PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

12th June 2026

A definite highlight this week was the school haka celebration. Being new to the school, I had been looking forward to it, as the haka is a wonderful expression of the mauri of the school. This haka belongs to our people and our place, and the way our students participate in it lifts us all up. We were supposed to have the celebration last week, but were unable to do so due to the weather. Unfortunately for me, I was required to be at a conference this week, so was not able to enjoy the energy, enthusiasm and pride of our rangatahi. The videos and photos have been great, but I am looking forward even more to being there in person next year.

We have seen a slow increase in winter colds and other illnesses, and we know that some of our students are approaching, or are over, the threshold of ten days which triggers an automatic email. This email is mandated by the Ministry of Education as part of the government's requirements around attendance, and it includes nearly all absences. This includes days off due to illness or bereavement; which are, obviously, justified reasons to be absent from school. You will receive the automated email even if you have been in touch with us, and even if the absences can't be avoided. We know this can cause extra stress, and we're really sorry if you've experienced that.

If you receive one of these emails, and you have already been in touch with us and we know about your young person's absence and, if necessary, have a plan to support their learning so they can catch up, that's great. You don't need to get in touch again. On the other hand, if the ten days of absence has crept up on you, and we haven't been in touch, please give us a call or send an email to the dean. There might be things we can do to support you and your young person.

Our full attendance plan can be found on our website, in the About section.

Finally, please look out for information about our upcoming Parent-Student-Teacher interviews, on June 23rd and 24th. We'd love to see whānau there to make sure that we're all working together to support our young people to achieve. This is a great opportunity to check in about progress and start thinking about subjects and future directions. Bookings open on Thursday next week.

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 12TH JUNE 2026

WORLD STAGE AWAITS

Oscar Burns Represents New Zealand

Year 13 student Oscar Burns has departed for Sweden to represent New Zealand at the Junior World Orienteering Championships. Selected as one of only six boys in the national team, Oscar will compete against the world's best junior athletes across sprint, middle, long distance and relay events. His selection reflects years of commitment, resilience and determination. Oscar also acknowledges the support of Sport Bay of Plenty, Orienteering Bay of Plenty, his coaches, volunteers and supporters who have helped him reach this level. Our Lakes whānau will be cheering him on from Aotearoa.

TE PUNA RANGATIRA

Finding Their Voice

Year 9 Te Puna Rangatira students recently took part in a public speaking workshop led by Ashleigh Gulliver from With Confidence. Through practical challenges, teamwork and speaking activities, students developed confidence in impromptu speaking, presentations and communication. The day was filled with laughter, participation and students stepping beyond their comfort zones. Opportunities like this help grow leadership, confidence and service. Ngā mihi to Ashleigh Gulliver and Whaea Haana Howard for supporting our rangatahi to discover what they are capable of.

ADVENTURE RACING

Championship Performance

Twenty-eight Lakes students travelled to Tāneatua to compete in the Bay of Plenty Secondary Schools Adventure Racing Championships. Facing challenging trekking and mountain biking stages, every Lakes team finished either first or second in their category. Adventure racing demands resilience, communication and trust, making it one of the best examples of whanaungatanga in action. Ngā mihi to Hinemaui Parata and parent helpers including Rob Lei, Rob Griffiths, Cam Bennett, Shanon Garden, Rachel Smith, Tim Cochrane and Stu Wallace, whose support made this opportunity possible.

SHOWQUEST SUPPORT

Helping Our Whanaunga Shine

Rotorua Lakes High School students Kristin Conradie, Charlotte Hodge, Mckenzie Holland and Eloise Newcombe have been supporting Mokoia Intermediate students as they prepare for Showquest. Sharing performance skills, choreography ideas and stage experience, they have helped build confidence and strengthen routines ahead of competition day. The experience has also allowed our students to grow as leaders and mentors. It has been wonderful to see them giving back to one of our closest contributing schools through manaakitanga and whanaungatanga. Kia kaha, Mokoia.

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