Term 1 has flown, as I am sure you will all agree! We’ve been very busy at Nowra Hill Public School.

For the first 2 weeks of March, the school borrowed a **Memorial Box** from the Australian War Memorial. The box contained hands-on artefacts, written information and uniforms relating to Australia in the First World War. On Friday 6 March, we were joined by Bob Brown, Peter Penny and Don Parkinson, all members of Nowra RSL Club. The visitors explained the uses for some of the artefacts and talked to the students about their experiences in the Navy.

Twelve students from years 2 and 3 are currently participating in **KidSMART**—a four week program which aims to help children manage deployment and parental absence. The program is being run by Helene Kendall, DCO Social Worker and myself. So far, the students have looked at ways to manage worry and how to keep in contact with a deployed parent.

If you get a chance have a look at the **Nowra Hill Public School website** at: www.nowrahill-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/.

The DSTA section of the site contains a number of brochures from DCO which provide information about the Defence Family Helpline, DCO, Education Assistance, the REDLO, Posting and relocation, DSTA’s and DTM’s.

The Nowra Hill DSTA Newsletters in full colour and many photos of the students undertaking various activities at school are also on the site.

All of the new students to Nowra Hill have painted their leaves which has been added to the **Nowra Hill Friendship Tree**. Each leaf identifies the name of the student and the year in which he/she started at the school. The tree is in the school hall and will continue to grow as new students join the school community.
ANZAC CENTENARY

As you know, between 2014 and 2019, Australia is commemorating the Centenary of Anzac, marking 100 years since this Country’s involvement in the First World War. The Centenary of Anzac is a milestone of special significance to all Australians. The First World War helped define us as a people and as a nation.

Leading up to this year’s Anzac Day, I have been working with each class to prepare artworks based on the symbols of Remembrance and Peace. The students have made material banners, tile mosaics and large collages, all of which will be displayed around the school. The results are stunning!

DSTA LEAVE AND CHANGES TO THE DSTA FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

I will be taking the last week off at the end of term 1 and the first week of term 2. As a result of the 2014 change in the funding arrangements for the DSTA Program, the number of hours I work at the school was reduced from 400 hours per year to 361 hours. This reduction equates to approximately 8 working days. Rather than cutting back the number of hours worked each day, Mr McCann and I have agreed that it is best to take 8 whole days off throughout the year, hence, my leave in April. I hope this won’t be an inconvenience.

Finally, please remember to advise me of any current or future deployments so that I can support your child at school. I can be contacted by email at: leanne.millard1@det.nsw.edu.au or by phoning the school office on 4421 5671.

Leanne Millard
DSTA
Nowra Hill Public School