

Mrs Simpson's Sizzling Spotlight



Prep

This week's sizzling spotlight is all about **Prep**. Each year we welcome a new cohort of fresh-faced Prep students to Mareeba SS, with the vision of providing every child with a successful start to their formal education. Here at MSS, we have a strong philosophy that making a difference in the early years makes a difference to education overall! When we enrol a child in any year level, we enrol the whole family and we work collaboratively with community groups to establish common practices to provide effective support for every learner.

Our purpose-built modern Prep facility was opened in 2019 and offers bright vibrant learning spaces for students to engage in a range of foundation learning programs including Jolly Phonics for letters and sounds. Offering smaller class sizes, these rooms are spacious enough for whole class, small group and individual learning activities. Our experienced Prep teachers open classrooms from 8:30am daily.

Part of our new Prep facilities is our purpose-built Prep playground providing our learners with a safe environment to run around and incorporate play-based activities into their school day. This area also has a supervised eating area and supervised toilet block, specific to Prep. We encourage Prep students to engage with our school library during lunch breaks in terms 2-4, allowing them to settle into school before venturing out.

During the first term of Prep, our students wear name tags to ensure they are easily identified at school. Throughout the entire Prep year, we provide supervised bus support ensuring students arrive to the bus hall on time and catch the correct bus. We also encourage a buddy system for all students when transitioning around the school– safety in numbers.

Each term our Prep students participate in a number of curriculum units including the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Wombat Stew*, fostering the growth of oral language skills. For those students requiring additional support, we have a Speech Language Pathologists on site.

Annually, our Prep students engage in a variety of activities that promote growth in all areas including Under 8's Day, NAIDOC Day, the Art Show and many more! Ever wondered what it's like in Prep at MSS? Check out our Facebook page for information on upcoming events.

