PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

21st August 2026

Kia ora e te whānau

It has been great to see so many of our whānau here this week for Open Night, and then our Open Day here on Friday. I was lucky enough to work with the students in the Science rotation, and there were so many great questions and amazing attitudes to learning on display! We had the chance to talk about some of the great opportunities for extending and developing their learning here, especially our planned expansion of our existing Project Days. These are regular opportunities for students to engage in a full day of targeted learning outside of the everyday curriculum, and we're looking forward to having more students involved.

We've had a few people who couldn't come to Open Evening on Wednesday, so there's the chance to have a little catch up tour next Thursday or Friday afternoon. If you're interested, you can send us a message or give the office a call to book your spot.

One of the nicest things about our open evening and day has been seeing our existing students doing a wonderful job as tour guides and learning assistants. I know the ones I had in Science were patient, kind and funny, which is an excellent combination. We had so many volunteers, from all year levels, and I want to take the opportunity to thank all of them for their time and effort. Our young people are our greatest strength, and we always appreciate any chance to talk about their skills and talents.

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 21ST AUGUST 2026

A WARM WELCOME TO LAKES

195 Year 8s Experience Our Kura

It has been a huge week welcoming prospective students and whānau to Lakes. A packed Open Evening was followed by Open Day, with 195 Year 8 students experiencing Science, Te Ao Māori, PE, Outdoor Education, Performing Arts, Food Technology, Art and more. Students embraced the day with enthusiasm, finishing with Standout Values Awards. A special final moment saw Mokoia Intermediate perform a powerful haka, with Lakes students responding in return. Ngā mihi to our visiting kura, whānau, staff and students who made both events possible.

ADVENTURE AT HILLARY

Challenge Builds Confidence

Thirty Year 10 students have returned from an unforgettable week at Hillary Outdoors. High ropes, caving, team challenges, mapping and survival skills pushed students beyond their comfort zones while building confidence, resilience and whanaungatanga. A highlight was seeing students support classmates as they tackled new challenges together. Ngā mihi to Mr English and parent helpers Jenny Packham, Nicole Salisbury and Thea Depetris for supporting our ākonga. We also acknowledge Four Winds Foundation and Hillary Outdoors, whose sponsorship helped make this incredible experience possible.

CHESS SUCCESS

Outstanding Tournament Debut

Our Lakes chess team produced an outstanding result in its first appearance at the National BOP Chess Federation Tournament, finishing fourth from 19 teams and narrowly missing third on countback. Koki Hara placed third on Board 1, Nathan Lye third on Board 3, while Jason Cao finished seventh on Board 2. Ethan Hucker stepped into Board 4 at short notice to complete the team. Just as impressive was the whanaungatanga shown by the boys as they supported one another throughout the tournament. Ngā mihi to Taemi Hara and Whaea Christina for their continued support of our chess players.

NETBALL SUCCESS

Andrew Shines in Premier Win

Year 11 student Andrew Hansen-Tipu has enjoyed an impressive achievement as part of the Ngongotahā Premier Men's team that won the Premier Men's Competition in Tauranga with a 61–45 victory. Andrew joined our Lakes whānau this year and is already proving a positive role model for boys and young men in netball. Competing at this level reflects his commitment to the sport and willingness to pursue his passion. Congratulations to Andrew and the entire Ngongotahā team on a fantastic result. We look forward to following Andrew's netball journey and celebrating his future achievements.

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