PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

28th August 2026

There has been a lot of energy in the school this week, with the warmer weather and longer days. We took advantage of the light and warmth to have our team photos on the field this Thursday. It was a huge undertaking, and we're indebted to our photographer and her team for the work that goes into organising the day. Many of our students had to turn up more than once, as a result of how busy and involved they are in the wider life of our school.

We had some significant student success this week, most of which has been covered in individual posts. It's great to know that our young people are working hard in so many endeavours. One of the strengths of our school is that we can support and encourage our students on an individual level we're able to both give higher level opportunities to our junior students, and provide a greater range of leadership and mentoring opportunities for our senior students.

In our champion Girls' Football team, we have year 9s and year 13s working alongside each other and developing the sort of mentoring relationship that grows both parties. Amongst our arts students, we have collaborative work between students and teachers to grow both the technical execution of their art and the academic ideas to explain and develop further. In our Year 9 students, we have innovation and creative thinking, leading to placing as a winner in the Tend Women's Health competition. While not a competition, we also had four students attend a Scholarship Calculus workshop to extend their thinking and understanding in Mathematics, working alongside their maths teacher.

Next week, we have students competing at Winter Tournament for Hockey, and our Dance students are competing at NZ Made Dance. We know that our students leave everything out there when they compete, and they embody our school values in what they do.

We're starting work on our arrangements for our leavers, like testimonials and the ways we make sure they're ready for their next step. We're also starting work getting ready for 2027, with looking at all the things we do to help our young people flourish.

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 28TH AUGUST 2026

MĀORI INGENUITY

Rumaki Tauira Shine at Science Fair

Four Rumaki Tau 10 tauira showcased Māori innovation at Te Tūkohu Ngawha Science Mātauranga Māori and Science Fair. Rubicon Galvin-Taingahue and Te Atamira Te Puni designed a drone device to identify lake weed hotspots, Ohomairangi Kapea explored an underwater machine to tackle catfish, and Taiko Hemopo developed a concept targeting invasive clams. After six weeks of hard mahi, all four presented their projects to judges, with Rubicon and Te Atamira placing second in the Te Pou o Te Puna Ariki Rangatahi Leadership & Innovation Bio Security Award. Ngā mihi to Whaea Tamaku and Whaea Merekara for supporting our tauira.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Lakes Take Out BOP League

What a finish for our Girls Football team! A thrilling final against Tauhara College was locked at 3–3 before Lakes found the winner with just two minutes remaining in extra time. The 4–3 victory secured first place in the Central Bay of Plenty Girls Football League and capped off years of mahi for the team. Renee Price and Anika Greyling were the goal scorers on the night. A fitting farewell for Year 13s Renee Price, Izzy Managh and Maddy Smith, and a huge achievement for everyone who has been part of their journey. A huge mihi to Allan and Renee Price for four years of coaching and commitment, and to Mrs Goodrick, Mrs Chemis and the whānau who have supported the team throughout.

TOURISM IN ACTION

Year 13s Experience the Industry

Year 13 Tourism students finished their final field trip with two very different Rotorua experiences: Rotorua Canopy Tours and Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa. From adventure among the treetops to luxury, relaxation and cultural tourism, students experienced firsthand the diversity of the industry in their own backyard. The trip concluded a year of opportunities to connect classroom learning with Rotorua's tourism sector. Ngā mihi to both businesses for welcoming our students and to Mrs Hodge for her commitment to creating memorable learning experiences for our ākonga in their final year.

BOYS FOOTBALL

Junior Boys Build for the Future

Our Junior Boys Football team enjoyed a fantastic season, recording seven wins, three losses and two draws. New players developed their skills while experienced players stepped into leadership roles, with whanaungatanga becoming a real strength of the team. Marlowe led the scoring with at least a goal a game, while Ethan produced some excellent performances in goal. A strong defence also provided the foundation for plenty of attacking opportunities throughout the season. Ngā mihi to Coach Ben Alton and Matua AJ for giving their time and support to our rangatahi. The boys now have a one-day mini tournament at Neil Hunt Park on 29 September to finish their season.

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