PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

31st July 2026

Thank you to all our whānau and students who came to our Subject Selection evening on Wednesday. It was excellent to see so many of our young people thinking about their futures, and it's always wonderful to hear about their ambitions and goals. Subject Selection is now open, so please get in touch if you have questions about your child's direction or choices.

As you know, there is a lot of work being done in the background with the Ministry of Education changes to the New Zealand Curriculum and our assessment framework, driven by our current coalition government. While we're trying to minimise the impact on our students and are keeping our practice focused on progress, effort, and personalised success, you will likely see a few changes in our curriculum.

We're doing this to improve pathways through schooling, provide support for literacy and numeracy requirements, and ensure we're ready for the new qualification. This may mean some more multi-level classes, some subjects being delivered differently, and some changes in how we manage the junior curriculum. All schools are facing similar challenges and making similar hard decisions, and our solutions will all look different. We think that the work we're doing behind the scenes will result in more success in the future.

Finally, we have had some major developments on the property front, and we'll be letting you know as things unfold. We are trying to minimise disruption, but we're also aware that if we have a dry spring, it's a great time to start projects. A consequence of these changes around property is that we have cancelled our planned Jubilee, set for the end of September. We've gotten in touch with all those who registered, and we're sorry we're not going to be able to celebrate our school together at the Jubilee. If you are an alumni of Lakes and you want to be more involved in the future, please look out for further notices.

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 31ST JULY 2026

LEARNING ON THE MAUNGA

9 Kōwhai Explores Mt Tarawera

Year 9 Kōwhai Project Day students recently experienced an unforgettable day on Mt Tarawera, climbing to the summit with Kaitiaki Adventures before running into the volcanic crater. Along the way, students learned about the geography, history and cultural significance of this sacred maunga while encouraging one another to reach the top. Back at school, they explored how the 1886 eruption shaped Rotorua's tourism industry, connecting their adventure with classroom learning. Ngā mihi to Kaitiaki Adventures, Mrs Hodge, Whaea Christina and Mr Hodge for making this authentic learning experience possible.

BMX WORLD STAGE

Maddy Takes on the World

Year 10 student Maddy proudly represented New Zealand at the 2026 BMX World Championships, finishing an outstanding 21st out of 64 riders after progressing through her motos to reach the quarter-finals. Racing against the world's best is a remarkable achievement and reflects Maddy's courage, resilience and commitment to continual improvement. We are incredibly proud of the way she represented herself, her whānau, and her club, and look forward to following her future successes on the international stage.

THANK YOU

Prefects Honour Whaea Gwyneth

Students took the lead in recognising Principal Appreciation Day, with our prefects acknowledging Whaea Gwyneth during the student-led assembly for her kindness, approachability and celebration of student achievement. Their tribute reflected the positive relationships developing across our kura and demonstrated manaakitanga in action. It was a special moment of appreciation led by students, recognising the care and leadership Whaea Gwyneth brings to Rotorua Lakes High School. Ngā mihi also to our Board and staff who helped make the day special.

SAYONARA, SHUJITSU

Friendships That Will Last

Our kura recently farewelled students and staff from Shujitsu High School in Okayama, Japan, after an unforgettable exchange filled with learning, friendship and cultural connection. Their final day included a heartfelt farewell at our student-led assembly before spending one last afternoon with their Lakes buddies. The exchange strengthened whanaungatanga across cultures and created memories that will last long after the journey home. Ngā mihi to our homestay families, students and staff who made our visitors feel so welcome throughout their stay.

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