



# 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

Not sure if you heard, but I got a little bit excited at our school assembly last Friday as I spoke to our tamariki about the 'Warbirds over Ardmore' airshow. I even showed them a short video of jet planes flying in formation, doing aerial acrobatics, and even plummeting vertically back to earth. I even made our kids believe they were coming for ME! My heart was racing and for the first time in a very long time I was in total awe. It will be held in March next year. You need to get there with your kids.

### School Councillors

We had 30 applications for our student councillor positions. It was a tough task narrowing it down to the selected few. But I am so pleased we landed on the group we have (no pun intended). Furthermore, I was really pleased to note that a handful of these councillors narrowly missed out on selection last year. So, for them to try again and be successful this time round tells me a lot about their strength of character, and also how much they want it. They are fine ambassadors for our school and each student will bring their own strengths and leadership style that will ensure the team gets lift-off. Congratulations, Ariana Y, Athea P, Aurora J, Chloe D, Grace G, Ethan B, Evan D, Harrison F, Isla P, Lana W, Libby T, and Oliver S.



### End of Term is close

Only six days left. Thank you for your support this term, we have started the school year strong. Our attendance is outstanding so far and has recently received positive recognition from the Ministry of Education, so pat yourselves on the back. I hope you all have a nice Easter break and you manage to spend time relaxing with whānau over the term break.

Mr Tawhiti.

### 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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# Learning at Ōpaheke



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## Sport

### North Counties Touch

The Year 7 and 8 teams had a great day of touch rugby on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of March at Bruce Pulman Park. Ōpaheke had three teams entered, Boys, Girls and Mixed. All teams played well and improved over the day with help from whānau who helped coach, ref and manage. As always, we are grateful to parents who show up for our tamariki and offer their help on sports days. Both the Boys teams and Girls teams had tough games against Papakura Normal who went on to win both grades. Our mixed team played off for third and drew against Conifer Grove in their final. Congratulations to all of our players who represented the school well and played with passion!



| BOYS     | GIRLS     | MIXED     |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Lucas    | Ngahuia   | Leo       |
| Cyrus    | Tarah     | Cameron   |
| Rahul    | Eseta     | Jaiysheil |
| Giovanni | Ruby      | Liam-Ray  |
| Harrison | Anne      | Ausami    |
| John     | Grace     | Lameycia  |
| Cooper   | Athea     | Elly      |
| Rhys     | Maria Lee | Raelyn    |
| Malosi   | Ariana    | Chloe     |
| Lennon   | Amanda    | Lana      |
| David    |           | Korah     |
|          |           | Rebecca   |



### North Counties Football

Our Year 5 to 8 students enjoyed a fantastic day at the football tournament, showing great effort, teamwork, and determination across all teams. There was a high level of energy and commitment in every game, with students stepping up, taking on challenges, and giving their best right through the day.

A special mention to our Year 7 boys, who pushed through to the final and showed strong focus and resilience in their games. Across all teams, students supported one another, communicated well, and played with confidence.

It was especially pleasing to see the respect shown towards teammates, opponents, and referees, which reflected positively on our school.

Well done to everyone who took part.



### Y7/8 Counties Swimming

Congratulations to Vincent Billings, Aurora Johnson and Ellyette Cooper who competed at Counties Swimming on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. These swimmers placed in events at North Counties Swimming sports, qualifying them for Counties Zone. It is a big step up in competition, well done to these students for being challenge takers!

Congratulations to Vincent Billings who placed third in both the Year 7 boys Butterfly and the Year 7 Boys Breaststroke. Vincent has qualified to represent Counties at the Auckland Swimming champs at West Wave Aquatic Centre.

We wish you all the best, Vincent!



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## Celebrating Past Student Achievement

Tyler Tapiki, a past student of Ōpaheke, has recently been selected in the New Zealand White Sox U15 Girls Team that will be competing at the Oceania World Qualifiers in American Samoa July.

Over the past season, Tyler has been an integral member of the Counties Manukau Softball Association (CMSA) U19 Girls team, securing 2nd place at the U19 Nationals, and represented the CMSA U17 team at their National tournament in January.

Additionally, Tyler was one of our Senior Leaders for the CMSA U15 Girls, contributing to their third consecutive victory at the Northern Softball U15 Championships. Following her selection in the U15 Girls Northern Tournament Team. At the CMSA Junior Rep Prizegiving she was awarded with Top Batter - U15 Girls Counties Softball Team.

We are incredibly proud of her progress and recent achievements.



## Y3/4 Maungarei Trip to Greenhaven Stream



Our tamariki became true kaitiaki o te taiao (guardians of the natural world), rolling up their sleeves to collect rubbish and care for the awa (stream). Curiosity was buzzing as students transformed into young scientists — testing the water, measuring the stream's temperature, and peering through microscopes to discover the fascinating tiny creatures calling the creek home. There were plenty of "Wow!" moments as the hidden world came into focus.



