



ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We are a Microsoft Showcase School



Microsoft

Kia ora koutou katoa, talofa lava, bula vinaka, malo e lelei, kia orana, namaste, malo ni, asalaamu alaikum, and warm greetings to you all.

Tēnā koutou katoa

Welcome back!

Term 4 is set to be an exciting final term. As always there will be a lot of things on and they do have a habit of sneaking up on us. So keep a close eye on the dates in the upcoming events. This first of which are two days where school will be closed next week. Due to the NZEI Strike, **school will be closed on Thursday 23rd of October**, and we will also be closed for our scheduled **Teacher Only Day on Friday 24th of October**. We apologise for any inconvenience and disruption this may cause. The NZEI strike day unfortunately and coincidentally landed on the day prior to our Teacher Only Day, which we had already scheduled earlier this year.

PTA Funfest

Our PTA team are in the final stages of preparing for the Funfest. They will be calling on adult volunteers to help on stalls on the night. Can I lean on you to roll up your sleeves and help out? Your efforts will make for a successful event, the more hands we get the lighter the load.

Pick Up and Drop Off Safety

It has come to my attention that things are getting a bit loose with pick-up and drop-off time. We've had instances of cars parking illegally on yellow lines at the front of the school, letting kids out of the car on the pedestrian crossing, and darting across the road instead of using the crossing. While we do have adults on patrol, we don't have eyes everywhere. We rely on you to make safe choices for the safety of our kids. Our patrolling adults also don't enjoy having to remind people about the rules, just as no one enjoys being told off. So let's work together on this.

Board Survey

A reminder that we have our Board Survey in circulation. Thank you to those who have already contributed. If you haven't had your say yet, it is open until the 7th of November and we would appreciate your input. If you would like a hard copy, please request one through the office.

Ngā mihi – Many thanks

Mr Tawhiti

BOARD COMMUNITY SURVEY 2025



The Board wants to reach out and gather your thoughts and ideas as we plan for the next 3 years at Ōpaheke School. See below link to the Board Survey. You can also get a hard copy from the school office. It is a simple survey that outlines our current strategic plan which has been in place for the past two years and then it asks you three open-ended questions.

What should we: 1. Stop doing - 2. Keep doing - 3. Think about doing

<https://forms.office.com/r/6YhRWTKr2E>

CONTACT US

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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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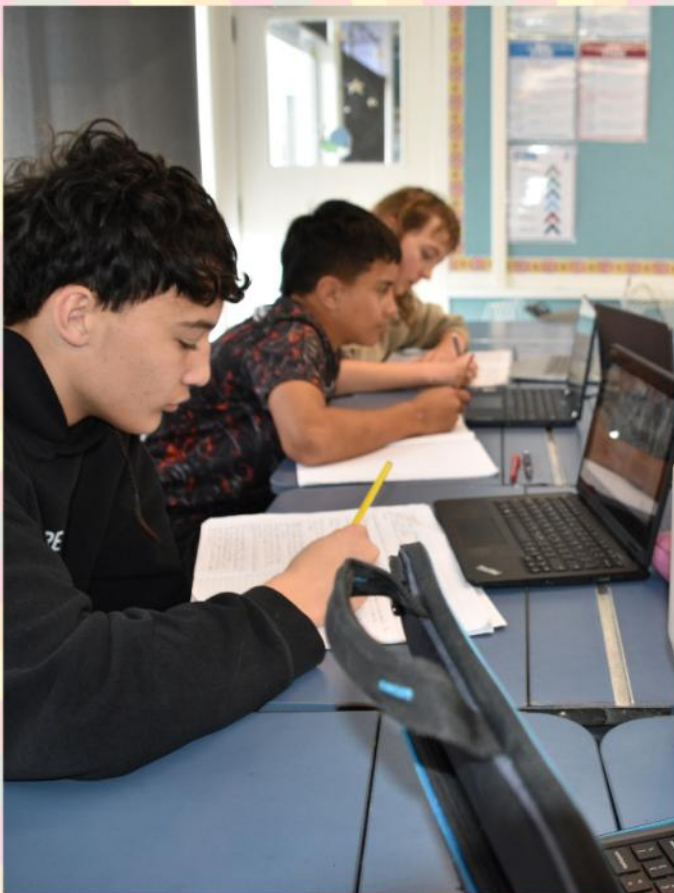


