PRINCIPAL
PĀNUI

Kia ora e te whānau

7th August 2026

It's been a super cold, super busy week, and we've squeezed in a lot of action. We want to start by acknowledging the amazing students that went out to our Year 8 Roadshows at Mokoia and Rotorua Intermediates. One of the things I like best about our young people is the huge range of individual interests, talents and skills they bring, and the students we took on the Roadshows covered a huge range of the opportunities we offer. We are so lucky to have students who get involved, are willing to try new things, and who are brave enough to get up on stage and talk about their experience.

On the back of the Roadshows is our Open Evening (on the 19th) and our Year 8 Open Day (on the 21st). Please look out for more information next week. We'd love to see anyone interested in having a look at our school, so please spread the word! Obviously, I think our school is a great place to be, and we'd love the opportunity to share that with all our community too.

Like all secondary schools, our Board has a Student Representative, and that role has been filled this year by Divjot Bairagi. Our next meeting will be his last, and we'll be seeking nominations and holding voting for a new representative. Divjot has taken his role seriously and even gave up a weekend day to attend the School Boards Association conference to learn more about school governance. One of Divjot's last responsibilities will be to speak in assembly about his role as we open nominations for this year. If your rangatahi is interested in understanding more about the governance of the school - finances, property, health and safety and policy - then they should definitely consider seeking a nomination.

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 7TH AUGUST 2026

SUCCESS ON SKATES

Jessica and Kate Shine in Napier

Year 11 Jessica Christensen and Year 12 Kate Taylor achieved outstanding results during a week of national and international artistic roller skating competition in Napier. Jessica won gold in National Senior/Intermediate Ladies Freeskating and placed sixth internationally in Youth Solo Dance, while Kate won bronze in International Junior Ladies Freeskating and placed sixth in Junior Solo Dance. Their achievements reflect enormous commitment and hours of training beyond the school day. Ngā mihi to the Rotorua Artistic Roller Skating Club, Te Moana-a-Toi Roller Skating Club, their coaches and whānau for supporting Jessica and Kate.

ART IN ACTION

Students Take to the Wheel

Year 10 Art students recently welcomed Bonnie from the Rotorua Potters Group for a demonstration of throwing clay on a pottery wheel. Over the coming weeks, students will have the opportunity to get behind the wheel themselves and develop their own skills, supported by generously donated clay and resources. Ngā mihi to Bonnie and the Rotorua Potters Club for sharing their expertise and supporting arts learning at Lakes. We also acknowledge Head of Arts Ms Malcolm for her dedication to our Arts Department and the opportunities being created for our ākonga.

SUPPORTING OUR TĒINA

Lakes Chess Players Give Back

Over Terms 2 and 3, Lakes chess players have been spending time at Lynmore Primary, helping younger students develop their confidence, strategy and skills. The initiative gives our students an opportunity to share their knowledge while strengthening relationships with our Eastside tēina and putting whanaungatanga into action. We wish students from Lynmore Primary and Mokoia Intermediate all the best for their upcoming championships and Rotorua Regionals. Ngā mihi to Whaea Christina and our Eastside schools for supporting this initiative.

SHARING LIFE AT LAKES

Students Lead Year 8 Visits

Our students recently visited Mokoia Intermediate and Rotorua Intermediate to give Year 8 students a genuine glimpse into life at Lakes. Kapa haka opened and closed each session with mana, our Grease cast brought plenty of energy, Jack Te Kiri, Sam Jensen and Lilli Warren led with confidence, and our student panel shared their experiences of high school. We were incredibly proud of the authenticity and enthusiasm shown by our rangatahi. Ngā mihi to both intermediate schools for their warm welcome and to their students for the wonderful way they participated in each visit.

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