PRINCIPAL PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

5th June 2026

It's been a really wintry week, and we've noticed a lot of students wrapping up more warmly. If your young person has been caught short without a jersey or jacket, or they get wet, please make sure you get in touch or send your rangatahi to school with a note.

The wet weather has also meant an increase in slipping hazards. While most of our students are sensible, we'd like to remind everyone to be especially careful on the stairs and ramps, and to use these instead of scrambling down the grass. We are having to be extra careful in the gym, as there are still some persistent weather tightness issues. We've got the Ministry of Education involved and are looking for a solution that keeps our gym open for learning and keeps our rangatahi (and teachers) safe.

In other safety related notices, the wet weather and reduced visibility means students need to be extra careful when they arrive at school, particularly when crossing Porikapa Road. In our dark blue uniforms, students can be hard to see on foggy or wet mornings, so need to take the time to look both ways. Please remind your rangatahi to use the pedestrian crossing rather than running across the road right where the driveway is. If you're dropping your young person off, please be careful.

Finally, I wanted to share advance notice about a great event coming up soon for Matariki: Our Te Ao Haka class is hosting a community Festival "Te Kahu o Matariki: Te Ao Haka". This event serves two vital purposes for our Rangatahi. It acts as our official NCEA Te Ao Haka performance assessments and it serves as our launch fundraiser for our Māori Department cultural trip to Rarotonga in 2027. Here are the details:

- Date: Thursday, 25 June 2026 (Week 10, Term 2). Time TBC, but likely 5 - 6.30pm
- Where: School Auditorium
- What to Expect: Live cultural performances, assessment showcases, delicious food stalls, and unique craft stalls

Please look out for further information soon! I am very much looking forward to it, as a great way to prepare for Matariki itself and to celebrate the amazing skills and talents of our rangatahi.

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 5TH JUNE 2026

MTB SUCCESS

Second in the North Island

Earlier this year, Rotorua Lakes High School riders travelled to Wellington to compete at the North Island Schools MTB Championships, finishing an outstanding 2nd overall against some of the strongest mountain biking schools in the country. Highlights included wins for Georgia Davies, Flynn Hurihanganui, and Matthew Wallace across multiple disciplines. Every rider contributed to the team result, showing resilience, determination, and whanaungatanga. Ngā mihi to the coaches, managers, and whānau whose support made this achievement possible.

LUNCH CLUB

Students Helping Students

Our Breakfast and Lunch Club continues to thrive thanks to the leadership of our Year 13 prefects and Year 9 Te Puna Rangatira students. Together they provide a reliable roster, welcoming students and helping ensure kai is available for those who need it. Kai is always humbly and gratefully received. A special thank you to Kahira and Save Our Babies Charitable Trust, along with our generous donors, whose manaakitanga helps make this kaupapa possible. Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi. A wonderful example of tuakana-teina and community support in action.

NETBALL SUCCESS

Representing Te Arawa

Congratulations to Lydia Graham, Andrew Hansen-Tipu, and Kingdom McLeod, who represented Te Arawa Rangatahi at the APAI tournament in Taupō over King's Birthday Weekend. Competing in the top division, the team finished 9th overall before winning their grade final. Students represented both Te Arawa and Lakes with pride, determination, and whanaungatanga. Ngā mihi to Hinemaui Parata, coaches, organisers, and whānau for supporting this opportunity. A fantastic achievement against some of the country's strongest mixed netball talent.

CANS FOR A CAUSE

Giving Back Together

Rotorua Lakes High School students and whānau donated an impressive 276 cans through this year's Cans for a Cause collection. As the affiliate school of Rotary Rotorua Passport, our students helped support local families through the Rotorua foodbank while learning the value of giving back. Special thanks to Ōkareka E for organising the collections, Tikitapu C for collecting the most cans, and Mrs Hodge for coordinating the kaupapa. Together, our students made a meaningful contribution to others in need. This was a wonderful example of manaakitanga in action and students supporting their wider community.

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