

The image shows the entrance to Lake Rotomā School. A paved walkway leads between two tall black pillars. The left pillar has a fish sculpture and text: 'Taha Whānau' and 'Te Taha Wairua'. The right pillar has 'Obedience' and 'Kindness'. In the background, there are blue school buildings and trees. The title 'LAKE ROTOMĀ SCHOOL NEWSLETTER' is overlaid in large, bold, orange letters.

LAKE ROTOMĀ SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Na to rourou, Na taku rourou, Ka ora ai tatou

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding term, I would like to acknowledge our tamariki, staff, and whānau for your ongoing support and commitment to our kura. This term has been filled with rich learning, strong relationships, and opportunities for our students to grow in both their learning and their identity.

Lake Rotomā School

Thursday 3 April 2026

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Term Reflection – Our Learning Journey

This term, our learning across both Waitangi (senior) and Ōtari (junior) classes has been centred around: **“Voices of Our Whānau – Identity, Place, and Kaitiakitanga”**.

Ōtari Class (Junior):

- Exploring *Ko wai au* – Who am I? through simple language and visuals
- Sharing about their whānau, home, and interests
- Learning about caring for our environment through hands-on activities

Waitangi Class (Senior):

- Developing deeper understanding of identity and whakapapa
- Connecting personal stories to place and community
- Exploring kaitiakitanga through inquiry and discussion

Literacy Learning

We continue to strengthen our Structured Literacy approach across both classes.

Ōtari Class:

- Building strong foundations in phonics and early reading
- Practising letter sounds, blending, and simple sentence writing
- Beginning to write about themselves using descriptive language

Waitangi Class:

- Strengthening spelling, sentence structure, and vocabulary
- Writing detailed descriptive pieces linked to identity
- Developing confidence in sharing ideas through writing

Mathematics Learning

Mathematics learning has been differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.

Ōtari Class:

- Developing number knowledge and counting strategies
- Learning to recognise patterns and simple place value
- Beginning to understand money through real-life contexts

Waitangi Class:

- Working with place value and decimals
- Exploring financial literacy (money, budgeting, problem solving)
- Explaining thinking and solving more complex problems

Te Reo Māori me ōna Tikanga

Te reo Māori continues to be embedded across the kura.

Ōtari Class:

- Learning simple kupu and sentence structures
- Using te reo in daily routines
- Building confidence through repetition

Waitangi Class:

- Extending vocabulary and sentence structures
- Integrating te reo into learning contexts
- Strengthening cultural identity and understanding

Whānau Engagement – Tuakiritanga Hui

A highlight of the term was our Whānau Engagement Hui (Tuakiritanga).

It was wonderful to see:

- Ōtari students proudly sharing their learning
- Waitangi students confidently presenting their mahi
- Whānau engaging in classrooms and celebrating success

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who attended and supported this kaupapa.

PB4L – The Mana Way

We continue to strengthen our Mana Way (PB4L) through our ROCK values: Respect, Ownership, Community, Kindness.

Ōtari Class:

- Learning routines and expectations
- Practising kindness and positive behaviour
- Building social confidence

Waitangi Class:

- Taking ownership of learning
- Demonstrating leadership
- Supporting peers and younger students

School Developments & Systems

This term we have focused on strengthening systems across the kura:

- Clear learning intentions (WALT)
- Consistent teaching aligned to Te Mātaiaho
- Stronger assessment practices across all year levels

This ensures:

- Clear expectations for all learners
- Smooth transitions between classes
- Improved student outcomes

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is essential for learning success. Across both classes, attendance supports:

- Strong progress
- Confidence and routines
- Positive relationships

Thank you to whānau for supporting regular attendance. Attendance has been an absolute success!

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge our dedicated Ōtari and Waitangi kaiako, our amazing tamariki for their effort and growth, and our supportive whānau and community.

Looking Ahead – Term 2

Next term we look forward to:

- Strengthening literacy and maths
- Continuing our localised curriculum learning

- Preparing for our upcoming ERO visit
- Building strong teaching and learning practices

Final Message

As we head into the holidays:

- Rest and recharge
- Spend time with whānau
- Stay safe

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.

Ngā mihi nui,

Te Aroha Wihapi

Tumuaki / Principal

Lake Rotomā School