On Friday 11th April, Rooty Hill Public School held its annual ANZAC Assembly in remembrance for those who fought for our country, and those who continue to fight to protect the rights of people in different countries around the world.

Our special guests, Mr Ray Johns and Mr George Corderoy, who both fought in Vietnam, shared just a few of their memories with us and we thank them for attending our special assembly.

Thank you to all the parents, children and teachers who brought in flowers to help make a beautiful wreath which our prefects presented at Rooty Hill RSL.

Lauren Milan
ANZAC Assembly Co-ordinator

From the Principal....

Welcome back to another action-packed term. I would like to extend a particular welcome to the large number of new families who joined us this term – I hope you will soon feel very much at home in our school community.

Attached to this newsletter is the term’s calendar – there’s lots to keep track of, so keep it somewhere handy.

The beginning of this term will keep us all busy. Just of few of the events coming up include

- School Cross Country
- National Testing (NAPLAN)
- Excursions
- Reconciliation Week activities
- Young Writers Awards
- Sydney West Dance Festival
- Athletics Carnival
- Visual Arts Day
- ............and much, much more!!!

One of next week’s highlights will be our Mothers’ Day Stall, to be held on Wednesday 7th May. A small but very committed group of parents has kindly donated time and hard work to ensure that enough gifts have been made so that every child has the opportunity to purchase something for Mothers’ Day. ‘Thank You’ to our fundraising group, on behalf of all of our families!

Working hard

Our Years 3 and 5 students will be concentrating hard over the next two weeks as they undertake NAPLAN tests. These formal national tests will take place on May 13, 14 &
15, with individual results being forwarded to parents later in the year. These tests provide us with a ‘snapshot’ of a child’s ability – the data obtained from their results is added to the vast array of information gathered throughout the year from a wide variety of assessment activities. Early bedtimes and hearty breakfasts should be on the agenda so that our students are ready to do their best!

Brrhhh! Early mornings have suddenly become much cooler which means most boys and girls are wearing jumpers or jackets to school. This of course means that there are many more jumpers finding their way to lost property! PLEASE make sure your child’s name is written clearly in their belongings – and make sure your child knows to check in Lost Property outside Mrs Robinson’s room if something goes missing!

Our 2013 Annual School Report is available for your perusal on our school website. Please make a time to meet with me if you have any questions or areas you would like to discuss regarding the report.

Family Photos
A reminder to those who attended the weekend Family Photos’ session before the holidays – photos will be ready for collection this Thursday afternoon – you should already have an appointment time.

Kind regards
Jackie Malecki

Easter Happening…

On Thursday 10th April, the students and staff enjoyed our annual Easter Happening with a vast range of bright, festive costumes on display. It was wonderful to see so many hand-made, highly-decorated hats, magical masks, perfectly painted posters and beautiful baskets. There was also a great selection of national costumes to admire. We were lucky enough to have a visit from a very cute Easter Bunny who wandered through the crowd sharing chocolate eggs with the boys and girls. She was a little too shy to dance by herself but with some encouragement from the fantastic Kindergarten children she finally joined them in their performance of the Chicken Dance. Thank you to all the parents who supported this event and well done for providing such lovely costumes for us to see. Thanks to all our boys and girls for behaving so well throughout the parade. Thanks also to the P & C for organising another successful Easter raffle and congratulations to the lucky winners!

Fiona Golder
A great start!....

On Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} of April, the debating team participated in the first round of the R.A Pickles Shield Debating Competition. Our first debate was against Hassall Grove Public School. The 1\textsuperscript{st} speaker was Divina, the 2\textsuperscript{nd} speaker was Emily, the 3\textsuperscript{rd} speaker was Aidan and Makayla was the 4\textsuperscript{th} speaker. Some other debaters tagged along to spectate the debate. We successfully won the debate as the topic was ‘Honesty is the best policy’. We were the negative team. We thank the other members of the debating team: Angela, Faqeeha, Jade, Tanzeela and Vanshita as they helped us with research and assisted with creating speeches. We also thank Mrs Shankaran and Ms Robinson for the support they gave us.

By Jade and Divina

Playground Reward....

Congratulations to all those students who participated in Rooty Hill Public School’s ‘Playground Reward’ at the end of last term! Students who remained on Level 0 during Term 1 participated in structured games such as handball, basketball, poison ball and many more.

Paul Haste

Managing screen-time
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen-time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older. Commonsense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen-time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: \textcolor{blue}{http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk}

Books to boost brains
Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds. The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading, comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!). If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adult: \textcolor{blue}{http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0}

Kik, Vine, Instagram – are they safe?
It’s no contest – kids discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. If your child is thinking about creating a new social media account – or complains that “everyone else is doing it”, you can get the facts a glance from School A to Z’s technology glossary. You’ll also find information about age restrictions and things to watch out for: \textcolor{blue}{http://bit.ly/188OerY}
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<th>Term</th>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>28th Apr Staff Development Day</td>
<td>29th Apr Students return</td>
<td>30th Apr PSSA trials</td>
<td>1st May 3-6 Assembly</td>
<td>2nd May Cross Country</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>5th May Cross Country backup</td>
<td>6th May</td>
<td>7th May Mother's Day stall</td>
<td>8th May Yr 4 excursion K-2 Assembly</td>
<td>9th May PSSA begins</td>
<td>10/11</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>12th May 13th May NAPLAN - Language Conventions and Writing</td>
<td>14th May NAPLAN - Reading</td>
<td>15th May NAPLAN - Numeracy 3-6 Assembly</td>
<td>16th May NAPLAN catch-up</td>
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<td>19th May Year 3 excursion</td>
<td>20th May Year 3 excursion</td>
<td>21st May PULSE rehearsal</td>
<td>22nd May Yr 5 Science Day HS GRIP Leadership day Dance cake stall</td>
<td>23rd May</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>26th May Sorry Day School Council Meeting 6pm LN exec.</td>
<td>27th May Young Writers</td>
<td>28th May Young Writers</td>
<td>29th May Reconciliation Wk flag raising ceremony 3-6 Assembly</td>
<td>30th May</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>2nd June Jnr &amp; Snr Dance dress rehearsal Jnr Dance evening Performance</td>
<td>3rd June 4th June Senior Dance evening performance</td>
<td>4th June Senior Dance evening performance</td>
<td>5th June Jnr &amp; Snr Dance matinee performance + excursion K-2 Assembly</td>
<td>6th June</td>
<td>7/8</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>9th June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</td>
<td>10th June 11th June 12th June Athon Day 3-6 Assembly</td>
<td>13th June</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>16th June Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>17th June 18th June</td>
<td>19th June REACH rehearsal (combined choir) K-2 Assembly</td>
<td>20th June Last week PSSA</td>
<td>21/22</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>23rd June Kindy to HS</td>
<td>24th June NAIIDOC activities</td>
<td>25th June Visual Arts Day PULSE rehearsal Reports go home</td>
<td>26th June</td>
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