PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

19th June 2026

Kia ora e te whānau

We're looking forward to seeing you all next week at our Parent-Student-Teacher Meetings. Bookings are open, and all parents or caregivers should have received an email about it. If you haven't, please get in touch! We love having the opportunity to talk with you about the progress, achievement and goals of our rangatahi. It's a good time to start thinking about their future plans and ambitions, and what we can do to help them thrive and grow.

We're also looking forward to our Matariki festival on Thursday. I'm very much looking forward to seeing our young people take the stage and set the scene for the upcoming new year.

The School Board will be at all these events. One of the most important jobs we have is to set our new strategic plan. This sets the vision of the school, and tells us what we should prioritise. We need to know what you value, why, and how you think we could get there. Please start thinking about what is important to you and your young people, whether it is success, connection, happiness or wellbeing. We'll be asking two initial questions at the three events next week, so please stop by our table and talk.

We're closing in rapidly on the end of the term, so many of our rangatahi will have assessments due, particularly in the junior options before they change. Please check with your students about any upcoming deadlines. Most classes should have their important deadlines shared on their Google Classroom or in their course handbook, so students can check there if they are unsure. We want all our students to achieve their very best, so please encourage them to talk with their teachers if they are unsure about anything or are finding anything a challenge right now.

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 19TH JUNE 2026

RANGATAHI KI TE AO

Exploring Future Pathways

Rotorua Lakes High School students joined rangatahi from across the region at the Rangatahi ki te Ao Symposium hosted by Te Taumata o Ngāti Whakaue Iho Ake. Through workshops in business, media, politics, education, sport and leadership, students explored future pathways while building confidence and connections. The day was filled with inspiring kōrero and valuable learning. Ngā mihi nui to Ngāti Whakaue for creating this opportunity for our rangatahi. The symposium reflected the same values we will celebrate at Te Kahu o Matariki on Thursday 25 June from 4.00pm–6.00pm in our auditorium.

CHESS NATIONALS

History Made For Lakes

The Rotorua Lakes High School Chess Team has achieved its best-ever result at the Rotorua Chess Regionals, qualifying for the National Secondary Schools Chess Competition through the Rotorua regional pathway for the first time. Michael de Lore and Koki Hara also qualified for the National Individual Championship Trophy Tournament, while Josh Ford earned awards for both Biggest Upset and Biggest Rating Gain. An outstanding achievement for a team made up largely of Year 11 students and below, highlighting the depth of talent developing within our chess programme.

9 KŌWHAI

Sharing Stories With Teina

As part of Project Day learning, our 9 Kōwhai students explored aspects of New Zealand history before creating and illustrating their own children's storybooks. They then visited Owhata Primary School to share their stories with younger students. The experience strengthened connections between our neighbouring kura and provided a wonderful example of tuakana-teina in action. It was a day of storytelling, learning and whanaungatanga that left a lasting impression on both the Lakes and Owhata students involved, while building confidence, creativity and communication skills along the way.

TOURISM STUDIES

Learning Beyond The Classroom

Forty Rotorua Lakes High School Tourism students enjoyed a field trip to two of Rotorua's most iconic visitor attractions, Velocity Valley and the Agrodome. Students gained valuable insights into tourism careers while experiencing some of the attractions firsthand. Highlights included Nelly taking to the stage to milk a cow and Lilli and Holly helping feed a lamb. The trip provided authentic learning experiences and strengthened students' understanding of one of Rotorua's most important industries and the opportunities it creates for local people, businesses and visitors from around New Zealand and overseas.

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