PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

29th May 2026

We hope that you're all looking forward to a great long weekend, though the forecast isn't looking too good for Sunday and Monday. It's nice to get a break in the middle of the term to get a few things done and have some extra rest so that we can come back with extra energy for the rest of the term.

Our school value of whanaungatanga includes our commitment to communicating openly and clearly with our rangatahi, our whānau, and our wider community. That includes the things our school does to improve and grow. One of the things we must do each year is set our goals for improvement, and lay out the actions we intend to take towards those goals. We also reflect on the previous year and evaluate what worked well, and where we need to make urgent improvements. Those documents are linked on our school website so that you, our community, can have a look at what our priorities are, and what we're doing to be a better place for our rangatahi. We report on these to the Ministry of Education too.

We've also, as part of our communication, been working to make the website more streamlined, with fewer links and clicks needed to get to the things you need to know. If you have suggestions about what you'd like to see, or anything that's still a bit too hidden, please let us know.

Finally, thank you to all the people who have been supporting our students and their learning, from those dropping off donations of tramping gear, to those supporting our Breakfast and Lunch programs, to those supporting our young people as coaches and volunteers. On Wednesday, I was able to catch part of the Girls' Football game, and there was quite a crowd gathered on the sideline, who were able to fill me in about the progress of the team and their ambitions for the season. We have so many opportunities for our rangatahi here, and I hope that all of them feel supported to join a group or club of their choice. I want to particularly make a shout out for our Media Club, who are busy making videos showcasing our school and our students. I have heard some truly hilarious ideas, and I can't wait to see what they make.

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 29TH MAY 2026

ROCKQUEST REGIONAL FINALISTS

Original Music, Big Stage

Three Lakes bands have earned their place in the Rotorua Regional Smokefreerockquest Finals after impressing judges with their own original music. Knights of the Cross, Pear of Anguish and Sinister Temple showcased creativity, courage and strong musicianship at the heats. Students also showed manaakitanga throughout the evening, supporting one another and celebrating every performer who took the stage. The bands will now represent Lakes at the Rotorua Regional Finals in June as they continue their original music journey.

TOP OF THE TABLE

First XI Girls Lead The Way

Our First XI Girls Football team are sitting top of the table after a superb start to the season. Their standout result was a historic win over John Paul College, the team's first victory over JPC in five years. Led by captain Renee Price, the girls continue to grow in confidence through teamwork, determination and strong whanaungatanga. Their success reflects the commitment and pride they bring to every match. The girls host Rotorua Girls' High School at 4pm on Wednesday and would love the support of the Lakes community as they continue their impressive season.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Student Leaders Connect

Head Girl Renee Price and Head Boy Coniah Erasmus joined student leaders from across Rotorua this week to share their aspirations, goals and visions for the year ahead with local Rotarians. The gathering provided an opportunity to build relationships, connect with peers from other kura and learn from experienced community leaders. It was a great example of whanaungatanga in action as young leaders stepped forward with confidence and purpose, representing Lakes with pride and strengthening connections across Rotorua.

GATEWAY LEARNING

Diving into Conservation

Year 12 student Chloe van Schalkwyk is gaining valuable real-world experience through a Gateway placement with Aotearoa Dive Rotorua. Recently, Chloe joined a lake weed removal project, helping protect and restore our local environment. The amount removed in a single day highlighted the importance of caring for our waterways. Chloe's contribution is a great example of kaitiakitanga in action while learning new skills beyond the classroom. The experience also provided valuable insight into environmental careers and conservation work.

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