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RICK'S Ramble

Term 3 2026
Week 4

A good drop of rain to finish off the week. A huge well done to our two football teams, coaches and whānau, who represented Lake Rerewhakaia School so brilliantly at the CBOP tournament!

We are pleased to announce that we have secured a permanent teacher for our Year 6-8 Rakau class. A warm welcome to Tabatha Fensom, who some will know from relieving this year. Whaea Tabatha will commence work on Wednesday 19th August in Rakau, while Whaea Julieanne is at a Professional Development Course. The four classrooms will become effective from Monday 24th August. The new classes are:

- Kakano Yr 0-2 Ms Arnott
- Tupu Yr 2-3 Whaea Kylie
- Mahuri Yr 4-5 Whaea Julieanne
- Rakau Yr 6-8 Whaea Tabatha

The phrase "look in the mirror before you look out the window" means you must judge your own faults and actions before you judge other people or the world around you. It is generally agreed that peering through a window represents pointing fingers or criticizing external flaws, while the mirror represents personal accountability. We use this phrase at school a lot to ensure we are doing everything we can to provide the best opportunities for the children. We are encouraging the children to adopt this as well when they are in situations and reflecting on their behaviours, actions or learning (it works in conjunction with the 'I' statements talked about in the last newsletter). Encouraging the children to adjust their own behaviours. The core meanings of the metaphor are: Self-Awareness, Stop Blaming, Take Control.

This also helps our children build resilience. Building resilience in children isn't about protecting them from stress or failure - it is about giving them the emotional tools and confidence to navigate difficulty and bounce back. Core Strategies to Foster Resilience:

- Validate feelings, not just outcomes
- Encourage healthy risk-taking
- Promote natural consequences
- Model visible coping strategies
- Cultivate a growth mindset

Primary school children (5-12 year olds) move from relying entirely on adults for emotional regulation to developing their own internal toolkit. They face bigger academic challenges, complex peer dynamics, and increased independence. Building resilience in this age group centers on replacing the habit of immediate rescue with guided problem-solving and reframing failure. We can do this through:

1. Reframing the "I Can't" Mindset (The Power of "Yet")
 2. Practicing "Problem-Solving Brainstorming"
 3. Institute a "Favourite Mistake" Tradition
- Resilient kids understand that making mistakes isn't the opposite of success - it's an essential part of it. Normalise errors as valuable data.
4. Assigning Meaningful, Autonomous Responsibilities
 5. Distinguishing Between "Big Problems" and "Little Problems"

With your support we can help our students be self reflective and take control of challenges and problems as they arise. As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment, we have recently reviewed and updated our school's behaviour management procedures. This is also because we have had a lot of disruptive behaviour happening and we need to get the positive culture of the school back.

At our school, we firmly believe that effective behaviour management is a three-way partnership between the school, the child, and their whānau. When we all work together with clear communication and shared goals, our students get the best possible support to thrive both academically and socially. Our procedures have been updated to reflect a more collaborative approach and to ensure 'you' the parent/caregiver are a part of the process. Having clear guidelines that the children know and understand is essential in making clear the consequences and repercussions of our actions and behaviours. The process through which we will achieve this is by using our Tier system for behaviours. A copy will be sent home with students.

What This Means for Our Families:

- Collaborative Planning: Behaviour support plans will continue to be developed together with whānau input, ensuring strategies are consistent between home and school.
- Focus on Growth: Our updated procedures emphasize positive reinforcement, restorative practices, and teaching constructive social-emotional skills.
- Clear & Timely Communication: We are committed to keeping parents and caregivers informed early and often, celebrating wins alongside addressing challenges.

We deeply value the trust you place in us every day. By working as a united team—school, student, and whānau—we can ensure every child feels understood, supported, and ready to succeed.

Have a great weekend :)

07 3666 814

office@lakerere.school.nz

www.lakerere.school.nz

Office Hours

Monday: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Tuesday: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Thursday: 9.00am - 12.30pm
Friday: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Important dates

August

Wed 26 Tough Guy & Gal

Fri 28 Daffodil Day fundraiser

Fri 28th Aug Daffodil Day Fundraiser

Why we've joined Daffodil Day
Cancer impacts so many of us in New Zealand, with a heart-breaking 81 people diagnosed each day. The Cancer Society is here to help and support people with cancer and their whānau.

With your support, every dollar raised for Daffodil Day will go towards cancer care for patients and their whānau, education and awareness programmes, and life-saving cancer research.

