Anzac Day Assembly – School Captain’s Speech – Fazan Jazoor

Good morning Mrs. Ogden, the Principal class, distinguished guests, staff and students. We are gathered here today on the 98th anniversary of Anzac Day, not to celebrate or glorify war, but rather to remember, honour and respect everyone who has gallantly served this nation, during times of conflict and crisis; from wars of the past to current peace-making operations.

On the 25th of April 1915, Australians, alongside those from New Zealand, fought in a campaign of intense brutality. Yes, the campaign may have been a failure, yes over 8000 Australians died and over 78000 were wounded at Gallipoli; however it was this ‘so-called’ disastrous campaign that has come to symbolise the courage, determination and mateship we’ve all associated with Anzac Day for 98 years and will continue to do so for years to come.

Furthermore such an event ensured that we all live a life of freedom and peace. A life where we remain a country in which we are free to choose our future and establish our place in the world.

Hence, it is clear to say that Anzac Day is not merely a date or just a national holiday; it is a fundamental Australian tradition, most importantly a spirit. It is a moment to reflect on the past generations of Australians who in hardship displayed courage, discipline, self-reliance, self-sacrifice, perseverance and friendship.

The ANZAC spirit exists in each one of us, so therefore, let us be guided by the ANZAC spirit in facing the national and personal challenges ahead, and let us strive to be worthy of the memory of those we honour on this day.

And even as the number of ex-servicemen and women from WW1 grow smaller, the spirit of ANZAC day, which has been passed on to us from battlefields long ago, will live on because it is a reflection of the very heart of our nation.

The men and women may have gone, but their legacy, their spirit, the spirit of the ANZAC’s lives on.

Thank you.

Anzac Day Assembly – School Captain’s Speech – Victoria Ahmadzai

Good morning, Mrs Ogden, Principal Class, Special Guests, Teachers and Students.

Today, Anzac Day we look back 98 years ago and pay our respect to the soldiers who fought in Gallipoli on the 25th April 1915. Today we honour the courage of the ANZACS who fought and commemorate the sacrifices of those who died during the Gallipoli campaign. On this day, we also commemorate those who fought and lost their lives in all wars, and those who are still continuing to serve their country and protect the sovereignty of this nation.

The Gallipoli Campaign was Australia’s first major contribution to the world as a nation, which was only 14 years old. The Campaign that went on for 8 months, 2 weeks and 1 day, resulted in thousands of men and women dead or wounded. These soldiers however, demonstrated
perseverance, courage and comradeship. Their sacrifice, bravery and selflessness led them to have the courage to stand and fight on behalf of the nation and bring home freedom and peace for the Australian and New Zealand people. Though the Campaign at Gallipoli resulted in the ANZACS defeat what prevailed was the ANZAC spirit.

Anzac Day is a reminder for all of us, that wars or feuds are to be avoided, but when necessary we must stand up for our values and moral groundings. It requires us to reflect on the ANZAC history with pride and honour, but also look ahead and build our own achievements based on the accomplishments of those before us. By displaying the characteristics of the ANZAC spirit, we can enrich the Australian tradition.

On the 11th of November 1993 at the entombing of the Unknown Australian Soldier, Prime Minister Paul Keating delivered these powerful words for the soldiers who fought for their nation and left their identity behind unspoken:

We do not know this Australian’s name and we never will. We do not know his rank or battalion. We do not know where he was born, nor precisely how he died ... We will never know who this Australian was ... he was one of the 45,000 Australians who died on the Western Front ... one of the 60,000 Australians who died on foreign soil. One of the 100,000 Australians who died in wars this century. He is all of them. And he is one of us.

So I say, may the spirit of the ANZACS forever be upheld in Australia. May their stories of courage, bravery, loyalty and sacrifice be passed down from generation to generation. To the ANZACS and all the soldiers who fought and continue to fight for Australia, thank you.