PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

24th April 2026

It's been great to be back and hear from all our rangatahi about their holiday, and their plans for their learning this term. We have found that some students need reminding about phone use, as they reset their expectations back to being here. Our guidance from the Government and the Ministry of Education is that students should not have phones at school. If students bring their phones to school, they must be turned off and in their bags, 8.45am - 3.15pm. However, we know that you may need to get in touch with them. Our preference is that you call the front office for any messages. If there is a situation that means you need to be in touch with them, or they have a medical need, please get in touch with the front office or the deans so that we can work out a pass for them. Whatever the situation, students should not have their phone out in class. We'd really appreciate your help reminding our rangatahi about this.

We have some amazing opportunities coming up soon for our students. Some of our rumaki students will be great tuakana for Ōwhata school students at their noho next week, before all our rumaki students are having a noho marae of their own. Our production of Grease opens at the end of the week after, and I hear that tickets are going fast. We'd love to see you all there! We've also just had confirmation of some places for Year 10 students on the Spirit of Adventure, so please look out for that. In the last two weeks of May, many of our students will sit their Literacy and Numeracy co-requisite exams, and I know our staff are already hard at work helping them prepare.

Through all of the work and activity of school, we are guided by our school values. Whatever our rangatahi are engaged in, they build their own shared sense of purpose and belonging in our learning community, and thus lift up their sense of wairuatanga. It's always a privilege to work with young people and help them on this journey.

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 24TH APRIL 2026

GREASE HITS THE LAKES STAGE

‘Lights Up’ on Our Students

Our first musical in nearly seven years is here, and it’s a big one. Step into Rydell High, where summer love, fast cars, and friendships take centre stage. With iconic songs and plenty of energy, our students are bringing this classic to life. Whether it’s your first time or you know every word, come along and support our cast on stage. Get your tickets via the school website banner - tickets are selling fast.

ORIENTEERING SUCCESS

North Island Champs

Rotorua Lakes students took on the North Island Secondary Schools Orienteering Champs in New Plymouth, delivering outstanding results against top competition. Standouts included Oscar Burns winning both Senior Boys events and Elena Burns taking out Intermediate Girls Long. Strong relay results and multiple top 10 finishes capped off a huge effort, with real resilience and whanaungatanga shown across every course.

TUĀKANA–TĒINA

Learning Through Leadership

Our Year 13 PPE students worked alongside their tēina class, building relationships and leading learning across a range of activities. This came together in a haerenga to the Redwoods and Lake Ōkāreka, with hut building, waka ama, games, and challenges throughout the day. The Year 13s also provided lunch, showing real manaakitanga while gaining valuable NCEA credits.

REAL PATHWAYS

Career Journey Shared

At the end of last term, Year 10 Financial Literacy students heard from NZDF’s Staff Sergeant Tom Robertson, who shared his journey from school leaver to a career across the Army and Navy. Speaking honestly about the choices, challenges, and turning points along the way, he gave students a real insight into different pathways and what success can look like over time. A strong link to their learning around future pathways and decision making.

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