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Principal Report

Term 3 2026
Week 2

It is wonderful to be back! After a refreshing two-term sabbatical, I am returning fully recharged and excited for the term ahead. First and foremost, I want to extend a massive thank you to Julianne for doing an exceptional job leading the school as Acting Principal during my absence. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our whole staff team for their hard work and dedication—thank you all for keeping everything running smoothly and continuing to make our school such a fantastic place for our children.

The sabbatical investigated attendance and engagement in rural schools. As well as taking time for rest and relaxation. The summary of the research report is as follows:

Re-Engaging Rural Learners: Attendance, Engagement, and Policy Dynamics in Primary Schools (2018–2026).

The sabbatical research investigated student attendance and engagement within Aotearoa New Zealand primary schools between 2018 and 2026, with a specific focus on rural contexts in rural schools within our region. Following post-pandemic culture shifts, chronic absenteeism has emerged as a major barrier to educational equity and student achievement.

The research synthesized national attendance statistics, Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, and qualitative insights from local primary schools, the research contrasted raw physical presence ("bums on seats") with cognitive and emotional engagement. It evaluated current government initiatives—including the 2026 Every Day Matters framework and the STAR Framework Escalation Pathways—against the operational realities of small rural schools.

Finally, the report suggests a four-tier intervention model tailored for rural primary clusters, examining alternative distance learning models (such as Te Kura and Virtual Learning Networks), and providing evidence-based communication templates for school leaders.

This will help us to help whānau and students to reengage with school and increase student attendance and involvement with school.

WE ARE HIRING

GROUNDSPERSON EXTRAORDINAIRE

We are looking for our next fabulous Grounds person to join our team.
5 hours per week, Term Time.
Plus extra hours over the holidays.

A high standard is expected.
The successful candidate will be required to undergo and pass Police Vetting.

Starting Term 3, 2026

Drop your CV into the office, or for more info contact: Rick Whalley, Principal on 07 3666814 or principal@lakerere.school.nz

Applications close:
3.00pm Friday 7th August 2026

School Growth & Roll Update:

Our school community is continuing to grow! We are currently sitting at 79 students.

To support this growth, I have formally applied to the Ministry of Education for an additional teacher. If successful, this will make a huge difference in helping us reduce class sizes and provide even more targeted support for our learners. I will keep you all updated as soon as we hear back.

Our Board meeting was held this week and we looked at our Operational policy 8 Reducing Student Distress And Use Of Physical Restraint Policy and 8.1 Anti Bullying Policy. The restraint policy was updated with the rule changes and both policies are available to peruse online or at school. These should also be read in line with supporting policies and our Behaviour management plan that can be found in the procedures booklet.



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>



Our ākonga are each gifted hi vis vests and should all be wearing them to and from school. This enables them to be visible, especially with those grey and foggy days. Please encourage your children to wear them each day.

Be Bright - Be Seen!

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

3 - 5 Rākau Camp

Mon 10 Science Roadshow

Wed 26 Tough Guy & Gal

Fri 28 Daffodil Day fundraiser

September

Wed 9 Board Meeting 7pm

Thu 10 LRS Speeches

Tue 15 Cluster Speeches

Wed 23 Cluster Winter Sports

Fri 25 Whanau 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 ākonga mo nga ahei a tona wa
Preparing our students for the possibilities of tomorrow*

TUPU

Learning at Home: Small Moments, Big Impact!
As your young learners build their foundational skills, you may wonder how you can help at home. The secret? Keep it fun, short, and part of your daily routine! Here are three quick ways to support your child this week:

- **Read Together Daily:** Even 10 minutes makes a world of difference. Point out sound patterns, look at the pictures, and ask them what they think might happen next.
- **Turn Everyday Math into a Game:** Count stairs as you climb them, spot numbers on license plates, or ask your child to help measure ingredients while cooking.
- **Talk & Explore:** Ask open-ended questions about their day (e.g., "What made you smile today?" or "What was something tricky you tried?"). Building oral language builds strong readers and writers!

Learning doesn't need to feel like homework—everyday conversations and play are the best teachers!

Kia pai tō rā,
Tupu Class.

CLASS
Snippets

Welcome back to term 3.

Our focus this term is ensuring we have strong reciprocal relationships between home and school.

When we think about education, it's easy to assume that learning only happens at school. In reality, learning happens everywhere. Every conversation, family outing, game, or shared experience helps children develop new knowledge, skills, and confidence.

We value the important role whānau play in supporting learning at home. This term, you can help by encouraging your child to complete their homework, reading and talking together, and asking open-ended questions such as, "Why do you think that?" or "Can you explain your thinking?" These conversations strengthen oral language and help children justify their ideas. With speeches taking place this term, discussing everyday topics, current events, or family experiences gives children valuable opportunities to organise their thoughts, express their opinions, and speak with confidence. Thank you for partnering with us to support your child's learning both at home and at school.

RAKAU

All our school news in one place

Download Skool Loop today

Simple free download: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' and choose our school once installed.



At Mahuri, we believe the best learning happens when home and school work together. Thank you for the encouragement and support you give your child each day—it really does make a difference! Here are a few simple ways you can help at home:



Read together every day and talk about new words, characters, and what is happening in the story.



Encourage your child to explain their thinking when solving a problem or answering a question.



Look for maths in everyday life by cooking, shopping, telling the time, counting money, or measuring around the home.



Play board games, card games, or number games to build confidence with maths facts and problem-solving.



Praise effort, perseverance, and having a go, even when learning feels challenging.

