



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

I spent some time out at Camp Adair with our Year 8 students. We did a 19km hike, which is a long way for little legs. I enjoy the hike because you get to see kids get physically and mentally tested, and more importantly, you get to see how they cope. I recall a boy and a girl who limped in last at Hunua Falls, exhausted and clearly 'over it'. Only to see them regather, grit their teeth and completely dominate the return hike back to camp.

Determination?... Guts?... Heart?, whatever it was, it was impressive. I observed another student who decided to help his mates by carrying their



backpacks on the final part of the hike, and despite falling down the track under the weight of the gear, he still happily trudged on. I even noted one of our girls who seemed to bound through the hike with effortless ease, albeit with the help of a handheld electric fan. Such a cool bunch of kids and an equally awesome group of camp parents.

Reports

In the short time since the government dropped the news that school reports were changing, it appears they hadn't quite worked out all the finer details that a change of this nature require. So, in order to avoid confusing you and giving you misleading information on your child and their progress in learning, Senior leadership has made the decision to keep our report format the same for our mid-year reports. For those familiar with this report, it is clear and informative. Furthermore, these reports viewed in conjunction with our *Student Led Conferences* will keep you well informed as to what is happening in your child's learning.

Enjoy the rest of your week and we look forward to seeing you all at the *Whanaungatanga Hui* with your child and their teacher today or tomorrow.

Mr Tawhiti.



CONTACT US

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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

North Counties Swimming

Congratulations to our swimming team who had a great day on Wednesday 4th of March at Massey Park Pools. Huge thanks to our parent helpers and those that came down to support. We love taking teams to sports, and we couldn't do it without parents who offer their time to provide transport for our teams and pick up duties such as time keeping. After a chilly start, the sun came out and our students gave it their best against tough swimming competition.

Congratulations to the following students who placed in their finals races:

Year 5 & 6

Year 5 - Kippen T 3rd Boys Backstroke, 2nd Boys Freestyle and 3rd Boys Breaststroke

Year 6 - Summer S 2nd Girls 100m Freestyle, 3rd 50m Freestyle and 3rd 50m Butterfly

Year 7 & 8

Year 7 - Vincent B 3rd Boys 100m Freestyle, 2nd Boys Freestyle, 2nd Boys Butterfly and 2nd Boys Breaststroke

Year 8 - Giovanni T 3rd Boys Freestyle, Aurora J 3rd Girls Breaststroke and Ellyette C 2nd Girls Backstroke

Well done to the above Year 7 & 8 swimmers who have made the North Counties team to swim at the Counties Swimming event on Friday 13th March at Jubilee Pool in Pukekohe.



Water Skills For Life

Our ākonga recently completed their Water Skills for Life swimming programme with Swim Magic. To finish the programme, Year 3-6 children visited Massey Park Pools where they practised their swimming and water safety skills. It was fantastic to see students participating enthusiastically and building their confidence in the water. Thank you to Swim Magic and our staff for supporting this valuable learning experience. Our Year 7/8 children will be going to Massey Park next week.



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Y7 EOTC

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed an exciting and memorable EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) Week, filled with learning, teamwork, creativity, and personal challenges.



At Auckland Museum, students explored Māori myths and legends and took part in an Early Settlement of Aotearoa workshop that encouraged them to think deeply, reflect on the stories of our land, and connect with the cultural history that shapes us. Many students were especially fascinated by the Volcano Room during their self-guided tour. This day nurtured curiosity, a sense of identity, and shared appreciation for the stories of Aotearoa.

At school, students enjoyed a fun-filled day of cooking pizzas, dancing, creating artwork, and taking part in strategic group games such as Jedi Dodgeball and Capture the Flag. These activities invited learners to express themselves, work together, stay active, and celebrate the joy of being part of a connected and supportive team. The laughter and teamwork on this day strengthened friendships and built confidence in each other's ideas and contributions.