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CHALLENGE TAKER

Learning at Ōpaheke



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Welcome

Miss Kenzie Dempster

Miss Dempster is joining the Learning Support Team, focusing on the ESOL students in Rooms 10, 11 and 25.

She enjoys watching the kids learn new things and loves hearing all their interesting stories they come up with.

Outside of school Kenzie is a gymnastics coach at Bruce Pulman which she has been doing for 3 years. She



really enjoys teaching kids a sport she herself is so passionate about. Kenzie likes spending time with family and friends, she enjoys going to the gym and playing football during the winter months.

Kenzie is excited to be working at Ōpaheke School as this is where she herself went to school and she wants to help give the children the same great experience that she had here.

Miss Taryn Whitley

Miss Whitley is joining our team as a release teacher in the Junior School, covering for existing classroom teachers while they are on release days or unwell.

Taryn feels privileged to guide young minds through their developmental and learning milestones, while creating a safe place for them to succeed. In her personal time you'll find Taryn exploring the outdoors, taking on DIY projects and spending time with her partner, family and friends.



Otago Problem Challenge

This year, a group of our mathematically minded students from Years 6 to 8 have taken part in the Otago Maths Problem Challenge. This national competition is designed to stretch and inspire young minds through a series of five challenging problem-solving rounds, each consisting of five questions to be solved in just 30 minutes.

The selected students embraced the opportunity to develop their reasoning and perseverance. The challenge encourages creative approaches and critical thinking, and we are proud of the enthusiasm and determination our students have shown throughout the competition.

Well done to all participants for representing our school with such excellence!



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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 assembly.



Board SchoolDocs Review

TERM 4, 2025 POLICY REVIEW

This term's scheduled review policies focus on behaviour management, and staff wellbeing and safety.

REVIEW CLOSES: 17 DEC 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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Y7/8 MOTAT



The Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an exciting trip to MOTAT on the 5th September to deepen their understanding of science, linking to the science fair investigations they have been working on last term. They took part in the Inventions and Innovations Programme, where they explored the design thinking process and discovered how both scientists and inventors test and refine their ideas. This experience highlighted the strong connections between fair testing, experimentation, and the development of new technologies. It was a fun, hands-on learning opportunity that sparked curiosity and inspired our students to think like real innovators.



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Y7/8 Science Fair

Our Year 7 & 8 students spent Term 3 working on their Science Fair projects, learning how to write scientifically, structure their reports, and carry

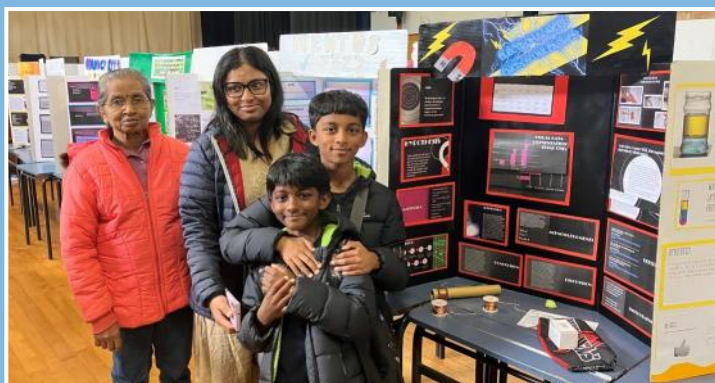
out fair testing with accuracy and care. The showcase, at the end of the term, was a wonderful celebration of their hard work. It was fantastic to see so many parents and whānau come along to support and encourage our young scientists. We are incredibly proud of every student for their effort, resilience, and creativity, and we warmly congratulate those who received awards for their outstanding projects.

