for our school, consult with our school community about our school, ensure the schools funding is spent wisely and ensure that we are giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within our school. Our board is made up of five parent representatives, the Principal and a staff representative elected by the staff.

The current board have made the decision to appoint Election Pilot as the Returning Officer for our election and for the election to be provided online. They have been assisting schools with elections for over 20 years and have been the only election provider accredited by the Ministry of Education to provide online election services since online elections started in 2022. Nomination and voting forms have been sent to all eligible voters by email directly from Election Pilot. If we don't have an email address for you, nomination and voting papers will be sent by post so no one will miss out.

School Board Elections must be held in accordance with the provisions in the Education and Training Act 2020 and the Education (Board Elections) Regulations 2022. Your name and contact details have been provided to Schooled Election Pilot to enable the provision of elections services for our school as required by legislation. They will use your contact details for the provision of election services for Opaheke School only and your details will be deleted 60 days after the election date as required by legislation.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact the Returning Officer directly on 0800 VOTENZ (0800 868 369) or election@electionpilot.nz.

We will continue to keep you updated through the various stages of the election process, and our election date is 10 September 2025.



Election Pilot Mission Control
PO Box 414, Christchurch 8140
Level 1, 89 Nazareth Avenue
Middleton, Christchurch 8024

Schooled.nz
0800 868 369
election@electionpilot.nz

Below is the election timetable for your kura for the 2025 triennial school board elections

PARENT & STAFF ELECTION TIMETABLE

CLOSE MAIN ROLL	Wednesday 16 July
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS	Friday 18 July
CLOSE SUPPLEMENTARY ROLL	Monday 4 August
NOMINATIONS CLOSE	12 noon Wednesday 6 August
VOTING PAPERS ISSUED	Wednesday 13 August
ELECTION DAY	Wednesday 10 September
CLOSE POLL	4pm on Wednesday 10 September
COUNT VOTES & DECLARE RESULTS	Tuesday 16 September
BOARD TAKES OFFICE	Wednesday 17 September

If you have any questions, please contact the Election Pilot Mission Control Team.



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PTA Notices



**Pizza, Sushi and Subway
Lunch Days!**
(Term 3 Dates)

Register and Order at www.dollarforschools.co.nz

Pizza - Thursday
July 31st

Sushi - Fridays
(fortnightly from
August 8th)

Subway - Fridays
(fortnightly from
August 15th)



3 Easy Steps:

- Go to: www.dollarforschools.co.nz
- Create an Account
- Add Lunch Recipient
- Order your lunches

Order now or by 9am for delivery that day

**\$1 for every lunch goes to
our School!**



PIZZA DAY **31 JUL 2025**

MINI PIZZAS FROM \$7.50



DOMINOS PIZZA

Delivered to school for
lunchtime

MINI PIZZAS FROM \$7.50

Gluten Free & Vegetarian
Available

Order Online

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

School Councillor Fundraiser

OPAHEKE SCHOOL PTA

PIE FUNDRAISER

Treat yourself to a night off cooking this winter. Get in some pies to feed the whanau or have a weekend treat!

\$11 EACH	FAMILY PIES	6 types of meat pie, creamy vegetarian and 4 types of fruit pie
\$8.50/PACK	SAVOURIES	6 pack mince savouries
\$16/PACK	LUNCH PIES	4 types of pie - hold in hand size - 5 per pack
\$12/PACK	SAUSAGE ROLLS	5 pack sausage rolls
\$8.50/PACK	LAMINGTONS	Chocolate or Raspberry - not cream filled - 6 per pack

PLEASE GIVE YOUR ORDER TO YOUR FRIENDLY OPAHEKE SCHOOL FAMILY CONTACT



ORDERS & PAYMENT DUE: TUESDAY 5 AUGUST
DELIVERY & PICK UP FROM HALL: THURSDAY 14 AUGUST
FOR MORE ORDER FORMS PLEASE SEE THE OFFICE
PTA@OPAHEKE.SCHOOL.NZ PH: 298-5410

SAUSAGE SIZZLE fundraiser

**On Friday 25th July,
the Ōpaheke School Councillors will
be holding a sausage sizzle to
fundraise for the PTA.**

Each Sausage will be \$2-00

**We will be collecting sausage sizzle
money from your class on Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday next week.**

**If you do not eat beef or pork, bring
your own sausage along next week
Friday in a named container and we
will cook it for you.**



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IMPORTANT DATES

23 July	PTA Meeting 7pm
25 July	Sausage Sizzle
28 July	Board Meeting 7pm
29 July	Y7/8 Counties Zone Netball
31 July	Y7/8 NC Cross Country
31 July	Y5/6 School Cross Country
31 July	PTA Pizza Day
1 Aug	TEACHER ONLY DAY
2 Aug	Rosehill College Open Day
4 Aug	Library Week Starts
5 Aug	Oxford Pie Orders Due
6 Aug	Y3 & 6 Curriculum Insights Study for Selected Students
8 Aug	Bake Sale
11 Aug	Maths Week Starts
11 Aug	Y6 Camp Parent Meeting
13 Aug	Y5/6 NC Cross Country

TERM DATES

Term 3, 2025 - Mon 14 Jul to Fri 19 Sep

Term 4, 2025 - Mon 6 Oct to Wed 17 Dec

STAR AWARDS

Term 3 - Achieving Personal Best

Room	Week 8	Week 1
R1	Whitney	Cyrus & Jisi
R2	Lucas	Shaveer & Korah
R3		
R4	Sumeet	Lana & Roseanne
R5	Priszleen	Max & Priszleen
R6	Ruby	Katelyn & Keena
R7	Payton	Honor & Layne
R8	Harper	Manaia & Roman
R9	Zion	Arlyn & Kiaan
R10	Vienna	Elyzibeth-Rose & Dustyn
R11	Iniase	Sam & Kaylani-Fay
R12	Ricky	Tyson
R15	Max	Caleb & Rehmat
R16	Madison	Aarav & Halo
R18	James	Sonny & Ainul
R21		Sonja & Tony
R22	Strickland	Rylie & Dain
R23	Shanav	Lochlan & Gurtaaj
R24	Pesa	Vereti & Iutesi
R25	Blake	Akilan & Ninke
R26	Cecilia	Nikolay & Keerat
Pikopiko		Ivy-Rose
Te Rito	Harrison	Saskia-Rose & Takutai
Kākano		Nathan & Tharuli
Kānuka	Kayne	
Mānuka	Quinn	Ishnoor & Kylemore
Kauri	Rhaea	Eleanor & Jasmine



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



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