The day was rich in whanaungatanga, with tamariki working together, sharing equipment, supporting one another, and strengthening relationships — not just with friends and teachers, but with the environment itself. *He taonga te taiao, ā, he kaitiaki tātou* — our environment is a treasure, and we are its guardians.

A huge ngā mihi nui to our amazing parent helpers who joined us on the trip. Your support, encouragement, and helping hands made this learning experience safe, meaningful, and unforgettable.



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## PIZZA 27 MAR 2026 & SUSHI DAY



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## PTA MEETING

SCHOOL STAFFROOM

Come join the team to hear about the discos and other fundraisers the PTA are organising for 2026. All welcome!

APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> @ 7PM

ALL WELCOME!  
INCL CHILDREN

## Easter

RAFFLE



The PTA would love for you to donate an Easter treat to the raffle prize pool. Items can be Easter eggs of any size, shape or flavour. The more eggs, chocolates or sweet treats we get in, the more prizes we'll have.

Please drop off your item/s to the school office from now until March 27th.  
Raffle tickets out soon!

## EASTER RAFFLE!

**TICKETS OUT TODAY!**

**\$2 PER TICKET, ONE BOOKLET \$20**

**FOR MORE TICKETS, PLEASE SEE THE OFFICE.**  
**PLEASE RETURN MONEY AND TICKET STUBS TO THE OFFICE ASAP.**

**LAST RETURN DAY FOR TICKETS AND MONEY IS FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH 2026**

**RAFFLE DRAWN: FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED**



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OPAHEKE SCHOOL PTA  
PRESENTS

# DISCO NIGHT

THURSDAY 26 MARCH  
OPAHEKE SCHOOL HALL  
FOOD! GOOD MUSIC!

TIMES

|                           |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| YEARS 1-2<br>5PM - 5.45PM | YEARS 3-4<br>6PM - 6.45PM | YEARS 5-8<br>7PM - 8PM |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|

**\$2 ADMISSION**

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE PICKED UP BY AN ADULT  
ATTENDANCE BY CURRENT OPAHEKE STUDENTS ONLY

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL DISCO

PARENT HELPERS  
NEEDED!

4-5, 5-6, 6-7, 7-9PM THURS 26 MARCH  
PLEASE EMAIL [PTA@OPAHEKE.SCHOOL.NZ](mailto:PTA@OPAHEKE.SCHOOL.NZ)

## Mother's Day Photoshoot

The PTA have arranged to take your 10x13" (253x330mm) colour Family Portrait normally valued at \$79.00 for only **\$30.00**. This is Great Value!! Other Photos are also available. Family, friends, neighbours, relatives all welcome, even the family dog may like to join. The venue is at Ōpaheke School, Tasman Drive, Ōpaheke. **Payment is cash only to the school office**, no EFTPOS or Internet Banking payments will be accepted. You will receive your appointment time after you pay your \$30.00. It is important to keep to the appointment time to ensure minimal delay.

**An adult member of the family or group must be in the photo.**

Viewing and collection of your portrait will be approximately 10 days later.

To register please return the form that has been sent home with students (or you can get one from the school office) along with your \$30 cash payment.

This is a profitable fundraiser for our PTA with the \$30 payment being donated directly to the PTA to help fund resources and activities for our tamariki.

Ōpaheke School's

## MOTHER'S DAY PHOTOSHOOT

NZ Family Portraits  
Papakura  
Photoshoot  
DATE: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May




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## IMPORTANT DATES

|           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 26 Mar    | PTA Disco                      |
| 27 Mar    | PTA Pizza and Sushi Day        |
| 27 Mar    | Leadership Day for Councillors |
| 27 Mar    | PTA Easter Raffle Draw         |
| 3-19 Apr  | School Holidays                |
| 20-24 Apr | Poppy Week                     |
| 22 Apr    | PTA Meeting 7pm                |
| 24 Apr    | Field of Remembrance           |
| 27 Apr    | ANZAC Day (Observed)           |
| 28 Apr    | Teacher Only Day               |
| 3 May     | PTA Mother's Day Photoshoot    |
| 4 May     | 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 7             |
|----------|--------------------|
| R1       | Cyrus & Emma       |
| R2       | Ainul & Shaheer    |
| R3       | Grace M & Muhammad |
| R4       | John & Heretaniwha |
| R5       | Victor & Narika    |
| R6       | Hardijt & Adrishia |
| R7       | Saatchi & Declan   |
| R8       | Lily & Kippin      |
| R10      | Serenity & Savina  |
| R11      | Miray & Delilah    |
| R12      |                    |
| R15      | Lochie & Octavia   |
| R16      | Jayda & Zion       |
| R18      | Aaruhi & Harper    |
| R21      |                    |
| R22      | Nina & Ezmae       |
| R23      | Eliora & Mason     |
| R24      | Gurnoor & Paula    |
| R25      | Mui & Avianna      |
| R26      | Gretel & Shammah   |
| Pikopiko | George & Harsirat  |
| Te Rito  | Eiyaana & Ivydin   |
| Kānuka   | Ethan & Lana       |
| Mānuka   |                    |
| Kauri    | Taylah H & Nikolay |



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