

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

Sharing Caring Learning And Achieving

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“The Opaheke Way”

Newsletter No 08/13

12 June 2013

Dear Parents,
Greeting to all of our families. Now that the winter season is here it is a good time to reconnect with enjoying books and to I interest your children in the fun and information gained from a good book.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

Votes for our next Board of Trustees were counted late last week. The successful candidates names are recorded below:

- Mike Gilmore
- Jen Jury
- Mathew Morling
- Patrick O'Halloran
- Andrew Wickers
- Glennis Williams: Staff Representative.

A sincere thankyou is extended to the four unsuccessful candidates; these people ensured that all of our parents had a choice in their voting.



NOVOPAY DEBACLE:

The Ministerial enquiry has confirmed what Boards and staff have long known with the introduction of the Novopay payroll system for schools. The whole process was flawed, the software was not up to the job, the Ministry of Education was shown, yet again, to be inept and incompetent and staff were not paid, under paid or over paid.

Thank goodness for the professionalism of our teachers and support staff who kept a focus on students and learning throughout the whole sorry process.

WEBSITE BULLYING:

Schools are alerting parents to the bullying risks associated with ask.fm, a website which allows users to pose questions to each other anonymously. Netsafe has stated that because the users are anonymous and still at school, it has created bullying problems. The full report can be found at this address <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article>

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- WEBSITE BULLYING
- PTA

Fun Fact

The United States has paved enough roads to circle the Earth over 150 times!.



SCHOOL AMENITY

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

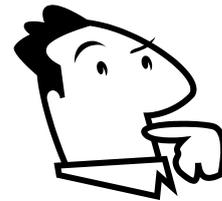
ASB Bank
12 3031 0728049 00

LUNCH PACKERS

Recently the PTA revamped the lunch room menu! This has led to an increase in the orders on Tuesdays and Fridays. For this reason we are seeking lunch packers, to help. Pre Schoolers are welcome! The lunch room is run as a fundraising venture for the PTA and contributes to resources and equipment that the PTA fund. If you can spare some time every few weeks please phone Zena on 299 9543 or the school office, thank you



**“Everybody is a genius.
But if you judge a fish
by its ability to climb a
tree, it will live its
whole life believing
that it is
stupid.”
— Albert Einstein
Quote**



CONGRATULATIONS: to the Year 7/8 boys selected to play for Counties North in the Counties Zone rugby last week.

Congratulations to Kieran Read, the captain of the All Blacks for the French Tests. Kieran is an ex Opaheke School Student from 1990 to 1996.

TREASURE QUEST: This major production is planned for early Term Four. Mrs Cantley is pleased with the effort that the lead actors and dancers are putting into learning their parts. It will involve Yr. 6, 7 and 8's and the story has some resemblance to 'The Hobbit'. The planned dates for the production is the 6th and 7th November. Parents, be sure to keep one of those evenings free.

READING EGGS:

This web based programme is highly recommended by our teachers and children can now enrol through our school. Your child will need access to computer and the internet at home. The cost is \$15 for the rest of the year and this will allow students access to the programme for the School year. Forms are available from the school office.

PTA NEWS

The annual Opaheke PTA quiz night will be held on Friday evening 21st June. That's Friday of next week.

These are great fun and a rollicking good time is had by all who came along. Either make up a team or come along and join up with others to form a team. Cameron Fairweather will be our quiz-master and his 'antics' are always a source of good fun.

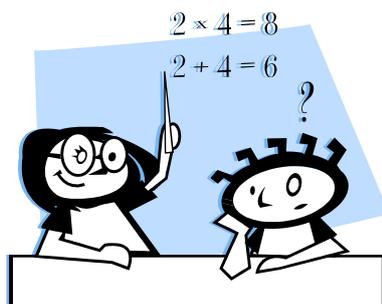
LOST PROPERTY

Is located outside Room Ten. please check this if your child has lost clothing items. It is important to remember that if clothing items are named it is much easier to return them to their owners before they end up in this growing 'mountain' of lost T Shirts, shorts, jerseys, shoes etc.

MATHLETICS

If you are interested in enrolling for Mathletics please contact the School office for a form. This is a great learning programme to help students enjoy maths more and achieve better results. The cost at this point of the year is \$23.00 per child

This fee covers the cost of this programme for the duration of the year at school and home. Payment should be given to your child's classroom teacher in a sealed and named envelope.



CORRECTION

In the last newsletter a mistake was made with the date for the speech finals. The School Speech finals will still take place at the usual time, towards the end of August not later in June.

EXCLUDED STUDENTS: Recent news about one Waikato primary school's experience with an excluded student have reinforced the difficult position schools are placed in. The Ministry of Education's position is that all pupils should be attending a local school. Board of Trustees in turn have a duty of care to ensure that their school is a safe place for students and that staff are not threatened in their workplace. Our position has always been that our pupils—and staff must be free from harassment, threats and physical violence. Our Board's view is that the rights of everyone else takes precedence over an individual student's rights.

OPAHEKE SCHOOL'S AMENITY

What is it used for? This School likes its parent body to know what their hard earned amenity goes towards. The following list gives some indication:
Computer hardware, Sports equipment, Classroom Supplies, Library books
One extra teacher in the junior school to keep our class sizes below the Ministry ratio, subsidizing outdoor education camps for Year Six and Eight classes.

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Razor Sparks Scooter: After our recent Wheels Day at school a Razor Sparks scooter seems to have gone home with the wrong student. If your child has this model of scooter, could you please check it is the correct one. The missing scooter has 'Harry' written on the front. There is another scooter the same still at school. Please ring the school office if you can help us with this.

COMING EVENTS

Weds: 12 June	Photolife –taking class and team photographs.
Thurs 13 June	Y 7/8 Boys Soccer
Wed 19 June	7 pm PTA meeting. All parents Welcome
Thurs 20 June	Y 7/8 Winter Sports day
Fri 21 June	PTA Quiz Night: 7.30– 10 pm
Mon 24 June	Dental Unit X-ray Van arrives for a day
Wed 3 July	Yr. 5/6 winter sports field day.

Quiz: What do these items have in common?... Arrow, Ladder, Spanner, Hockey-Stick, T-Square, Crutch.

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt

Principal

ANSWER: They all feature as objects to be picked up in the table game 'Jack Straws'.

