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TERM  
THREE



WEEK 5

# OPUA SCHOOL



## SCIENCE FAIR NEWS

Wednesday was Science Fair with a number of our students representing our school in Kerikeri. **The standard of their projects was really high and they should all be very proud of themselves.** Feedback was that our projects were, once again, presented extremely well and were very imaginative and interesting. We wait expectantly for the results. Again, a big thank you to Clare Dorans who guided our students through the process from start to end. We are very lucky indeed to be able to utilise her expertise.

**\*\*NEWSFLASH\*\*NEWSFLASH\*\***

**The following pupils have been invited to attend the prize giving on Friday night - Transpiring Trees - Sam Ross, Liam & Meghshyam and Frisky Fire - Brad, Hugh and Declan. 5.30pm @ The Centre - Kerikeri**

## Room 4 Tui Garden Working Bee

The Room 4 Tui Garden Working bee last Thursday was phenomenal. Thank you very much to all those hard-working and creative parents, caregivers and friends of this school who gave up so much of their time and came along literally to 'muck-in'! It was amazing to see how it all came together near the end to become another environmental work of art! The pupils loved being a part of a team and the learning benefits are immeasurable but undoubtedly deep and significant.

Well done to everyone but, obviously, a special mention to our inspiration and leader Mrs Young. Her vision, energy levels and organisational acumen left us all, as usual, open-mouthed and simply very grateful that she is here educating and inspiring our children and her colleagues. Unsurprisingly, she was on site again over the weekend, with her willing helpers, Roger and Margaret, giving their own free time to put some finishing touches to the presentation.

It would be simply incredible to win this massive, nationwide competition for a third year in a row but, whatever the result, all who were involved in this project were winners again. Thank you to one and all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, located at the bottom right of the page.

## Attendance Clarification

Just to clarify my recent comments on attendance: I am fully aware of the very many bugs around at the moment and would very much hope that any child who is not well is at home and in bed recovering. It is absolutely the best place for them. Illness was not the cause for my comments. I am simply concerned about any unjustified absences that get in the way of children's learning. Particularly, I am concerned about the number of holidays and trips taken during term time. My colleagues and I see that these do have a significant detrimental effect on the progress of a child's learning and I want to be open about discouraging them for the sake of the child's academic development.

When an absence is noted, the school is required by the Ministry of Education to classify it into various categories.

- If no explanation / report has been given to us by parents/caregivers, then the absence will be classified as Truant.
- If an absence is reported to us, and the explanation for that absence is satisfactory, then it will be classified as Explained and Justified.
- If an absence is reported to us, but the explanation for that absence is not satisfactory, then it will be classified as Explained but Unjustified.

We have listed some examples of Justified and Unjustified Absences for you.

### Guidelines - Justified Absences

'Justified' absences occur when the explanation for a student's absence is considered by the school to be a reasonable, acceptable and defensible reason for the student to be missing out on schooling.

Examples are:

- Cultural or sporting representation (regional or national)
- Bereavement - Tangi
- Force majeure – road closure, flooding, bus breakdown, car accident.
- Exceptional family circumstances – the discretion of the school / principal may be required
- Illness (hospitalisation) – details may be confidential - this will be respected by the school
- Sickness
- Medical or dental appointment – for ½ day unless appointment out of town.
- Health Appointments, other than medical/dental
- Internal school activities, appointments, school trips – sporting or cultural, camp (these will count as present )

### Guidelines - Unjustified Absences

'Unjustified' absences occur when an absence is either unexplained or the explanation given is not considered by the school to be a reasonable, acceptable and defensible reason for the student to be missing out on schooling.

- No explanation – truanting
- Lateness - due to family or child sleeping in / left home late / waiting for siblings
- Not wanting to participate in school activities – e.g. cross country, dance performances, etc.
- Family holiday in New Zealand
- Family holiday overseas
- Recovering from weekend's activities /shopping/birthday
- Cat / dog run over / taking animal to the vet
- Staying away from home (caregivers may be away) with no means of transport to school
- Moving house, packing, unpacking
- Travelling and attending sporting events and concerts

Please note: These guidelines do not preclude the Principal from using discretion over a specific student absence. Follow-up to Absences - Because attendance at school is vital for student learning, and compulsory by law, the school is required to follow-up when students are persistently absent without justification. We will be proactive in contacting parents / caregivers.

ATTENDANCE = ACHIEVEMENT

# MOVIE NIGHT

TOMORROW NIGHT!

**MOVIE: Ice Age 4 (PG)**

Doors open at 5.30pm, movie starts at 6pm

**\$3 entry**

**As always there will be lovely food and drinks for sale at very reasonable prices.**

Bring your own cushions and rugs.

