PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

13th March 2026

With winter just around the corner and some cold mornings this week, we know our rangatahi are pulling out their winter clothes and getting ready. Please check that all items are named! We collect up lost property as we find it, and it's held at reception. Please ask your young person to check there if they have misplaced something.

If you've realised that your rangatahi's winter uniform isn't quite ready, like they've grown out of a jacket or their plain black winter shoes, then please get in touch. If needed, we can provide a uniform pass for a short time, for example, if something is wet or you need some time to replace it. Send your young person with a note, or call the office to talk with one of the deans. We hear that there are still a few issues with the Uniform Shoppe and the sports uniform, and we are continuing to work with them. However, they do have the winter rain jacket, which is super warm and toasty, in stock.

We've noticed an increase in litter around the school over the last little while. We're all responsible for our school environment, so next week all of us, students and staff alike, will be having a clean up. The exact time will be a surprise for our students. We'll be providing bags and gloves, so that we can all participate and help make the school look clean and welcoming.

We've had some major student success this week at the Bay of Plenty Swimming Champs and Athletic Champs. Congratulations to all those students who have competed. We've got our debating teams out this weekend taking part in a tournament in Tauranga, and I hope their arguments are sharp and incisive. Other students are participating in various events at Crankworx.

Finally, congratulations and good luck to all students, staff and whānau whanui of Ngā Moana who are standing this weekend in the Te Arawa Senior Regionals for Te Matatini. I have my tickets, but, like many, I will be livestreaming from my office on Friday and hoping that the weather is good on Saturday so that I can be there in person. I'm looking forward to seeing some amazing brackets.

Ngā mihi

Gwyneth

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

THIS IS LAKES

Celebrating the moments, achievements, and spirit of our students.

Friday 13th March 2026

OUTDOOR EDUCATION ACADEMY

Learning on Our Lakes

Year 9 Outdoor Education Academy students have been building paddle craft skills while learning about the lakes surrounding our kura. From paddle boards to whitewater kayaks, students have developed water confidence, safety skills, and whanaungatanga through shared outdoor experiences.

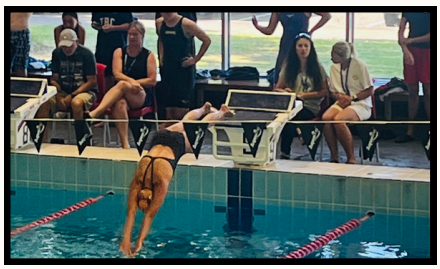
YEAR 9 ATTENDANCE

Showing Up Matters

At this week's Year 9 assembly we celebrated students who achieved 100% attendance in the first half of Term 1, with many others reaching 95–99%. Regular attendance strengthens learning, friendships, and the sense of whanaungatanga that helps students succeed. It was great to recognise these students and celebrate the commitment they are showing to their learning and to their classmates.

BOP SWIMMING

Students Represent Lakes



Lakes swimmers competed strongly at the Bay of Plenty Secondary Schools Championships, with excellent results across the day. Senior swimmers Kate Staunton and Leonard Rankin led strong performances, while younger swimmers stepped confidently into competition representing Lakes with pride and whanaungatanga.

ROWING SUCCESS

Strong Results at Karāpiro

Lakes rowers showed determination at the North Island Secondary Schools Regatta at Lake Karāpiro. Highlights included wins for Zoe and Ellie in the Novice Girls final, and Grace and Jasmine in their race, with Jasmine also placing third in the single sculls. Other crews also competed strongly across the regatta, representing Lakes with pride and determination throughout the weekend.

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