PRINCIPAL PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

27 February 2026

I was lucky enough to visit our Year 13 students at their camp this week. They were busy surfing and hill climbing when I visited, and I hope they have all returned with great stories about the things they tried. Our camp focuses on building a sense of connection and purpose in our Year 13s, and that aligns with our school values, particularly Wairuatanga. A special shout out has to go to the teachers who went to support the kaupapa, and to Ollie and Rique of the Takutai Adventure Company who provide the surfing lessons.

Thursday was also our first Hui Whānau for the year in our whare wānanga, Te Manu Korihī te Atapō. It was wonderful to meet so many whānau and hear about their aspirations for our ākonga. We're all focused on lifting up our young people, and the vision shared by our Tari Māori emphasised the importance of language, identity and culture for our students. I encourage all our students, whether in rumaki or mainstream, to take advantage of the opportunities they have to learn the kōrero passed down, the better to understand how we connect with each other.

One of the great things about working in a secondary school is that we get to support young people through one of the greatest changes in their life. In the five years of secondary school, our rangatahi discover a lot about their skills and strengths and interests, and they grow into their adult selves, working on a more equal footing with their teachers on shared learning. It's an enormous privilege to be part of this change. Opportunities like camp are part of helping our young people relate to each other and to their teachers with mutual respect, kindness and shared purpose. Our Hui Whānau are another sort of opportunity, to share and nurture the aspirations we hold for our rangatahi.

Next week, we have swimming sports on Tuesday. We do need to have a completed health form for each student. If you've completed yours and sent it in, thank you so much; we appreciate knowing how we can look after your young person when in our care. If you haven't completed it yet, or you have but it hasn't been sent in, then we'll be sending one home with all the students we know have gaps. If you have any questions about this, please call the office on Monday and we can check.

Ngā mihi

Gwyneth

Feel free to contact me at
principal@rotorualakes.school.nz

THIS IS LAKES HIGH

We are authentic. We're real. We're pono. Mauria te pono.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Investiture 2026

Our Head Students and Deputies were formally invested in a powerful ceremony celebrating leadership and academic excellence. We also recognised students who achieved NCEA endorsements, acknowledging their commitment and pride in learning as they step forward to serve our kura.

YEAR 13 CAMP

Strengthening Bonds

Year 13 Camp at Ōhope gave our senior students time to reconnect, reflect, and strengthen the bonds that will carry them beyond school. These moments of unity, laughter, challenge, and leadership shape who they are becoming.

ATHLETICS DAY

House Spirit in Action

House spirit was on full display as students competed with pride and backed one another throughout the day. Participation, positivity, and respect defined the atmosphere across every house.

MANAAKITANGA

Love Grace Appeal

Led by Mrs Goodrick, our students are demonstrating true manaakitanga through the Love Grace Handbag Appeal. With 12 handbags already filled and a goal to exceed last year's total of 46, our students are proving that compassion and action go hand in hand.