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The Values We Share

Term 2 Week 1 - Care

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Centenary of ANZAC

I was very proud of our student executive last week for the respectful way they carried out their duties at the various ceremonies we attended to mark the Centenary of ANZAC and ANZAC Day. Ben and Elizabeth were guest speakers at the Gladesville RSL Sub-Branch ceremony on Sunday 19 April and both spoke beautifully about what ANZAC Day meant to them.

Last Friday, Elizabeth and Ben laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the City of Ryde Council Commemorative Service. All members of the executive, Elizabeth, Ben, Ryan, Sophie, Sofia, Zach, Amirah and Thomas attended the Hunters Hill Council ANZAC Commemorative event on Friday evening, proudly marching up to the Town Hall along Alexander St with representatives from other local schools. Additionally, all members of the executive led the school’s own ANZAC Service last Friday and did a great job. We thank Gladesville RSL Sub-Branch for attending our service and also for their donation of books to the library, each book representing a returned serviceman who has passed away the previous year.

Thank you to Mrs McDonald and Miss Borg for organizing this service and for the beautiful ‘Poppy Wall’ on the hall door.

Many of the students have been writing poetry as part of their study of Anzac Day. I have published one rather lovely piece from Nina in 4P at the end of this newsletter. Please take the time to read it.
Peace Garden
I’m sure many children have come home recently, excitedly telling their families about the fountain in the Peace Garden! That’s right – we have a beautiful fountain, sandstone seating and tiled chess board in the completed refurbishment of this area. We hope over the coming weeks to have a working bee to replant some garden beds and tidy up the surrounding area. The Peace Garden was refurbished with the assistance of several grants and the generosity of the GPS P&C. It will be formally opened later in the year to coincide with the Centenary of the Battle of Lone Pine.

The Peace Garden is recognized by the Veteran’s Affairs Department as an official war memorial as it contains several plaques commemorating the involvement of service men and women who served in WW11. As such, it is intended to be a quiet, contemplative area, not a playground for normal games and associated noise. I have spoken to all the students reminding them to be respectful when they are in this garden. They have been reminded that they are not allowed to play in the fountain water or walk on the sandstone edging.

I would respectfully ask that parents visiting this area before and after school supervise their children appropriately and ensure they don’t go in the fountain or walk on the sandstone edging.

Kindergarten 2016 Information Night
If you have a child (or know of a friend or relative in our school area) who will turn 5 before 31 July, 2016, they may be eligible to start Kindergarten next year. Please come along to our Kindergarten Information Evening at 7pm on Tuesday 12 May in the school hall. We will be talking about readiness for school and our Kindergarten Orientation Program.

OC Applications 2016
The school has received information booklets relating to Year 5 Opportunity Class placements and the application process for entry to an OC class in 2016. All applications must be made online by Friday 15 May 2015. Notes will be sent home this week for you to request an information booklet.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability
The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability is an annual collection that counts the number of students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The aim of the national data collection is to collect better information about school students with disability in Australia. All schools will be participating in the data collection in 2015. This information will help teachers and schools to better support students at school and is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems.

Students with a known disability may not need any adjustments made at school and likewise, students without an existing disability diagnosis may have adjustments made.

Students who will be included on the data collection are those who are currently having adjustments made to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as students without a disability.

Reasonable adjustments could be across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps, handrails), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual level (extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

If reasonable adjustments are being made for your child, the class teacher should have already discussed this with you. The data collection will take place in August this year. More information can be found at the following website:


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Red Poppies

Blood stains the wet earth
As bright red poppies grow wild
Breathing their first breath

They’re symbols of blood
Shaking magnificent heads
They are proud flowers

In the blood red fields
Poppies dance in the cool breeze
Singing merrily

Nina – 4P

P&C Information

Mother’s Day Stall
The P&C will be running a Mother’s Day stall on Friday 8 May to give the students the opportunity to purchase fabulous gifts for Mother’s Day. The stall will be running from 9.15am until recess at 11.10am. The students will be able to buy one or two gifts and the price of gifts will range from $1.00, $2.00, $3.00, and $5.00. Students wishing to purchase a gift should bring their money in on the day. Thank you for your support.

Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea
The P&C will also be having a fabulous Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea on Friday 8 May at the school hall from 1.45pm – 3.00pm. Mums, Grandmas and Carers are all warmly invited. There will be a cost of $6.00 that will include a beautiful cupcake (by a school Mum), tea and coffee and live saxophone entertainment. Preschool children are very welcome with biscuits and cordial supplied complimentary. If you wish to attend, please return your payment in an envelope with your name and order for afternoon tea to the P&C box in the office.

Mother’s Day Raffle
Raffle tickets for Mother’s Day will also be sold each morning in the playground from 4 May – 8 May and will be drawn at the afternoon tea. There are some fabulous prizes that have been kindly donated by school families and businesses. Please support our school as all money raised goes to benefit our fabulous school!

GPPS
P&C

Noticeboard
For information on Group Keyboard and Guitar lessons, please email ariamusicschool@gmail.com