PRINCIPAL PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

22nd May 2026

The students sitting their Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite assessments this week have all been making a great effort. If your rangatahi has been involved, we hope they found it easier than they expected. If they are still to start their testing, we hope they're ready and not too nervous.

Our performing arts students are not really having a break after Grease, as we have students competing in Rockquest this weekend. They'll be performing on the big stage at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre, and I'm really looking forward to seeing them. We hope that they have a great time and enjoy the experience very much. I also want to congratulate the teams who competed in the North Island Hillary Get 2 Go challenge. We had three teams in the top six, but, sadly, only one team can go to nationals. I expect there will be plenty of competition between those teams in the future!

This weekend also marks one of the most significant events in the maramataka: the Ngati Pikiao Poukai at Punawhakareia Marae, Rotoiti. We wish to extend our deepest whakaaro and support to the hau kainga, manuhiri and all whānau, alongside the Kingitanga and Kuini Ngawai Hono i te Pō. This is a truly significant occasion within Ngati Pikiao and Te Arawa. May the day be one of meaningful reflection, deep connection, abundant aroha and enduring Kotahitanga.

You might have seen some of the government's recent announcements around the future of NCEA and what our national certifications might look like, alongside the curriculum refresh. These two things together tell us what learning we should offer, and how our young people will be measured and awarded against it. There are some big changes in there, and we are working hard to understand and be ready to implement them so that our young people can continue to succeed to their highest potential.

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 22ND MAY 2026

HILLARY CHALLENGE

Pushing the Limits

Huge congratulations to our Adventure Racing teams who competed at the Hillary Challenge North Island Trials. Out of 30 teams, all three Lakes teams finished inside the top six, with two placing in the top three. Rotorua Lakes Orange achieved the top overall score alongside New Plymouth Boys' and Girls' High Schools. Students showed incredible resilience, teamwork, and whanaungatanga throughout the demanding course. Huge thanks to Mr Lenihan and supporting whānau.

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Leading with Pride

Year 13 students Izzy Managh and Renee Price continue to shine both on and off the football field. Earlier this month, the pair made their debut starts for Cambridge Women's First Team in a 5–0 win in the LOTTO NRFL Women's Championship. Renee also recently represented the BOP Surge Women's Futsal Team nationally. Back at Lakes, both students now lead our First XI Girls team with pride, manaakitanga, and determination while supporting younger players across the squad.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Camp at Kura

Year 9 Outdoor Education Academy students recently spent the night camping at kura as preparation for their upcoming Whirinaki winter tramp. Students developed practical outdoor skills including tent setup, cooking on the fire, bread making, and teamwork. S'mores and hot milo helped keep spirits high, while shared meals around the fire strengthened whanaungatanga and confidence. Huge thanks to Whaea Sophie for creating these memorable experiences for our students.

TRAMPING SUPPORT

Backing Our Students

A huge thank you to our wider Lakes community for the generous donations of tramping boots and shoes for Outdoor Education students. The response has reflected the manaakitanga within our kura and wider whānau. These donations will help keep students warm, dry, and prepared for their upcoming Whirinaki tramp, while continuing to support future outdoor adventures and opportunities for many more students in the years ahead.

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