A definite highlight was the trip to Wero Waterpark, where students pushed themselves physically and mentally on the 16-metre climbing wall and enjoyed kayaking and paddle boarding. Many showed great resilience, courage, and self-belief as they stepped outside their comfort zones and encouraged one another along the way, strengthening both their physical wellbeing and their sense of personal achievement.



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Y7 EOTC

The week concluded with an energetic Youthtown day, where groups rotated through Adventure-based learning challenges, orienteering, building a Flintstone cart, designing water-bottle rockets, and practising archery. These activities required co-operation, creative thinking, and problem-solving, giving students many opportunities to use and grow the Ōpaheke dispositions while working closely with their peers.



A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to support these experiences. Your presence and encouragement helped make this EOTC Week a safe, successful, and unforgettable adventure for our Year 7 students.



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24TH FEBRUARY - 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

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 the Ōpaheke School Board for your generous contribution and the Year 7 and 8 teachers for all your support with fundraising. Your support makes experiences like this possible!

Stacey Madden
Maungawhau Team Leader.



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HOW CAMP STRENGTHENED MY HAUORA

Taha Hinengaro (mind)

During the confidence course, my Taha Hinengaro said, "GO BACK! DON'T DO IT!" But guess what? I did it anyway! For one part of the course, we all had to link arms and go under wooden logs without unlinking our arms, and let's not forget that we were doing this through muddy water! Anyway, we're walking and trying not to unlink our arms and singing 'Barbie Girl' all at the same time.

After 3 tries, I think we made it - but I'm still going to call it the 'Barbie Girl-singing, arms-unlinking, wet and muddy FIASCO!!'

My Taha Whānau often got on my nerves. Maybe it was just because I was around the same people every day, all day, 24/7. Or maybe it was because quite a few people in my activity group got on my nerves and were annoying, but honestly they probably thought I was annoying too! But I stood my ground, and I didn't (or tried very hard not to) snap, so I think I kept myself under control.

My Taha Wairua was challenged at camp, because many of us became tired and grumpy, so I had to try extra hard to be kind and hold my tongue, despite some of the things I wanted to say. My Taha Wairua was also challenged on the cargo climb, because not only was it difficult not to give up, but I was also slightly nervous climbing all the way up. Yet, I still managed to complete it.

Aurora J, R3

HOW CAMP STRENGTHENED OUR HAUORA

Taha Wairua (spirit)

I felt spiritually engaged with my emotions and my feelings at the time. With every different activity I was feeling a different emotion. I might have been scared, proud, tired, hot, and everything in between, but that still helped strengthen my abilities to encourage myself.

Taha Hinengaro (mind)

It was challenging to keep up with everything that went on at camp, which partially stressed me out, even though it was kind of my fault. But after having multiple near misses, I slowly got better with my time management.

Athea P, R3



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MAY EXPERIENCE AT CAMP..



Throughout the week, we completed activities such as raft building, cargo climb, the confidence course, the Leap of Faith, crate stacking, archery, and orienteering. My favourite activity was the confidence course. This was because we all had fun and worked together. When the instructors splashed water on us at random times, it made it even funnier!

I found the most difficult activity to be the Leap of Faith (kinda). I say "kinda" because the whole thing was good and showed that I could do it, but I kept thinking I was going to fall, which made me scared.

If I could go again, I would definitely try not to think those things and have more confidence in myself to touch the ball at the top.

On this trip, I used the five characteristics of an Opaheke Learner. I showed how to be a self-regulator when I went to sleep and ignored the sounds around me. During raft building, I showed how to be a thinker because I came up with ideas about how we were going to build our raft. On the confidence course, I showed how to be a collaborator because I worked with my group to get out of the mud, and we cheered each other on. When we did our talent show/skit, I showed how to be an innovator because I helped my group create some of the scenes. Lastly, I showed how to be a challenge taker when I completed the hike and the Leap of Faith.

