



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.

Tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for accommodating the Strike and Teacher Only Day last week. We know they can come as an inconvenience, but we are most appreciative of your collective support.

Rangatahi Festival

Our senior kapa haka roopu have been preparing in earnest for the Rangatahi Festival next Wednesday the 5th of November at Red Hill School. Everybody is very excited and this year we will be taking a large group of 86 tamariki. It has been two years since the last festival and this will be a celebration of not only their efforts, but the dedicated mahi of Mr Derek Hetaraka, Mrs Stacey Madden and Miss Jess McBain. Please spread the word and come down to Red Hill School to watch our tamariki perform, we need as much vocal support as possible to give them a boost. I cannot wait.

FunFest

I don't know about you, but I am excited. I have seen a sneak peak of the carnival game stands, and to say they look amazing is an understatement, it's like something out of the movies. Once I have done my Dunk the Principal shift, I will be sure to get amongst the carnival game action. As always, there will be lots to see, do, eat and take away at the FunFest. Bring your family and friends. I'll see you there!

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 the day of the FunFest 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

FUNFEST

Friday 7th November
4pm to 7:30pm

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE ENTRY

OPAHEKE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: ORGANISED BY THE PTA

For more information email: pta@opaheke.school.nz

- Roast Rolls, Island Plates, Indian Snacks •
- Hot Chips, Sausages Sizzle & Drinks •
- Bake Sale, Ice Creams & Candyfloss •
- Face Painting & Hair Spray •
- Carnival Games, Raffles, Market Stalls •
- Bouncy Castle, Rock Climbing & Basketball •
- Pasifika, Kapa Haka & Dance Performances •
- Dunk the Teacher •
- Dedicated seated area for dining •

Cash & Eftpos available

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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

Y7/8 NC Touch Tournament

On Wednesday 22nd of October we had three teams representing Ōpaheke School at the North Counties Touch Tournament.

Boys team – Kayne, Akhbar, Dayton, Eli, Sonny, Jermaine, Xavier, Chidubem, Rakshen, Lucian and Damian.

Girls team – Kourtney, Jasnoor, Mika, Oviya, Te Kuiti, Aria, Laurel, Alay, Ariyana and Maria.

Mixed team – Cyrus, Rahul, Noah, John, Ngaupoko, Chloe, Arianna, Elly, Raelyn, Giovanni and Grace.

The teams played well, throughout the day, despite the drizzle. Our students grew stronger and more confident as each game was played, picking up proper rules for touch (which are very different to how they play at lunchtimes!) and the need for speedy pick ups at dummy half.

As always, I was very impressed with the way the Year 7 & 8 students represented our school. They played hard and fair, listening to the ref and consistently displaying a positive attitude.

The boys team finished 3rd in their grade. The mixed team also 3rd in their grade. The girls team came in 4th with some very capable competition in their grade from Kāuri Flats.

Huge thanks for Matua Aidan who came along and helped referee.

Another huge thanks to Brooke, Sione and Tracey who helped supervise the teams and to all the whānau that made it out in the rain to come and support our teams.

This was the final North Counties team event on the 2025 calendar. We now look forward to North Counties Athletics on the 13th and 14th of November Massey Park.



Year 7/8 EPro8 Challenge

On Wednesday 15th October, two Ōpaheke School teams took part in the EPro8 Challenge, a nationwide engineering and problem-solving competition that puts students' creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking to the test. The challenge encourages students to design, build, and innovate through a range of hands-on tasks that integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Ōpaheke 1 (Lana, Athea, Mika and Devam) maintained an impressive pace and demonstrated outstanding teamwork and communication throughout the event. Their efforts were praised by the judge, who highlighted their consistent collaboration and focus. The team placed 4th overall, just narrowly missing a top-three finish in a thrilling final stretch – an incredible achievement in such a competitive field.

Ōpaheke 2 (Macabe, Eli, Arhaan and Oviya) also performed brilliantly, showcasing both skill and imagination while adding plenty of humour and creativity to their construction. Their positive energy and problem-solving approach made them a standout team on the day.

The EPro8 Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop lifelong skills in innovation, resilience, and teamwork as they move through primary, intermediate, and secondary school. Experiences like this inspire the next generation of engineers, inventors, and mathematicians, and we couldn't be prouder of our students' achievements.



We're already looking forward to next year's challenge, where our young Ōpaheke mathematicians and engineers will once again have the chance to show everyone what they can do!



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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.



THANK YOU Parent Helpers

WEDNESDAY 26TH
NOVEMBER FROM 6PM

AS A WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY, 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 AND YOU CAN ENJOY A
LOW KEY FUN EVENING CATCHING UP WITH OUR
BOARD AND OTHER PARENT HELPERS.
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AS WELL.