Help is needed for set-up, door collection, kitchen and clean up.

Donations of baking are always accepted.

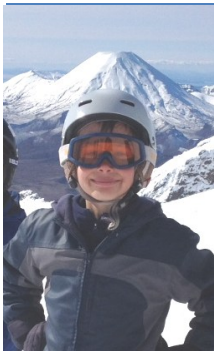
Parents welcome to stay for the movie

## WANTED

Heather, our lovely Librarian, is in need of a couple of helpers to come into school in the mornings next week to help cover books. We have just purchased lots of new books and the children can't wait to get their hands on them! Please let us know if you are available to help.

You will need to bring sharp scissors

The PTA are after baskets (cane, wicker etc.) to be used to make hampers for the upcoming Casino night and raffles. If you have any lying around, gathering dust we are more than happy to re-use/upcycle them. Just drop them off at the school office - thank you



### NORTHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL SKI CHAMPS

Opua School pupil Hugh Blues has been down at Whakapapa competing at the Northland Primary School Ski Champs. Due to the terrible weather the competition lasted only one day. Hugh finished 113 out of 138. His quickest time was 23.98 seconds. His best so far. Well done! Hugh will have a report for the next newsletter.

### NEW ARRIVALS

Room One are very happy to announce that they are the proud 'caregivers' of 10 new little baby chicks! They hatched early this week and are already zooming around their new home inside the classroom. Please feel free to come and have a look at our new babies.



We have entered the Tui School Garden Challenge again! Opua School has the proud title of winning this NATIONAL competition two years in a row! The pupils of Room 4 have been extremely busy preparing our gardens and

creating new ones for the upcoming growing season. We are posting regular updates on this website- <http://www.tuigarden.co.nz/school-garden-challenge>. Please go to the site and bookmark it for future use. There are a few different ways that YOU can help us win prizes. Just look on the website. We openly encourage any school or community members to come along and give us a hand or share your expertise or cuttings with us. The more the merrier!

## OPUA SCHOOL CASINO NIGHT

**Saturday 28th September**

Opua Cruising Club

**ONLY \$25 per ticket**

You get given \$10,000 funny money to start with.

There will be great prizes, fantastic auctions, hilarious horse races and lots of fun!

Proudly supported by the Bay of Islands Rotary.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Tickets on sale SOON

## THANK YOU

A BIG thank you to Grant and Anna from Resene Paints Kerikeri who generously donated paint for our wonderful new mural. Mrs Shortland is working with a group of artistic pupils to create a new piece of art for the school.

# Cross Country

# HOCKEY

- Cross Country 13th September Waikare

We will be taking pupils from Rooms 3, 4 and 5 to the Interschool Cross Country in Waikare. We will have a bus but we will require parental help with transport and supervision.

If there are any children keen to go from Rooms 1 and 2 that would be great, but we need their parents to take them there and back. The smaller children have their races earlier on in the day so they are able to head home after their race.

They will be running against their age groups as at 1st January 2012.

**PRIZEGIVING SATURDAY 10am KAIKOHE**  
There will be no shared morning tea or Play the Parents.  
**PLEASE** return all borrowed hockey sticks, shin pads and socks (clean) to the school office as **SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

# NETBALL

**Bol Red Devils v Riverview Raiders**

**9.00am Court 8**

Pohutukawas v Riverview Rebels

**9.00am Court 1**

**Opua Yr 7 v Keri Bombers**

**10.30am Court 8**

Opua Chiefs v Rebel Magic

**11.15am Court 1**

**GOOD LUCK GIRLS!**

# SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

## 18th SEPTEMBER

Your child will have an envelope for pre-ordering school photos. If you require a sibling or team order form, please see Maree at the school office for one. Photolife Studios have taken our school photos for the last few years and they always turn out lovely and they are a good price.

Please fill in the envelopes and return them to school before Tuesday the 17th September.

Any queries, please phone Maree.

# Term Dates 2013

<b>T 3</b>	<b>29 July</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>27 September</b>
<b>T 4</b>	<b>14 October</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>18 December</b>



## Paihia School Fundraiser

### BIG NIGHT OUT

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Kingsgate Hotel, Paihia  
Only \$60 a ticket

- Includes a delicious buffet dinner including a set selection of complimentary wine per table
- Welcoming champagne cocktail or tap beer on arrival
- Charity auction with awesome prizes
- Entry into spot prize draws during the evening
- Entertainment, music and dancing with Markby & Flash from More FM

This is a PTA fundraiser that we do every two years, It is a great fundraiser for the school and a fun night out.

We have managed to reduce the ticket price this year by \$35 to make it affordable for people to come along and have a night out and support the school. Great value!