<https://www.daffodilday.org.nz/lake-rerewhakaia-school-team>



September

Tues 1 Book character dress up day
1 - 4 Scholastic Book Fair
Wed 9 Board Meeting 7pm
Thu 10 LRS Speeches
Tue 15 Cluster Speeches
Wed 23 Cluster Winter Sports
Fri 25 Whānau Dance Performance, Term 3 Ends

October

Mon 12 Term 4 Starts
Sat 17 LRS Pet Day
Fri 23 Group Day @ Waikite Valley
Mon 26 Labour Day STAT

*Kei te whakatakataka a matou
akonga mo nga ahei a tona wa
Preparing our students for the
possibilities of tomorrow*

Tēnā koutou,

TUPU

The trip to the science roadshow was a highlight this week. Here's what Tupu students said about their experience:

Kershaw: I enjoyed the fake guns because we got to shoot with them.

Alistair: I liked the round balls. You lift up one and drop it and the one at the end moves.

Keeana: I liked the book with no words, then you spun the thing and there were words. There was a bird cage with no birds, then you spun it and a duck appeared.

Lachlan: I liked the bike and you ride the bike and the marble goes down a spiral and goes faster and faster.

Tukaha: I liked the thing that you spun and the person went upside down.

For Tupu, science can seem a little bit magical.

Kia pai tō rā,
Tupu Class



Mahuri and the Science Roadshow

This week Mahuri had an exciting trip to Murupara Area School to visit the Science Roadshow! The tamariki had a fantastic time exploring the different activities and getting to experience science in action.

There were lots of excited faces and comments throughout the morning, especially when the children got to sit on the spinning wheel – "It's going faster!" and "Can I have another turn?" The target shooting was another favourite, with children concentrating hard to get their arrow as close to the bullseye as possible: "I got it!" The toilet flushing experiment was a big hit too, with lots of interest in finding out what happens when we flush. We also had some brave tamariki volunteer to go up the front and help with the demonstrations. The different scents were another fun part, with plenty of guessing – "I know what that smells like!"

It was wonderful to see Mahuri being curious, having a go and sharing their excitement as they discovered new things. A big thank you to Murupara Area School for hosting us and giving us such a fun morning of science!



CLASS Snippets

Kia ora

I'm Whaea Tabatha

Kia ora, my name is Tabatha Fensom, and I am very excited to be joining the Lake Rerewhakaaitu School whānau.

Prior to moving to Rotorua in January 2025, I taught at Somerville Intermediate in East Australia. After finishing maternity leave in October 2025, I began relieving at schools around Rotorua, which has given me the opportunity to get to know a number of schools and communities.

I am a mum to two boys and have a fiancée. As a family we love getting outdoors and exploring. You will often find us mountain biking, hiking, or enjoying everything the outdoors has to offer.

I have a real passion for literature and sport, particularly football, and I am looking forward to bringing these interests into the classroom.

I am excited to get to know the students, whānau and wider school community, and can't wait to be part of the Lake Rerewhakaaitu School whānau!

Think left and think right
and think low and think high.
Oh, the things you can think up
if only you try!
- Dr Suess



This week in Rākau we explored silent conversations. How to have a conversation with someone by only writing down your questions and thoughts. Our conversations were based on our experiences at the Science Roadshow. Here are some examples of our silent conversations.

Nevaeh and Ada

N - My favorite thing at the science fair was the pig in space

A - My favourite thing was when Piper got measured

N - What was your least favourite thing?

A - My least favourite thing was the hot air balloon. What was your least favourite thing?

N - My least favourite thing was when they changed the water colour with food

Finn O and Flynn R

FO - My favourite part about the science roadshow was when we learned how stuff can change

FR - My favourite part was shooting guns

FO - What was your worst part of it?

FR - A kid pushing in front of me

FO - My part was the bus ride



Koven and Rocco

R - My favourite was the coca cola one

K - My favourite part was the high jump, What was yours?

Te Ngahere and Taituha

TN - What was your favourite activity at the science road show?

T - Probably the thing where you have to shoot the target with paper. What was your favourite activity?

TN - Probably the one where you put the marble in the hole, it was cool! What did you find funniest?

T - Um probably when they shared how long our intestine was because everyone was like eww. What did you find the funniest?

TN - Probably when they brought out the poo!

Pheonna and Ahu

P - Did you like the Road show?

A - Yes I did like the road show. What was your favourite part there?

P - My favourite part was when Whaea Julieanne had to pick right or left. What about you?

A - My favourite part was when we all had to do all kinds of activities

RAKAU



In the first week of September we will be having our annual Scholastic Book Fair. On Tuesday 1st we will have a Dress up as your favourite book character day. Who will you be?!



