

Letter #23

Friday 5 November 2021

Principal: Sean Valvoi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora Koutou

Return to School for All Students

Although no decision has been made, there is a possibility that school will return for students and staff during Term 4 this year. There has been considerable discussion amongst Principal groups, particularly the Auckland Principals' Association around how this might look. The Ministry is involved in conversations with Principal groups about the best way forward.

It may be that there is a partial reopening of schools at some point after 15 November. The Opaheke School Board had a meeting on Tuesday night, and they are interested to canvas family intentions, should the schools reopen. There will be some families quite happy for their children to return, while others will be quite anxious about their children returning. That anxiety is only natural. We are hoping that next week we receive more information and after that we will send out the survey. We will share a summary of the survey results with you.

Students Not Returning Next Year

Aside from Year 8 students, we urgently need to hear from parents if their children are not returning to Opaheke School next year. Senior Leaders are completing classes now and we need to accurately assess numbers in each class, especially those in the senior area of the school in Years 5, 6 and 7.

Please email the office today:

office@opaheke.school.nz

Next Year

We understand that there has been considerable disappointment from Year 6 students who have missed out on camp this year. I am setting aside money in the budget next year to ensure that Year 7 students experience more than the usual EOTC experience for Year 7. We also plan to go ahead and implement changes for Year 7 and 8 next year. We hoped for students in these year groups to ride their bikes to school and we will still do this if and when we open later this term. The introduction of further initiatives will happen next year.

New Students

I know we have a number of students who are new to Opaheke School. They may be new entrant students or older students who have moved into the area. I do see a lot of new housing and building in our school zone. Unfortunately, students and parents have not been able to get onsite to have visits or to 'look around'. I will be endeavouring to conduct a virtual tour of the school which I will record and make available for you to view at any time. We will notify you of other opportunities to connect and find out more.

Ph: 09 298 5410

Email: office@opaheke.school.nz

Tasman Drive, Papakura 2113

Great News

Thank you to the families who went to Auckland Airport Park and Ride Vaccination Centre while it was open between 15 September and 6 October. While visiting the centre families were able to nominate a school to win a prize. Opaheke School was one of three randomly selected schools to win a fabulous cooking package donated by Haier. The package includes three cooking stations and a Haier cooking and nutrition programme to support students learning to cook. Once again, if it was you, thank you very much!



Get Vaccinated

It is mandated that all staff need to be vaccinated with at least 1 dose by 15 November to work at school. At the beginning of next year staff must be fully vaccinated to work at school. I encourage those in the school community who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated to keep our tamariki safe. Here is a link to find a vaccination near you.

<https://bit.ly/OSVaccinate>

Three vaccinations centres close to school:

Papakura Marae Vaccination Centre 29 Hunua Road, Papakura	Walk-in	Monday to Friday 9am to 3:30pm
Takanini Vaccination Centre 8 Great South Road	Walk-in	Monday to Sunday 8:30am to 3pm
Life Pharmacy Papakura, Roselands Shopping Centre, 96 Great South Road	Walk-in	Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm Saturday 9am to 3pm

Have an enjoyable weekend and stay safe, keep active and look after yourself and your whānau.

Noho oro mai

Sean Valvoi
Principal