

# OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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## “The Opaheke Way”

Newsletter No 01/13

13 February 2013

Dear Parents,  
Welcome back for 2013.  
Greetings to all of our ‘new’ families and welcome back to our ‘old hands’. May your involvement with our fine school be both beneficial and enjoyable. This year to date we have enrolled 53 new students. All School newsletters and the calendar of events can be read on our School website if you are looking for information. Newsletters are published every second Wednesday during term time.

### **STAFFING**

A huge thankyou to the class teachers who have been working at School over the last 3 weeks preparing for the year ahead. The dedication of the staff is a significant factor in this School’s success in student achievement. There have been no changes in teaching staff at the beginning of this year. A new class will start in Room 17 at the beginning of Term Two.

### **PARENT INFORMATION EVENING**

This short evening meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th February at the time below.

7.00pm—NE to Yr4 classes  
7.30pm—Yr 5 to Yr 8 classes  
Whiteboards will be in place to guide parents as to where to go to meet with your child’s teachers. Topics such as homework, swimming programmes, teacher expectations and opportunities will be covered. There will also be time for parents’ questions of a general nature. Parking will be available in the School grounds via the Short Street entrance.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS**

In May of this year, parents will be voting for the next Board of Trustees who will govern the School for the next 3 years. If you are interested in putting your name forward for the next Board and would like to know more, you are welcome to talk with present Board members or the Principal.

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

- OPAHEK SCHOOL NETBALL CLUB
- PARENT HELPERS
- DRESS CODE

### **Fun Fact**

There is enough energy in a bolt of lightning to power a home for two weeks.



### **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

### **DENTAL CLINIC**

The mobile Dental Clinic that has been based at School closed on the 8 February. For any dental clinic appointments please phone 299 8112.

### **SCHOOL AMENITY 2013**

The Board has made a small adjustment to the School Amenity for 2013. One child at school = \$160. Two children at School = \$210. three or more children at School = \$250. For those who pay by 1st March there is a \$10 discount. The Board, in setting the amenity for 2013, was very conscious of the difficult times for many of our families and have sought to 'live within their budget' just as our families have to.

### **Quote**

“People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be.”

— [Abraham Lincoln](#)

### **TRUANCY**

If you see children 'wandering' around the streets unaccompanied by an adult during school hours and you are concerned that they should be at school, please phone the Truancy service on:  
0800WAGGING  
08009244464

### **CELEBRATING SUCCESSES:**

*Royal Commonwealth Society Essay Competition 2012* Congratulations to Phillip Liu (Gold Award—Junior Category) and Hannah Fern (Bronze Award—Junior Category)

### **ATTENDANCE & LATENESS TO SCHOOL**

Parents are reminded that the School day **starts at 8.25am**. Children are expected to be at school and in class by 8.25. The attendance roll is taken at 8.25 and children arriving after this time are late for class. Children arriving late disrupt the class and distract lessons already underway. Parents' help getting children to school on time is appreciated and expected. Last year we had thefts from classrooms during school time and gates into the school are now locked at 8.30am and any children arriving late for school need to come to the office to sign in. A reminder that we have an attendance officer and if your child is going to be late or absent for the day a phone call is appreciated and expected. With over 570 children in the school it can be a time consuming job to follow up unexplained absences. A short message on our answer phone to let us know if children will be away can save staff a large amount of time on the telephone.

### **BIBLE IN SCHOOLS**

This programme will be starting on Wed 20 February for children in Years 4—6 Children not attending are supervised by a teacher. Parents who do not wish children to attend this programme are asked to write a note to the class teacher.

## **PARENT HELPERS REQUIRED URGENTLY**

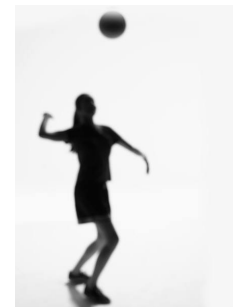
With some of our wonderful parent helpers moving on at the end of last year we are looking for 'new blood'.