Overall, my impressions of Camp Adair were great, and I loved it!

Ariana Y - Kānuka

MY EXPERIENCE AT CAMP...

Throughout the week, we completed activities such as orienteering, tug of war, the confidence course, archery, the Leap of Faith, Killer Hill, and more.

My favorite activity was the confidence course. This was because there were different levels to complete, and if you did not pass a level, you lost and got dumped in mud.

I found the most difficult activity to be raft building. This was because I am not a fan of building a raft with leftover scrap materials and plastic—unless it is with Lego.

If I could go again, I would definitely try tug of war because it requires power, strength, and teamwork.

On this trip, I used the five characteristics of an Opaheke learner. I showed that I could be a self-regulator when I prepared for my assigned activities. On the confidence course, I showed that I was a thinker because I thought carefully about the strategies I should use to pass each level. During the crate stack activity, I showed that I was a collaborator because the others and I worked together to build an eleven-block tower. In raft building, I showed that I was an innovator by building the raft using the given materials and methods. Lastly, I showed that I was a challenge taker when I climbed up the high tree and jumped down. This activity was known as the Leap of Faith.

Anraj S - Kānuka



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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!**



AGM & PTA MEETING

SCHOOL STAFFROOM

Come join the team to discuss annual reports and nominate and elect our PTA office members for 2026. After we will also discuss the discos and other events for the year. All welcome!

MARCH 18 @ 7PM

**ALL WELCOME!
INCL CHILDREN**

Whole School Assemblies

This year we have our whole school assemblies **fortnightly on a Friday** after lunch until approximately 1.30pm. To minimise disruptions, and out of respect for everyone, we ask that students not be collected during this time. If your child has an appointment requiring them to leave during this time please let the office know in advance so that your child can wait up at the office to be collected.

Welcome

Miss Niamh Gedson

Kia ora, I am pleased to be the newest member of the Learning Support Team. I have experience supporting students in school as well as caring for children as a Nanny for a number of different families. I enjoy getting to know all the different children with their lovely personalities and seeing the world through their eyes.

Outside of school I enjoy reading, sewing and going for bush walks with my dog. I moved to Papakura last year, and I live with my partner, Dad, little brother and little sister, who are both students here at Opaheke.

I'm really looking forward to my time here!



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IMPORTANT DATES

11-12 Mar	Whanaungatanga Hui
12 Mar	School Finishes 12 noon
13 Mar	Y3/4 Trip to Greenhaven Reserve
13 Mar	Y7/8 Counties Swimming
18 Mar	Polyfest
18 Mar	North Counties Football
18 Mar	PTA AGM and Meeting 7pm
19-20 Mar	Y7/8 WSF Massey Park Pools
23 Mar	Board Meeting 7pm

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

STAR AWARDS

Term 1 - Teamwork

Room	Week 5
R1	Niklaus & Ethan
R2	Tejas & Ausami
R3	Grace G & Daniel
R4	Rhys & Alexis
R5	Nora & Nolan
R6	Kavish & Dylan
R7	Maanveer & Iutesi
R8	Vereti & K'larnya
R10	Korey-Leigh & Kiaan
R11	Sammy & MJ
R12	Gabby & Zorawar
R15	Leena & Kaion
R16	Braelyn & Karmyn
R18	Manaia & Austinel
R21	Pearlynn & Te Koha
R22	Meleane & Sebastian
R23	Luke & Tony
R24	Loto & Gurbani
R25	Gurnoor & Rolene
R26	Sophia & Ella
Pikopiko	Tatiyana & Usman
Te Rito	Izaria & Rudra
Kānuka	O'Keefe & Ariana
Mānuka	Athena & Kabilan
Kauri	George & Georgia

UPCOMING
**TEACHER
ONLY DAY**
Tuesday 28th April

**Stay in the loop with
School News,
Events & Notices**



With our Skool Loop app!

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