PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

27th March 2026

Thank you to all those who made it to our Whānau Interviews this week. It was great to meet so many people and hear about your aspirations for our young people. Our rangatahi are busy learning about themselves as well as mastering the knowledge, skills and strategies of the curriculum, and it was great to hear about their interests and ambitions too. I hope we will see you all again in Term Two.

As you might know, attendance is a huge priority for all schools right now. Our attendance plan is linked on our school website, and includes information about when we will get in touch with you. We're still working out some of the fine details about how the email notifications work, especially in cases where whānau have already been in touch. We encourage you to check the attendance for your young person regularly, and get in touch if you think we have something recorded wrong or you get a notification that doesn't make sense. We're happy to fix any mistakes or to check with you that we have the right information, and sometimes we might need to explain some of the Ministry of Education guidelines in more detail.

Overall, our school attendance this term has been excellent. We have a recognitions assembly on Wednesday, and I intended to award all those students with 100% attendance, but I would need to call up 120 students, and I only have 40 minutes available. Two thirds of our students have attendance over 90%, which is the Ministry target for regular attendance. That means those students had four or fewer days off this term. Congratulations to all those students. Coming to school regularly is one of the biggest indicators of success any student can have, and we love having all our rangatahi here every day. Let's keep our great attendance up all next week and finish the term on a high note.

Finally, next week also marks the last week of our long-serving sports co-ordinator, Lisa MacFarlane. She has served sport at Ngā Moana for 21 years, and has nurtured countless students in their love of sport. She always knows someone who knows about any sport or activity, and is tireless in organising and managing and sorting out all the problems our students, teachers and parents bring to her. This week was her last waka ama nationals. We will miss her immensely. If you wish to leave a message for her, we have a virtual farewell card. Click on the link and it will open up - you can type a message or add a photo.

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 27th March 2026

HAUORA EXPO

Manaakitanga in Action

Students connected with a wide range of community organisations at the Lakes Hauora Expo, including Save Our Babies, Mokoia Community Association, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Pikiao, Real Youth Services and Taiohi Tūrama. The day strengthened wairuatanga and wellbeing, finishing with a powerful haka from our Year 13 students in appreciation.

ATHLETICS SUCCESS

Pushing for Podiums

Lakes athletes competed at the Bay of Plenty and WAIBOP Championships, producing strong results and multiple podium finishes. Julien Collet and Keanu Alderton led standout performances, with several athletes qualifying for higher honours. Students showed determination, resilience, and pride, representing Lakes with commitment and strong whanaungatanga.

WEARABLE ARTS

Creativity on Show

Our Year 9 Kowhai Extension students designed and showcased their own wearable arts pieces, combining creativity, storytelling, and performance. Mia, Oakley and Izzy's "Newspaper" creation took out first place. Students showed confidence and teamwork, reflecting strong student voice and the whanaungatanga that brings learning to life.

NATIONAL CHAMP

Five-Time Title Winner

Year 10 student Maddy Newcombe delivered an outstanding performance at the BMXNZ National Championships, winning all seven of her races to claim the NZ1 title. This marks her fifth consecutive national title, reflecting her dedication, resilience, and commitment to her sport. Her success is a result of countless hours of training and the strong support of her whānau and wider BMX community.

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