Please let the school office know if you can make it
by Thursday 20th November for catering purposes.
RSVP: 09 298 5410 or office@opaheke.school.nz

Rosehill Colleges Dancers Inspire Students

Last week, the talented Rosehill College dance students delivered a vibrant and energetic performance for Maungarei students. The showcase featured a mix of contemporary and hip-hop routines, leaving our younger students thoroughly entertained and inspired. The performance not only highlighted the creativity and dedication of the students but also fostered a wonderful sense of connection across schools. A big thank you to the dancers and their teachers for sharing their passion and setting such a positive example!



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Year 5 EOTC

Adventure, Creativity and Collaboration!

Our Year 5 students recently enjoyed three exciting and enriching EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) days, filled with hands-on learning, teamwork, and exploration. Over the three action-packed days, students engaged in a variety of activities designed to challenge their thinking, build resilience, and foster collaboration.

Day 1: On-Site Adventures at School

We kicked off with a fun-filled day on the school grounds. Students rotated through a series of engaging activities including baking pikelets, finding hidden markers on our orienteering course, and finding treasures in a scavenger hunt. Creativity was on full display as students built shelters using a selection of equipment provided, big enough to fit their whole team. In small groups, they crafted imaginative newspaper hats for our Trash to Fashion challenge. It was a fantastic start that encouraged problem-solving and teamwork.

Day 2: MOTAT Excursion

On Wednesday, students travelled to MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology) for a day of innovation and discovery. The highlight was the *Invent-a-Machine* programme, where students built their own Rube Goldberg Machine marble run. Trial and error saw most groups being successful. A tram ride added a touch of history and excitement, and the rest of the day was spent exploring MOTAT's interactive exhibits. The experience sparked curiosity and inspired many budding inventors!

Day 3: Bigfoot Adventures

The final day was led by the energetic team from Bigfoot Adventures. Students participated in a range of team-building games such as Grass Skis, Electric Maze, Marshmallows, Aquaduct, Dead Ants, and Minefield. Each activity encouraged communication, trust, and perseverance. Teams wore colourful bandanas to build team spirit and earned gold nuggets for showing collaboration and progress. The day was a celebration of teamwork and positive attitudes.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 students for their enthusiasm, creativity, and cooperation throughout the week. A huge thank you to our staff, external facilitators, Board, PTA and especially our amazing parent helpers, who made this EOTC experience so memorable!



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Year 5 EOTC



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Year 6 Rangitoto Camp 2025 – Chosen Valley

From the 15th–17th October, our Year 6 students from the Rangitoto Team had the fantastic opportunity to attend camp at Chosen Valley. This three-day experience was packed with outdoor challenges, new friendships, and personal growth.

Students rotated through a wide range of activities including kayaking, raft building, archery, orienteering, downhill trolleys, and a confidence course. Many of these experiences took students well outside their comfort zones, but it was a joy to watch them embrace new challenges, support one another, and grow in confidence.

Evening activities such as mass games and the camp quiz brought out lots of laughter and team spirit. During their free time, students could opt into exciting activities like the waterslide, flying fox, zipline, jumping pillow and playground – always supervised and safely managed by our awesome adult helpers and teachers.

One of the highlights was our final day farm walk, where every student made it to the top to enjoy stunning views and the satisfaction of pushing themselves one last time.

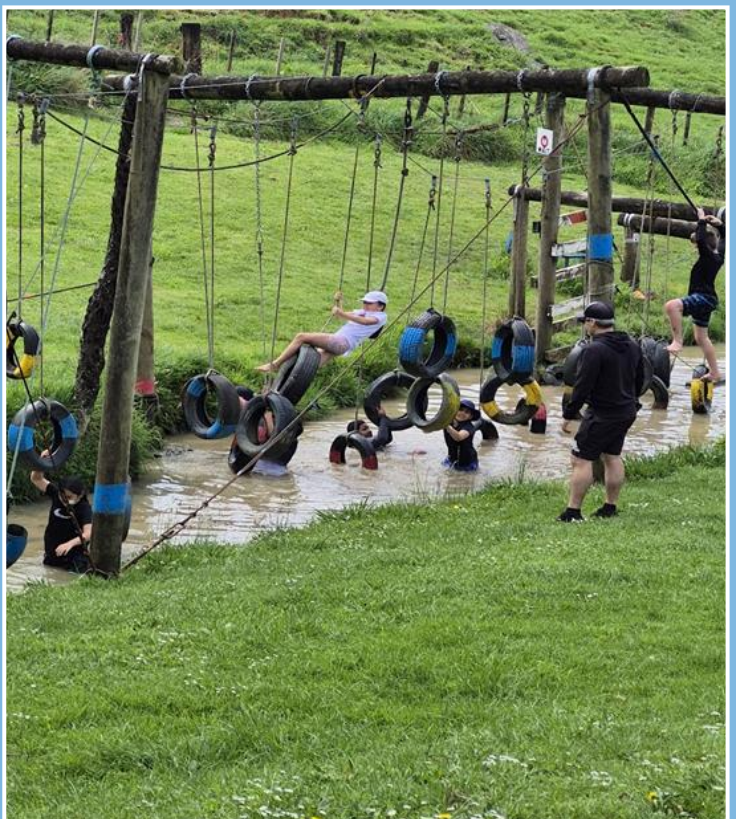
Camps like these are only possible thanks to a huge team effort. We'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to:

- Our parent helpers who stayed overnight and led activities with energy and care.
- The many parents who came out to support transport to and from camp – your flexibility made it all possible.
- Day helpers who supported students and kept the kitchen running smoothly.
- Aaron, who ran the kitchen with calm efficiency, assisted by our amazing day helpers.
- Reyna from Moonlight Catering for delicious meals that kept us fueled and happy.
- SKU Limited, Turners and Growers, and New World Papakura for their generous donations of fruit.

These contribution - big and small - made a real difference to the success of the camp and created lasting memories for our tamariki.

Ngā mihi nui!

— Ōpaheke Year 6 Team



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PTA Notices



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For more information email: pta@opaheke.school.nz



OPAHEKE PTA

Funfest

HELPERS NEEDED

1 HOUR SLOTS 8AM - 9PM

FRIDAY 7 NOV

HELP NEEDED!!
SETUP
CAKE STALLS
FOOD STALLS
CARNIVAL GAMES
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
PACK DOWN
& MORE!

RESPOND VIA THE LINK

THANK YOU!



FunFest Bake Sale

Time to get your bake on!



We need your delicious home baking to help in our fundraising efforts at FunFest.

Please fill this plate with baking of your choice, cover in cling wrap and use the sticker provided to label what you have made. Feel free to include any important information e.g. gluten free, dairy free, contains peanuts etc.

If your baking requires a cake box, there are some available to pick up from the office.

DROP OFF: On the day of the FunFest - Friday 7 November - please bring your baking to the school hall between 8-8.25am.

FunFest is our big PTA fundraiser for the year.
All money raised goes back into the school for our children
so your help with baking is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

We are in *urgent* need of..

Ceramic Plates, please no plastic or glass
and
Soft toys, books, toys, good condition, please
no games or puzzles



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



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!**



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IMPORTANT DATES

30 Oct	Y5/6 Epro8
31st Oct	PTA Piza Day
5 Nov	Rangitahi Festival
6 Nov	Y3/4 Gymnastics
7 Nov	PTA Funfest
13 Nov	Y5/6 NC Athletics
14 Nov	Y7/8 NC Athletics
18 Nov	Y7/8 Bakesale Fundraiser
20 Nov	Y1/2 Gymnastics

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

Planning Classes for 2026

Do you live in our school zone?

Do you have a child who is due to start school next year?

Do you have a friend or neighbour who lives in our school zone and has a child due to start school next year?

Are you planning a move requiring your child to transition to another school?

We are currently planning our 2026 classes. If you have not already let us know about a child due to start with us next year or due to transition to another school, can you please let the office know as soon as possible.

Advanced notice enables us to ensure we have sufficient staffing and resources to allow for the best transition into school possible for your child.

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 help with our planning and preparation.

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.



STAR AWARDS

Term 4 - Striving for Excellence

Room	Week 3
R1	Arhaan & Sarah
R2	Anraj & Sakinah
R3	
R4	Alay & Sumeet
R5	Athena & Niko
R6	Andrej & Miguel
R7	Lilian & Arlen
R8	Lucy & Marlee-Jane
R9	Logan & Arlyn
R10	Reighn & Marvin
R11	Luke & Linah
R12	Taulelei & Gurnoor
R15	Ahil & Emerson
R16	Jupkeere & Hannah
R18	Luke & Lynell
R21	Mateo & Nate
R22	Miu & Gurnoor
R23	Teghman & Iloisa
R24	Ezra & Hartaj
R25	Scarlett & Dejure
R26	Luke & Twilight
Pikopiko	Serenity & Charlee
Te Rito	Awatea
Kākano	Paige & Izzy
Kōwhai	Jackson & George
Kānuka	Lucian & Hayley
Mānuka	Madison & Anne
Kauri	Hori & Ryan

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Newsletters | Permission slips
Instant notifications | Absentees
Parent Teacher Interviews

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