Ka pai, Year 7 & 8 — what an achievement!



School of Rock - The Musical

Another amazing performance at the Hawkins Centre over the school holidays with some of our students past and present doing a stellar job playing their parts really well. A lot of time and effort went into this production and the results were phenomenal, it was a true representation of the movie.



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PTA Notices



Lunches Term 4

Register and Order at www.dollarforschools.co.nz

Sushi and Subway
Fridays
(excl Pizza days)



Pizza Days
Friday Oct 31st
Friday Dec 5th



Order now or by 9am for delivery that day

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



PTA MEETING

SCHOOL STAFFROOM

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

OCTOBER 15 @ 7PM

ALL WELCOME!
INCL CHILDREN

Opaheke School PTA FUNFEST 7 November 2025

Planning is well underway for our upcoming Funfest. But we are
after a few last items you may be able to help with.

Do you own or work for a business that can **help sponsor our
ROCK WALL**

This is a large cost for us, so any donation is welcome, in
return your business will be included in our promotions

**Do you need a clear out??
We are in need of...**

- Ceramic Plates, please no plastic or glass
- Soft toys, books, toys, good condition, please no games or puzzles
- Baskets suitable for hampers

Can you help with...

- a generator to help power our carnival games
- old Real Estate signs to be repainted
- a refrigerated truck for the evening to store drinks / food etc

All donations can be dropped to the school office or contact the
team on funfestsponsors@gmail.com

Grocery Raffle Fundraiser

Huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the grocery hampers and to everyone who sold and/or brought a ticket.

Congratulations to Bella, Eden and the Toka whānau who won the three prizes
The PTA made over \$4,000 with this fundraiser.



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IMPORTANT DATES

15-17 Oct	Y5 EOTC
15-17 Oct	Y6 Camp
15 Oct	Y7/8 Epro8
15 Oct	Out of Zone Ballot
15 Oct	PTA Meeting 7pm
16 Oct	Y8 Gardasil Dose 2
20 Oct	Y3/4 Rosehill Dance Performance
20 Oct	Board Meeting 7pm
22 Oct	Y5/6 Athletics
23 Oct	Strike Day - School Closed
24 Oct	Teacher Only Day - School Closed
27 Oct	Labour Day - School Closed
30 Oct	Y5/6 Epro8

TERM DATES 2025-2026

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

Term 1, 2026 - Wed 4 Feb to Thurs 2 Apr

Term 2, 2026 - Mon 20 Apr to Fri 3 Jul

Term 3, 2026 - Mon 20 Jul to Fri 25 Sep

Term 4, 2026 - Mon 12 Oct to Wed 16 Dec 2026

STAR AWARDS

Term 4 - Striving for Excellence

Room	Week 1
R1	Andrew & Elly
R2	Daniel & Noah
R3	Mia & Jasnoor
R4	
R5	Jacqueline & Maryam
R6	Vincent & Luke
R7	Williame & Sehaj
R8	Lucas & Amaal
R9	Gurnoor & Layla
R10	Troy & Harseerat
R11	Clayton & Nina
R12	Nao & Ivy
R15	Dina & Ahil
R16	Fynn & Isaiah
R18	Hazen & Rebecca
R21	Lee & Matthew
R22	Fateh & Harper
R23	Jennifer & Guntash
R24	Taylor & Kenzou
R25	Ninke & Amyra
R26	Georgia & Kippin
Pikopiko	Baani & Michael
Te Rito	Harrison
Kākano	Kasey & Montana
Kōwhai	Lochie & Manino
Kānuka	
Mānuka	
Kauri	Dylan & Matileti



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Newsletters | Permission slips
Instant notifications | Absentees
Parent Teacher Interviews

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