Thank you for partnering with us to help our tamariki become confident, curious, and capable learners. We appreciate your ongoing support!

Ngā mihi,

Whaea Kylie



MAHURI

Hi everyone,

This looks like a fantastic opportunity for young athletes. Current New Zealand Warriors players Leka Halasima and Jacob Laban will be sharing what they've learned on their journey from junior rugby league to the NRL and answering students' questions live.

Because they're still early in their professional careers, the advice they share is especially relevant for young people chasing their own sporting goals.

17 Wednesday 5 August

Join from 6:15 pm (tech check)

Live Q&A 6:30–7:30 pm

FREE

Register here:

<https://fuelingyouthathletes.com/live>

FYA LIVE

TALK DIRECTLY WITH

ONE NEW ZEALAND WARRIORS PLAYERS

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS. GET ANSWERS LIVE.



LEKA HALASIMA & JACOB LABAN

WEDNESDAY
5 AUGUST

6:30PM –
7:30PM NZST

ONLINE
LIVE Q&A

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS.

- ✓ HEAR ABOUT:
 - ✓ TRAINING
 - ✓ MINDSET
 - ✓ NUTRITION
 - ✓ RECOVERY
- ✓ WHAT IT TAKES TO REACH THE NRL



SCAN TO
REGISTER
FREE

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

OR VISIT: fuelingyouthathletes.com/live

PRESENTED BY **FYA**

FUELING YOUTH ATHLETES



Attendance

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

We are currently sitting at 53% of students at 90% attendance or above. Last weeks results:

Rakau 91% attendance

Mahuri 90% attendance

Tupu 72% attendance

We currently have 8 students with 100% attendance this year.

Excellent effort to those students and their whanau for ensuring your tamariki are attending school each day.



RAKAU!



Rangi for showing the school value of resilience in all aspects of her school day.

What tamariki need most

in the first weeks back

The start of a new term can bring a mix of excitement and nerves. For many tamariki, the biggest question they're carrying is:

Where do I fit?

Feeling like we belong helps tamariki feel confident, resilient and ready to learn.



Before they leave for school, try reminding them:

- "I'm looking forward to hearing about your day."
- "I'm on your team."
- "If today feels hard, we'll work it out together."



When they come home, try asking:

- Who did you enjoy spending time with today?
- Did anyone make you laugh?
- Was there a moment you felt really included?
- Did you notice someone who looked like they needed a friend?



All tamariki leave home carrying an invisible backpack.
We can't always take away the worries inside it, but we can make sure they also carry certainty that there is someone on their team.



A new term doesn't need to start perfectly, but a great term **starts with connection.**



Being Real Parents Podcast

Real kōrero and practical ideas for the joys and challenges of raising tamariki.

Listen wherever you get your podcasts or visit realparents.org.nz

real parents



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...



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...



KEEP UP the good WORK

Lake Rerewhakaaitu School

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If you would like to advertise on the Lake Rerewhakaaitu School Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com
To download our app: In Google Play & App Store Search 'Skool Loop' & choose your school once installed.

SKOOL LOOP

Ngāi Tahu ki Tauranga Moana is the taurahere rōpū for Ngāi Tahu whānau living in the Tauranga Moana takiwā. Taurahere means a binding rope, and we hold each other and our iwi together across the distance. A rope is strongest when every strand is held, so whether your rope is taut or you are reaching for it again or for the first time, there is a place for you here.

We are trying to connect with Ngāi Tahu across our rohe and would love to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to fill in our short survey. It tells us who is out there and what matters to you, and it shapes what we do for whānau in Tauranga Moana.
<https://forms.gle/RQHRlyUvVehB7CL99>

CONGRATULATIONS



LAST WEEKS CLASS CERTIFICATES WENT TO:

Tukaha for excellent participation in learning activities, Jack for super focus and working hard on his learning tasks. Manaia, Shiloh-Firm and Jahkaea Nau mai, haere mai. We're so glad to have you with us and we look forward to learning and growing together through the year.

REIGN

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OUR FACEBOOK
PAGE

PM to book

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AND LEAVE
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HEATING AND STUDENTS STATIONERY

Donations of Friesian Bulls (5 white
points) or Hereford White Face Bulls

Must be NAIT tagged & have TB docket

PLEASE CALL **SAMMIE 021 060 7948**
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP OR
FOR MORE INFORMATION

SALE DATES:
THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST &
THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026
CALL SAMMIE TO ARRANGE PICK UP

Lake Rerewhakaaitu School
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Locals supporting Locals



Upcoming dates:

Every 2nd Thursday of the month
during school term only
Thu 13th August
Thu 10th September
Thu 12th November
Thu 10th December

Venue
The Rusty Bros Bar and Cafe
1263 Amohia Street
Rotorua 3010

(previously called the Abracadabra
Cafe Rotorua)

Event contact
Jane Ford
centrallakes@parent2parent.org.nz
027 808 3945

Meet with other parents and carers
who know what it's like to care for a
disabled child, a neurodivergent child,
or a child with health impairments.

[Register here](#)

Parent to Parent hosts Parent Support
Groups in Rotorua during the school
term, to support carers and parents
just like you. These groups are a safe
space for family and whānau to share
their experiences, their challenges,
their triumphs, and to learn from each
other in an open and 100%
judgement-free environment. No topic
is too 'weird', no question too 'out
there'. We get it, and we are here to
help.

So if you'd like to share a struggle,
celebrate a success, raise a concern,
or simply have a cuppa and chat with
other parents and carers in your area,
you are always welcome at our
Parent Support Group. Drop in for as
long or as short a time as you want.