

Mrs Simpson's Sizzling Spotlight

Auslan

This week's Sizzling Spotlight is all about **Auslan**. With an average of 10% of our student population identified as having a verified disability, and one third of these identified as having a hearing impairment and/or Otitis Media, Mareeba SS has worked tirelessly over the past 10 years to move towards a 'Talking Hands' language approach.

Our signature Auslan Language Program has been in operation since 2012 and has grown in student numbers. Students who are members of the Auslan Signing Choir have the opportunity to learn additional Auslan skills to:



Auslan Choir performs at every school event including Anzac parade.

- ✓ Sign the National Anthem on parade
- ✓ Sign a variety of songs at special parades
- ✓ Represent Mareeba SS at community events including the Mareeba Multicultural Festival, Carols by Candlelight, Seniors Weeks, the Mareeba Garden Settlement and many more



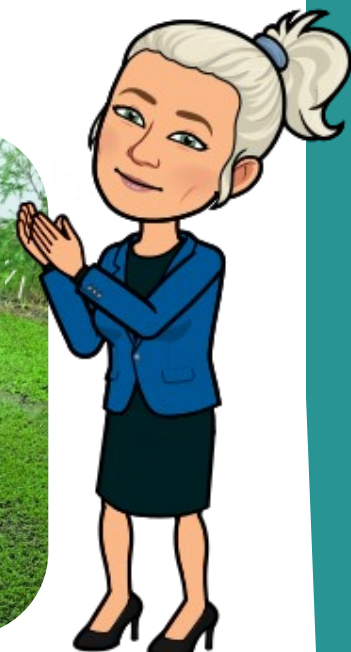
Recording the 2020 virtual CGEN performance due to COVID.

- ✓ Visits to the local kindergartens to teach kindy kids basic Auslan signs
- ✓ Engage in other Auslan activities during lunch breaks
- ✓ Participate in the *Creative Generation—State Schools Onstage (CGEN)* concert in Brisbane

100% of students in P-6 utilise Auslan to communicate our weekly whole school PBL expectation as explicitly taught weekly on parade.

- ✓ Be a student leader, representing Auslan as the Auslan Captain

At Mareeba SS we also offer Auslan LOTE as our Australian Curriculum languages program for students in years 5 & 6, providing them with skills to engage their peers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, as well as providing a life-long skill they can use in every situation.



Auslan student leader on preparing for the 2021 CGEN performance: *"I am excited to go down for the second time, but I have a lot more responsibility this year. I am not as nervous as the first, but I am a little bit stressed as I am now the captain and have more responsibility. I try to help other Auslan signers with correcting their mistakes."*