PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

15th May 2026

First of all, good luck to all our students sitting the Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite assessments next week. I hear from the teachers that our students have all been working hard and taking their preparation seriously. For some students, this will be their first experience with assessments like this. It's normal to be nervous, but we believe in their skills and abilities. If they don't do quite as well as they expect, they will have other opportunities later in the year.

On Wednesday afternoon, I was lucky enough to catch part of our senior boys football game here at school. While their half-time conversation with their coach made no sense to me, it was great to see them exchange ideas and encouragement about how to manage the game and the strategies they could use to improve. They clearly support each other, have a clear game plan, and have worked on the skills they need to execute their plan. These are attributes that will serve them well in the classroom as well, and set them up for a great future.

Thank you to all our students who supported Pink Shirt Day this year. Our Year 12 Health students put together a whole week of activities that focused on developing connections and hauora. When our rangatahi feel like they are part of something bigger than themselves, and feel important and valued, we know they can flourish. If any of our rangatahi feel isolated, please urge them to get in touch with our wellness team.

Finally, we're delighted that we're getting a freezer for our Breakfast and Lunch teams to use. If you have donations, including bread, spreads, paper plates and cutlery, or perhaps some home baking, we now have room to store anything that needs freezing. It means a lot to our students that they know they can have a sandwich or something to eat to help fuel their brain for learning, and we appreciate all those supporting us to provide this.

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 15TH MAY 2026

GREASE MAGIC

Community Behind Our Students

What a week for our Grease cast and crew. Across the season, students performed to sold out audiences while welcoming kura from across the rohe to daytime performances. A standout moment came when our own Puketawhero students honoured the cast and crew with a powerful haka, reflecting the deep whanaungatanga and pride surrounding this production. Huge acknowledgement to students, staff, whānau, and supporters who helped make this season so special.

TE PUNA RANGATIRA

Leadership Through Service

In Week 3, our Year 9 Te Puna Rangatira students were officially welcomed into their leadership portfolios alongside our Year 13 prefect team. Already, students have been out supporting the community, including helping at Lynmore Primary School's cross country event. Through opportunities like these, students are growing confidence, manaakitanga, and leadership while strengthening whanaungatanga between our kura and local primary schools.

SPORTS SCIENCE

Learning in Motion

Our Year 11 Sports Science students recently took their learning beyond the classroom through BMX sessions with Rotorua BMX Club and fitness challenges around Rotorua. Students developed practical skills while applying learning around biomechanics, sports nutrition, and exercise physiology. Huge thanks to Sam Hanna, Dr Katie Schofield, Ben McFarlane, supporting whānau, and Whaea Christina de Lore for helping create these awesome learning opportunities.

WELLINGTON TRIP

Pathways and Perspectives

Last week, our Year 12 History and Economics students travelled to Wellington for a cultural, academic, and pathways-based experience. Visits to Parliament, Treasury, Te Tiriti exhibitions, and Te Herenga Waka Victoria University helped bring classroom learning to life while connecting students to future opportunities beyond school. Huge thanks to Mr Meredith and Ms Chemis for supporting this valuable experience and giving up time away from their own whānau.

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