



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

Welcome back! I trust you all had a good break. My camping and fishing expedition to Port Jackson failed to produce the kingfish I was after, but I still managed to spend some quality time with my whānau this summer. With the holidays now a distant memory, I think it is safe to say that we are all happy to return to routine.

What routine?

- **Getting to school everyday!** No excuses. I reward excellent attendance. I'll let you in on a little secret... Every single major prizewinner at our end of year prizegiving was among the top of school attendance. Not a coincidence.
- **Swimming togs.** We have *Water Skills For Life* lessons running for 2 weeks. This is a privilege and a wonderful opportunity that should not be taken for granted. Bring togs and get in the pool.
- **Wide brim hats** no explanation needed.
- **Reading each night** until homework starts.

You will receive a team newsletter outlining things in more detail at the end of this week. So standby for those.

Thanks for helping us out with all of the above, being school-ready makes life a lot easier for your child and their teacher.

Reporting to Parents

Last week the Education Minister, Erica Stanford, announced new changes to the way schools have to report to parents. The changes aim to create more consistent student reports across NZ schools. The finer details are not yet available, and as a school we will not be making changes until we are crystal clear on what is expected of us. While it might seem straightforward, changing the report format is actually a big deal for most schools as it is not only the redesign of the physical report

but it also impacts how and when students are assessed. While we await more information, familiarise yourself with the illustration above and the language used. This will feature in our mid-year and end of year reports.

Thank you to everybody who contributed to our **board survey**. There were loads of great insights, validations, and also next steps for us to consider and include in our strategic and annual planning.

In closing, I am tremendously excited by the year ahead. We have an awesome team, wonderful kids and with you behind us I've got the feeling we can make this a year to remember.

Mr Tawhiti

Describing progress for mid and end of year reporting using five descriptors

The progress descriptors describe student progress across the school year - the aim is for students to be proficient by the end of the school year.

A student who has achieved proficiency is prepared for the next year of learning.

Progress descriptor	Emerging	Developing	Consolidating	Proficient	Exceeding
Mid-year reporting	Not yet on track to meet expectations		On track to meet expectations		
End of year reporting	Has not yet met expectations			Has met expectations	

CONTACT US

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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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CHALLENGE TAKER

Learning at Ōpaheke



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Sport

Water Skills for Life

Water Skills for Life with Swim Magic and Aktive Sports started this week. Please help your child to remember their togs on the required days as per timetables which have been emailed out for Year 1-4 students. Year 5-8 teachers will let their classes know their swimming days. If in doubt, send them with their togs and towel everyday (this is sometimes easier with the younger kids). Students in year 3-8 will end this programme with a trip to Massey Park Pools. Participation in the school-based lessons is a requirement to attend this final lesson.



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Welcome

Miss Kimberley Buchanan

Kia ora, I am a year 5/6 teacher in the Rangitoto team! I'm very excited to be joining Ōpaheke School.

I love it when kids grasp really difficult concepts. This is why I love teaching mathematics! I also love having fun with my class so I also really enjoy teaching art.

I have two young daughters, a cat and a dog. I love spending time with my family. My hobbies include reading, gaming, yoga and going to the gym.



Board SchoolDocs Review

TERM 1, 2026 POLICY REVIEW

This term we are reviewing some of the policies in the Safety On and Off School Grounds section.

REVIEW CLOSES: 2 APR 2026

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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Cyber Safety Agreements



Digital technologies and devices like laptops and tablets are tools that can help us learn at school in all sorts of ways. We can look at interesting things online, talk to people, create new ideas, and learn how to do different things on apps and websites. When we use digital technologies, we need to learn how to keep ourselves safe, and make good choices in ways we behave when we are online. At Ōpaheke School we call this being a 'digital citizen'. Good digital citizens help to make our school a safe and positive place for everyone.

Our user agreements outline what Ōpaheke School does to help make learning online safe, and what we need to do. It is not always easy to understand everything about

online spaces, because there are so many things to use and explore, and that's why it's important that we all try to make it as safe as possible.

At Ōpaheke School we have two versions of user agreement. One for year 1-3 students and one for year 4-8 students. Students in Year 4 this year must complete a new cyber safety (student user) agreement to reflect their increased use of devices in the senior part of our school. Completed agreements can be given to your child's teacher or emailed to the school office.

You can find copies of our current user agreements on our school website:

<https://www.opaheke.school.nz/our-learning/cyber-safety/>

My Mobile Learning

At Ōpaheke School we also use digital devices to help with teaching and learning.

All students in year 4-8 are encouraged to bring their own device to school. A device agreement form will need to be completed and returned before they can use their device at school. The 2026 form is the same as the 2025 form, if your child completed a form in 2025 and they still have the same device they do not need to complete another form. A new form is only required when they get a new device (as we record the serial number of the device on the form).



The form can be found on our school website: <https://www.opaheke.school.nz/our-learning/my-mobile-learning-2/>. Please note, this is a digital form which can be filled out on your computer or phone and returned via email. However, if you do need a paper copy please let us know and we will get one sent home with your child.



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IMPORTANT DATES

13 Feb	Y7 & 8 Immunisation Talks
13 Feb	PTA Lunches - Subway and Sushi
16 Feb	Board Meeting 7pm
16 Feb	Y8 Camp - Parent Meeting 6pm
18 Feb	PTA Meeting 7pm
20 Feb	PTA Lunches - Pizza
24-27 Feb	Y7 EOTC and Y8 Camp
26-27 Feb	Y3-6 WSFL Massey Park Sessions
27 Feb	PTA Lunches - Subway and Sushi

TERM DATES 2026

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

Whanaungatanga Hui

Mark it in your calendars!

Wednesday 11th March 3-4pm

Thursday 12th March 1-5.30pm
(early finish of 12 noon)

We will be sending out more information around this shortly.



Stay "in the loop" with our communication app!

Events | Cancellations | Notices
Newsletters | Permission slips
Instant notifications | Absentees
Parent Teacher Interviews

Simple free download:

In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our organisation once installed.



PTA Notices



Opaheke School Lunches Term 1

Register and Order at www.dollarforschools.co.nz

Sushi and Subway

Fridays
(excl Pizza days)



Pizza Days !
Friday Feb 20th
Friday March 27th



Order now or by 9am for delivery that day

\$1 for every lunch goes to our School!



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

FEBRUARY 18 @ 7PM

ALL WELCOME!
INCL CHILDREN



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