PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

1st May 2026

This week, we've had students out supporting kaupapa in other schools. On Wednesday, we had students supporting our Ōwhata Primary whānau at their noho marae, and students at Rotokawa helping them with their EPro8 Science and Engineering challenges. In the upcoming weeks, we'll also have rangatahi helping at Lynmore with Chess. I have met with the Eastside Principals already this term, and it's been great to be working towards our shared goals for our young people and our wider community. Our students learn a lot from working with others and getting a chance to be leaders and citizens, and we want to keep these opportunities going.

Already this term, we've noticed a sharp increase in the number of students needing food through our Breakfast Club. Our Breakfast Club is open to support all our rangatahi, as we know that it's easy to get caught short sometimes. We do have some capacity to support these students, but there are not many external providers whom we can access. We have limited preparation facilities in our current set up. We'd really appreciate it if anyone in our community can support our young people to flourish. In particular, we're after a fridge and/or freezer for storage and to allow us to hold perishable materials and ingredients, but we'd also appreciate donations of money, food products (especially non-perishables like cereal, bread and spreads) and paper plates and bowls, and disposable cutlery. Please get in touch if you have anything you'd like to contribute! We can assure you that all donations will go directly into food and resources for our rangatahi.

Finally, Grease opens next Friday. We would love to see you! We can't wait to share their success with you. I was lucky enough to see them one evening this week, trying on their costumes for the first time. It looks amazing.

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 1ST MAY 2026

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

ANZAC Day - Honouring Service

Our senior prefects represented our kura with pride at ANZAC Day commemorations. They attended the Ohinemutu service, laid a wreath in remembrance, and joined the march to the Sir Howard Morrison Centre. Acknowledgement to cadets Grayson Emtage, Sasha Baker, Serenity Rose-Walker & Asher Goddard, & to Whaea Haana and Ms. Blackmore for their support. A respectful and meaningful way to honour those who served.

LAKES ON TOUR

USA Dance Experience

A big shoutout to dancers from AMJAZZ Dance Studios returning from an incredible USA tour through New York and Orlando. From training in world-class studios to performing at the Statue of Liberty and Disney Springs, this was a powerful experience of growth and performance. Special acknowledgement to Lakes students Kristin Conradie, Charlotte Hodge and Eloise Newcombe, and to Mrs Hodge for supporting the group.

REDWOODS LEARNING

Kaitiakitanga in Action

9 Rimu headed into the Whakarewarewa Forest, combining mountain biking with hands-on learning about pest control. Tim Crawshaw shared insights into the Pest Free Trust's mahi, showing how traps protect native wildlife. Students saw the impact up close and are now planning their own trapping lines. A huge thanks to Tim and Whaea Sophie for making this learning possible.

9 KŌWHAI DAY

Stepping Up Together

Our Year 9 Kōwhai Extension class took on a full day of new experiences, exploring games from around the world. From underwater hockey to Sepak Takraw, students stepped outside their comfort zones and gave everything a go. What stood out was the way they supported each other and built confidence together, showing real manaakitanga and whanaungatanga. Thanks to staff and providers who made the day possible.

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