- We need helpers for our Opaheke Road crossing. Adult supervision is needed to help support the Road Patrol Monitors. Helpers are rostered on either morning or afternoon and this duty comes up approximately 1 session every 2 weeks depending on the numbers of helpers we have. You are asked to be available while the Patrol Monitors are on duty and only need to stand to the side of the monitors in a prominent position to give them support if needed. They are all trained and very reliable. Can you spare 20 minutes once a fortnight? If your children use our crossings can you help? Please phone Tracey phone 296 0485 or email her at [tracey.hinton@clear.net.nz](mailto:tracey.hinton@clear.net.nz)
- With families moving on we also need a coordinator and helpers for our crossings on Tasman Drive and Short Street in the mornings. Perhaps you live on these Roads and may be able to help supervise in the mornings from 8am until 8.20am. We urgently need parent help. Please contact the school office or send a note to your child's teacher. Thank you.
- Next week we will recommence PMP (Perceptual Motor Programme) for our junior children and urgently require helpers to assist with children's physical and motor skills. If you are able to help, or would like to know more, please contact Lesley

who works from Room 18 at school, or send a note to the school office with your name, your child's name, and contact phone number to arrange times/day to suit you.

## **OPAHEKE SCHOOL NETBALL CLUB**

Information is now available for our Opaheke Netball Club season. Our club is operated by parents with our teacher in charge Viki Chatterton. To ensure its effectiveness and ability to give our girls the chance to compete in the local competition we require parents/aunts/uncle/family members to help run this club during the season. In particular, Club Duty (one day during the season), and End of Season Prize Giving. Our Club is open for all girls from Year 3 – 8. Please be aware that in committing to a team, your daughter is expected to attend practices regularly and to play Saturday games. If you would like your daughter to join they may collect an information form from the office. Fees remain the same as last year—\$120.



## **DRESS CODE**

The Board of Trustees last year confirmed a Dress Code for our students. In doing this they were mindful that even though our School does not have a full uniform, clothing worn to School must be appropriate. We have sent a copy of the Code home to all families via your eldest child at school.

## **MAD BUTCHER SPONSORSHIP:**

Yes this will continue. Buy you meat supplies from the Mad butcher at Takanini and he will donate 5% of the total purchase to our School. When paying the bill, just say that you are a supporter of Opaheke School and the docket will go into a separate account. Lucky draws will also take place. Funds raised will go towards a set of junior school computer tablets.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES:**

The annual Free Family Concert 'Elvis in the Gardens' is happening Sunday 24 February 2012 at Auckland Botanic Gardens 12 – 6pm. Thanks to the Auckland Council, Children's bouncy castles and face painting are FREE and the day is all about encouraging families and community to come out together and have fun. This entire event is funded by local businesses and community funding. This year a bucket collection will be taken for KiwiCan school programs.

[www.elvisinthegardens.co.nz](http://www.elvisinthegardens.co.nz)

Manurewa AFC Junior are going to be taking Registrations for 5th to 10th Grades in Feb for an exciting 2013 season 9th Feb 10 - 4pm, 11th Feb 5 - 7pm, 14th Feb 5 - 7pm Manurewa AFC Club Grounds Gibbs Road, Manurewa . Information available on website [www.sportsground.co.nz/manurewaafc](http://www.sportsground.co.nz/manurewaafc)

## **COMING EVENTS**

Fri 15 Feb	p.m. Police training School road patrol monitors
Tue 19 Feb	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed 20 Feb	Parent Information Evening 7.00pm NE—Yr4 7.30pm Yr5—Yr 8
Mon 24 to Wed 26 Feb	Cricket coaching skills programme
Tues 26 Feb-1 March	Y8 students at Camp Adair

Quiz—Emily loves cats and she keeps some as pets. All but two of them are completely black. All but two of them are completely white. All but two of them are completely ginger. How many cats does she have?

Best Wishes

*Murray Wratt*

*Principal*

ANSWER TO QUIZ: SHE HAS THREE CATS