

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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## “The Opaheke Way”

Newsletter No 18/11

30 November 2011

Dear Parents,  
Greetings to all of you as we hurtle towards the end of the school year.

### **END OF YEAR REPORTS**

Class teachers are working very long hours to complete student reports. Teachers endeavour to use plain language and we are also considering each child's progress and achievement according to the national standards. As parents will appreciate, this is a huge task. Reports will be sent home on Tuesday 13th December. We expect that all parents will read the comments carefully and discuss any relevant issues with their children.

Teachers in the junior school (Yr1-3 students) are planning a change to the present reporting and interview timeline. Schools are required by national standards to report to parents after a child has been at school for 1 year, for 2 years and after 3 years of school. What this will mean is a change to rolling

reports/interviews to coincide with a child's anniversary at School. If a child has a birthday in say April, a report will be prepared and this written report will form the focus of the parent interview to take place at that time. More details will be outlined next year.

### **END OF YEAR CONCERTS**

The two end of year concerts will take place on Wednesday 7 December:

Junior NE—Year 4  
10.30am –11.30am approx.

Senior Year 5 –8  
7.00pm plus End of Year Awards Prizegiving

### **TERM DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

*Term 4, 2011* finishes on Friday 16 December at 12.30pm. *Term 1, 2012* starts on *Wednesday 1 February* and finishes on Thursday 5 April. If your child will not be returning to Opaheke School next year could you please let the office know so that we may adjust our class lists. Thank you.

### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- CONCERTS
- END OF YEAR DISCO
- POOL KEYS

### **Fun Fact**

**Robins on**

Christmas cards were a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.



### **SCHOOL AMENITY**

The following is the Bank Account for the Opaheke School BOT if you would like to set up an automatic payment.

ASB Bank  
12 3031 0728049 00

### SCHOOL AMENITY

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families who have paid their school amenity donation this year. This money makes a huge difference to the extra resources that we can provide for your children and helps fund extra teacher staffing so that we can keep class/teacher ratios lower. To those parents who are still paying this off we appreciate your efforts. To those parents still to pay we appreciate any contribution you can make to support our efforts to provide your children with all the extra benefits to give them a 'first class' learning experience.

### SCHOOL DISCO

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Theme – Xmas Accessories**

**5.30pm-6.30pm**

New entrants – Yr 4 Students

**6.45pm-8.00pm**

Yr 5 – Yr 8 Students

Cost - \$2.00 entry

Drinks/chips - \$1.00

Lollipops – 0.50c

Glow items – from \$1.00

Iceblocks - \$2.00

Sausage sizzle - \$2.00

### CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

The PTA would like to thank parents for supporting the Calendar Fundraiser. This was well received and we hope you enjoy your children's art work. Calendar orders have now been filled and distributed.



### NZ FACTS

Captain James Cook drew  
the first map of New  
Zealand that  
put us  
definitely on  
the Globe



**SCHOOL POOL KEYS** The pool will be available over the Christmas holiday period to those families who have paid their School amenity. The charge for a key is \$35. ***Application forms will be available from the office until 9 Dec.*** The pool may be used from Monday 19 Dec through to and including Tuesday 31 January. The pool will not be heated over this period. The pool will not be available weekdays from 2pm until 5pm from 19 Dec until 23 December and then again weekdays from 9am—12 midday from 9 Jan to 27 Jan. This is to accommodate swimming lessons held in the pool during this time.

**POOL HELPERS** we require helpers to 'keep an eye' on the pool over the holiday period. This simply means checking the pool area, making sure there is no damage and stocking the toilets with toilet paper. If you can help please contact the office as soon as possible.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

I am pleased to report on the results of our students from STAR—Students Tests of Achievement in Reading this year. These tests provide a 'before' and 'after' results and were completed as part of the Papakura Achievement Initiative. As such they provide better data than national standards. The results are based on Stanines with Stanine 1 being the lowest and Stanine 9 being the highest.

The national median for the whole country is 5.0. These pleasing results include second language students and students with special learning needs.

	March	November
Yr 3 students	4.8	5.1
Yr4 students	4.9	5.7
Yr5 students	5.3	5.5
Yr 6 students	5.2	5.6
Yr 7 students	5.6	6.1
Yr 8 students	5.5	5.8

## **OUT OF ZONE CHILDREN**

A small number of families live out of our school zone on the eastern side of the railway tracks. Parents whose children travel to school from this area are reminded that you are responsible for getting your children safely to and from school. Some parents are concerned that a number of children are crossing the railway tracks from the Marne Road area. Parents who live on this side of the tracks need to be vigilant and discuss with their children the safest route for them to travel to and from school— this does

not include crossing the railway tracks. We also ask that all parents discuss with children the importance of using the school road crossings on Tasman Drive and Opaheke Road. These are safe places to cross. Parents who walk with their children before and after school should set an example by only using these areas to cross the road.

## **SPECIAL AWARDS 2011**

Teachers have been meeting on several occasions to consider who, among our senior students will receive special awards at the senior concert next Wednesday evening 7 December. The Collins family have presented a special award for achievement in Mathematics and this will be presented by Jeremy Collins for the first time.

## **CELEBRATING SUCCESSES**

Emily Brown, Kate Giles, Courtney Church, Sean Henson, Carnation Leonard, Sio Leuo, Caitlin Pritchard, Jade Tulp and Svetlana Wotton; all selected to compete at the Counties Zone athletics sports.

To all the Year 8 students who sat the Dux tests. Although there can only be one winner and one runner-up, everyone of these students is a real achiever.

## **GRANDPARENTS DAY**

We hope the invitations that were sent home last week have been passed on to Grandparents. As this is a special day for our middle aged/senior citizens we respectfully request that parents do not attend as we cannot cope spacewise. Families are asked to supply a plate of food for morning tea. Grandchildren may go home with grandparents at the end of the concert providing that parents write a note to the class teacher.

## **COMING EVENTS**

- Thu 1 Dec 3.30pm Have A Go cricket
- Mon 5 Dec Hearing and Vision testing at school  
Swimming tuition begins from 2.30pm  
Year 8 students attending Rosehill College 2012 to orientation programme at 11.30am
- Tue 6 Dec Board of Trustees Meeting
- Wed 7 Dec 10.30am Junior School concerts Yr1-4  
7.00 Senior School concert Yr5-8 + special awards
- Thu 8 Dec 3.30pm Have A Go cricket
- Fri 9 Dec Grandparents Day
- Mon 12 Dec evening Year Eight graduation
- Tue 13 Dec End of Year Reports go home
- Wed 14 Dec PTA social evening—all parent helpers invited
- Thu 15 Dec evening Disco starts 5.30pm
- Fri 16 Dec last school day for 2011. Students dismissed at 12.30pm

**Quiz**— About how many letters do children mail to Santa each year?

10,000      100,000      1,000,000

Best Wishes

*Murray Wratt*  
*Principal*

*Answer: 100,000*