PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

8th May 2026

It's been great seeing our students busy working this week. Aside from Grease and the enormous effort being put in there, we've also had senior Social Science students down in Wellington soaking up the mix of history and contemporary culture on offer, and I was also lucky enough to go to a street photography workshop with our senior Art students. On Tuesday, Jack Te Kiri placed second in his section at Ngā Manu Kōrero, which is an amazing achievement. Our winter sports are in full swing, with Hockey and Football having regular games and producing some excellent results, while our Outdoor Education classes continue to camp and tramp and bicycle. Debating, chess and EPro8 engineering challenges are continuing too. I have looked through the calendar for the next several weeks, and it looks like there might be one day with nothing exciting planned in the first week of June, but that's it. I hope every student has something they are looking forward to, whether in class or out of it.

Behind each activity is at least one teacher or other staff member working hard on planning, fundraising, filling in forms and organising logistics. Often, whānau are involved too, giving up their time to drive and coach. The service of our teachers and community make possible the experiences and excellence of our students, and I want to acknowledge all our teachers and whānau for the work they do to make sure that our young people have all the opportunities they can.

Next Friday is Pink Shirt Day, and we're inviting our rangatahi to participate to stop bullying. Our school values emphasise both connection and identity. Like the taiao around us, we are strongest in diversity. We all bring gifts and strengths to our shared learning community, and the range of interests, skills and qualities in all our young people is a great resource and treasure. It's one of the reasons I love going around the school each week to hand out recognition awards for the tiny kind actions, respectful words, and helpful attitudes of our rangatahi. Our school is a better place through these small, consistent things.

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 8TH MAY 2026

GREASE IS THE WORD...

Rydell Comes to Lakes

The lights are up and Grease has officially hit the Lakes stage. After months of rehearsals, students have brought huge energy, commitment, and whanaungatanga to the production, both on stage and behind the scenes. From the cast and back stage, to lighting, makeup, set, and front of house, this has been a true team effort. With opening night sold out, audiences are getting right behind our talented young performers and celebrating the arts at Lakes. Tickets are selling fast.

NGĀ MANU KŌRERO

Speaking with Pride

Jack Te Kiri earned 2nd place in the Tā Turi Kara Junior English section at the Te Arawa Secondary Schools Ngā Manu Kōrero competition. In his speech, Jack explored how students have struggled across different periods of history, from cavemen and medieval times through to the modern world and our growing dependence on technology. A huge mihi to Jack and to our Māori Department for supporting him throughout the kaupapa.

TAPU AE

House Spirit

Awesome energy around kura this week as students took part in our Tapu Ae House Challenge. Rooted in te ao Māori and adapted from Kī-o-rahi, the game challenged students through teamwork, strategy, and communication. Across the courts, students showed real whanaungatanga while proudly representing their houses. Huge thanks to Matua Justin and all Heads of House for helping create such positive spirit across the kura.

YEAR 9 ATTENDANCE

Climbing the Poutama

Last term, our Year 9 students were recognised for their strong attendance and commitment to learning. An impressive 81% achieved 85–100% attendance, while 19% achieved a perfect 100%. Students were celebrated with treats from the Easter Bunny and acknowledgements at assembly. Attendance builds connection, confidence, and success as students climb the poutama of learning. Huge thanks to Whaea Christina de Lore and Year 9 staff for their support.

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