

Mrs Simpson's Sizzling Spotlight

Step Up Day

This week's Sizzling Spotlight is all about our **Step Up Session**. Hosted during the middle session of Wednesday, Week 9, Term 4, our annual Step Up Day provides an opportunity for all students and staff at Mareeba State School to engage in 'Getting to Know You' activities as a transition into the next year level.

During our step up session, current students in years Prep to 5 are arranged into their class groups for the following year and are taken to their next year's classroom with their next year's teacher. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to meet their new teacher, their new classmates and locate their new classroom. It is noted that for some new teachers they may be unable to attend the day due to travel distance. In this case a current teacher who is leaving our school may take the class on this day. The same can be said for classrooms that are unavailable on the day. Please note that on this day our Year 6 students attend their nominated secondary school for a secondary school transition day.

For our newest learners, our incoming Prep students, families will receive their child's Step Up Day pack via mail prior to the session. This allows families and Kindy children to know who their teacher is so they can go straight to their new Prep classroom at 12pm on Step Up Day. During this time, families who have children starting Prep are encouraged to spend the session in our staffroom to chat with other parents and carers and enjoy a cuppa. This is the same for new families to our school whose child/ren are coming in for the session. Families can leave the school grounds during this time as we do discourage families from staying in classrooms with students. This allows students the best chance to have a great start with their new classmates and teacher.

Whilst with their new teacher and classmates, students will participate in a number of 'Getting to Know You' activities and will begin their 2022 class 'We All Belong' project. This project is centred on building the connection between the new classmates and teachers and ensures everybody is welcomed and included. This work is central to the expectation that inclusion is paramount with our definition of inclusion defined as: **"acknowledging, respecting and supporting our diverse school community to grow and succeed."**

At the end of the session, each child will receive their 'Step Up Session' pack containing important information about their teacher, a school map with classroom locations, booklist as well as flyers for the start of year events including our Welcome Back BBQ and book drop-off times. If your child is away on this day, step-up packs will be given to them on the next school day they attend. For children who are absent or starting holidays early, packs will be posted home in week 10.

