

Windwhistle School's ANZAC Ceremony – Whole School Glenroy Monument at 11am on Friday 15 April.

The Windwhistle School children (both rooms) will be running a formal ANZAC service complete with Army personnel, wreath laying, singing etc. as the culminating activity to their Social Studies unit taught at school this term. Parents, extended family and anyone in the community are invited to attend. The service is followed by a finger food lunch, which this year is kindly being provided by the Glenroy Hall Committee at the Glenroy Hall. Please keep this day free so you can all join us. This is the last day of the term and after the lunch the children will be free to go home with their parents and begin enjoying a well earned holiday. More details about the ceremony in the week 10 newsletter.

ANZAC Poppies – Whole School.

As part of the “hands on” experiences for children around the ANZAC theme, each family is asked to distribute poppies to friends, neighbours, extended family etc. in exchange for a donation which goes to the welfare of RSA families. 10 poppies/family will be sent home this week. With the Easter break coming up, it may be a good time for the children to be in touch with people who would like a poppy. It gives the children the opportunity to tell others in the community about their ANZAC learning.

Please return the donations and any unsold poppies to me no later than Thursday 7 April. Any queries, please contact me. Thank you – Kathy Mehrtens

ANZAC – Room 2

As we have a lot of young children in the Room 2 class this year, I have been trying to put some “hands on” activities into the unit, rather than focusing too much on historical facts of past battles that might frighten young children too much.

I recently came across an article on the Princess Mary Christmas Gift Boxes. In 1914 during WW1, Princess Mary (George V's daughter) decided that 'every sailor afloat and every soldier at the front' should receive a small gift for Christmas. I read that 2.5 million small gift boxes were duly delivered. On the lid of the little silver or brass box was an embossed portrait of Princess Mary and some other intricate pictures. The contents included writing materials, chocolate, a Christmas card and cigarettes.

That got me thinking that the Room 2 children could make ANZAC Gift boxes. Each child could decorate a small box and put some treasures of their choice inside and send them to NZDF people overseas in time for ANZAC Day to let them know they were being thought of back here in New Zealand. After making inquiries at Burnham Camp, I learned that packages are not allowed to be delivered to overseas army personnel for security reasons. Letters were permissible - thank you parents for your support of your children writing these letters, which are now on their way to be hand delivered overseas in time for ANZAC Day. I'm sure they will be much enjoyed.

I was still keen for the children to have the tactile experience of making the little boxes, as I feel this often helps young children remember their learning, so after getting the okay from Burnham, the Room 2 children are now making their ANZAC Gift boxes for 13 lucky soldiers in training at Burnham Camp. We have some new delicate little brushes, some new paints and are all set to start decorating the boxes this Thursday. I have some small chocolates to go in each box and the children suggested a poppy should go in (I have these) and the children will write a small card to enclose. I have said to them if they would like to put in any other treasures, please make sure they are at school on the first Friday after Easter (1 April). Any queries, please contact Kathy. Thank you.

ANZAC Wreaths – Room 2

Just a heads up that the Room 2 children will each be making a wreath to present to RSA members to place on the Glenroy Monument as part of our ANZAC Ceremony on 15 April. We will make the wreaths at school the day before (Thursday 14 April). We are very grateful to Mary Abbott who has once again kindly agreed to help us with this. The circular oasis will be supplied. Children are asked to bring their own foliage from home. Details of what would be suitable will be in the week 10 newsletter. Any queries, please contact Kathy. Thank you.

Music – Recorder – Room 2

As we are busy with the ANZAC until the end of this term, recorder for Years 4-6 children will begin in Term 2. Any queries, please contact Kathy. Thank you.

Maths – Room 2

The children have just completed a unit of work on measurement with me (Kathy): telling the time. Due to the packed curriculum, we won't get to focus on "time" specifically again until next year. It would be really helpful if, whenever you had the chance at home, to incorporate their learning into your children's everyday life. Measurement makes a whole lot more sense in a real life context. Year 3 – using a calendar; Year 4 – minutes to and past the hour on an analogue clock; Year 5 & 6 – am and pm, telling digital time, converting between digital and analogue time and problem solving eg. if we need to be at Darfield at 4:00pm and it takes us 30 minutes to get there, what time will we need to leave home? Thank you for your help. Any queries, please contact Kathy.