Attendance

Attendance - Our 2025 Target is: To improve attendance and engagement to 75% of students attending 90% or higher.

We are currently sitting at 45% of students at 90% attendance or above. Last weeks results:

Rakau 75% attendance
Mahuri 87% attendance
Tupu 87% attendance

We currently have 4 students with 100% attendance this year. Excellent effort to those students and their whanau for ensuring your tamariki are attending school each day.

And the Winner is...

TUPU & MAHURI



HOUSE POINTS

Tarawera Kakaramea

Each week we give out a house cup to the house that's in the lead. Students can earn house points by following our school rules, values, being on task and even when they get caught being awesome.

House Captains are:
Tarawera - Te Ngahere & Flynn
Kakaramea - Taituha & Nikau

Congratulations to our house winner from our latest assembly...



Koven for showing perseverance

"Tidy Kiwi" award goes to the class who consistently keeps the corridor and deck tidy over the day and week. Ensuring our school is kept beautiful while being safe in emergency situations.



KEEP UP the good WORK

CONGRATULATIONS



LAST WEEKS CLASS CERTIFICATES WENT TO:

Kayden-Chase for a huge effort to participate in class activities, Kershaw for consistent participation and focus on learning. Leon for showing fantastic progress in writing by working more efficiently and adding thoughtful detail to your stories. Morris for giving your very best effort in mathematics every day. Temple and Makenna for showing all of the school values consistently at camp.

HOT NEWS, COLD DAYS
Download Our School App This Winter

With our Skool Loop app!
Download today to keep up to date with school information. Notices, newsletters, absentee notifications and much more.

Simple free download
Scan the QR code or in Google play & App Store search "Skool Loop" & choose our school once installed.

Available on the Google play App Store

Caught being Awesome

"Caught Being Awesome" awards are given out to students of Lake Rerewhakaaitu School at playtime. Students can earn them by following our school values, being a good friend and following the school rules. These awards then go into either the senior or junior bucket, then at Fridays assemblies all get read out and one from each drawn out as our super star recipient. Our Caught Being Awesome recipients are...



When home is feeling a bit louder and more reactive

Mid-winter can be a tricky time. Tamariki are tired, we're stretched, and small things can start feeling big.

- 1 Everyone may be running low**
Tamariki can be tired, hungry, overloaded or hiding in big feelings. Adults can be carrying work, routines, worries and the end-of-day rush.
 - 2 Nothing has gone wrong**
More tears, arguing, refusal or after-school wobbles do not always mean a bigger problem. Often, they are a sign that everyone's capacity is lower than usual.
 - 3 What helps**
 - Food before questions
 - Fewer words
 - One clear instruction
 - A softer voice
 - Step outside or change the scene
 - Repair after a hard moment
- Ask: What would make the next ten minutes a little easier?**
Sometimes the next small, steady thing is enough.

You can start to choose your pets for Pet Day!

It's that exciting time of year again—Pet Day is just around the corner! Children are already buzzing with enthusiasm as they prepare to choose and raise their special pets.



17 Our School Pet Day:
Saturday, 17th October

Group Day:

Friday, 23rd October @ Waikite Valley School

For those interested in raising a lamb or calf, please note that these animals must be born between 20th July and 25th September 2026 to be eligible.

To help your child get started, check out the helpful Rearing Booklets available on our website:

<https://www.lakerere.school.nz/publications>



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SALE DATES:

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST &

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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vote.nz



General Election 2026 - Rotorua

We are looking for people with a range of skills and experience across both voting places and electorate headquarters.

You may be a great fit if you have:

- Enthusiasm for supporting democracy and your local community.
- Strong attention to detail.
- The ability to follow instructions and learn quickly.
- Strong communication and customer service skills.
- Experience working with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Good planning and organisational skills.
- Confidence using technology.
- The ability to remain calm and professional in busy environments.
- Experience using Microsoft Office (required for some roles).

He aha e whai ake nei | What's next?

To see a list of roles available refer to <https://work.elections.nz/work-at-general-elections>.

Get your application in now, some roles start as early as July. All roles include compulsory paid training, and you do not need a CV to apply.

To apply for this role, click 'apply'. You will need an email address to register on our careers site.

If you have been referred by someone, please ensure you include this in your application. Applications will enter a candidate pool for each electorate. Successful applicants will be matched to roles based on their skills, experience, availability, and location.

If you have a role you are interested in or prefer working in a specific voting place or electorate headquarters, please note this in your application. If you have any questions regarding the role, please contact recruitment@elections.govt.nz

You must be legally allowed to work in New Zealand.

We will be reviewing applications as they are received.