PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

20th March 2026

We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our teacher interviews next Tuesday and Wednesday. By now, all whānau should have received information about how to book. If you haven't, or the booking isn't working for you, please call the office to make a time. We'd also love to see your tamariki with you, since they are an expert in their own learning. We know that sometimes you might have other family, so we've got a supervised space available for your younger children. It's near the auditorium, so you'll need to drop them there and leave your phone number for emergencies, but we're happy to have them too.

This week, I went to the celebration for opening new Kainga Ora houses on Mansfield Pl, along with our senior Te Ao Haka class. We joined some of our teina students from Owhata School. It was wonderful to see the warm, dry, healthy homes ready to shelter families in our community. Our students had the opportunity to perform a waiata, and, as always, they did an excellent job. One of the best parts of my role is the chance to get out of school with our rangatahi and find more opportunities for them to participate in and contribute to events and organisations. A special shout out has to go to the students who helped put up the gazebos and helped the organisers.

Next week, we have two major sporting events. A handful of extremely committed students are in Twizel, competing in the MAADI cup for rowing. This has been a huge undertaking for those young people, and we wish them all the best. Closer to home, around 30 students are participating in the Waka Ama Nationals at Tikitapu. Waka ama is always fiercely competitive, and I'm looking forward to getting out to the lake to see some races.

Finally, we also have our annual Meidai visit from Japan next week. The students are here to see what life is like in our school and community, and have been buddied up with students to have an authentic classroom experience. We know our rangatahi will demonstrate our value of manaakitanga towards our visitors, and I hope all the students involved have a great time and learn a lot.

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 20th March 2026

VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS

Five Days of Competition

Lakes students competed at the Bay of Plenty Senior Volleyball Championships, showing resilience, teamwork, and pride across five days. Both teams finished strongly, with the boys delivering a thrilling 35–33 set win. Players represented our kura with determination and the whanaungatanga that defines Lakes sport.

STUDENT LEADERS

Learning Through Leadership

Our senior student leaders attended the GRIP Leadership Conference, connecting with students from across the region and exploring new ideas and approaches to leadership. The day strengthened confidence, communication, and leadership skills, while building whanaungatanga as students proudly represented Lakes and grew as leaders within our kura.

TOURISM IN ACTION

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Year 12 Tourism students experienced Rotorua's leading attractions, bringing their learning to life through real-world experiences. From Te Puia to Skyline and ZORB, students gained valuable insight into the tourism industry while showing manaakitanga, engagement, and pride as ambassadors for Lakes throughout the day.

DEBATING SUCCESS

Student Voice on Show

Nine Lakes students competed at the EOTC Debating Tournament in Tauranga, speaking with confidence and representing our kura with pride. Maya Gerbert, Jiya Tomar and Purnima Pahwa won both opening rounds, while Josiah Borja, Sam Jensen and Lagan Nora also secured a win. First-time debaters Harley Wheaton, Rory King and Jaeden Antipas stepped up with courage and growing confidence.

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