Welcome to...

Mulgildie State Prep

2014
Information Booklet

TEACHERS: Mrs Katherine Vriesema
TEACHER AIDE: Mrs. Susan Fisher
Welcome
We are looking forward to sharing this important year with you and your child. Your child’s time at Prep will help him or her to develop skills necessary for the future. The Prep class is part of Mulgildie Early Education Class. This means that your prep child will share a room with Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 children.

While it’s an important year we hope it will also be lots of fun for all involved – children, parents and teachers.

We hope you will choose to be involved at Prep this year to make it a successful one.

Getting your child ready
There are heaps of things to do with your child – if you can try to spend two or three minutes, several times a day, getting your child to notice the finer details of daily objects.

Everything in our world has a name - identify objects for your child and explain how they are used. Talk about what things are made of, what color they are, how many there are, how they are the same, and how they are different.

All their life, your child will use the information you give them during the early years.

What does my child need?

- A large bag or port to carry all their belongings
- A broad brimmed hat for outdoor play
  - Morning tea and Lunch.
  - Please send along healthy foods - Save chips and lollies for home
  - Drinks for the day
  - A spare set of clothes
- A Library bag
- A Scrapbook
- A Display Folder
- A Piece of Fruit for Fruit Break

Please label all belongings
Encourage children to be responsible for their own things.
Parent Involvement

Children benefit greatly from the individual attention of caring adults. In order to provide this, parents joining in sessions is vital.

For reading stories, helping with difficult puzzles, and writing children’s speech – parents are indispensable. The children enjoy a cooking experience with a parent or getting to watch a spinning wheel in action. Listening to a musical instrument or hearing a tall tale about the ‘one that got away’ – both are fascinating to children and to the staff alike! Perhaps you may like to share a bit of yourself with prep – let us know! Could you help at home – maybe by sewing, or covering books, or laundering play items or repairing toys? Parents with carpentry skills are greatly valued.

We need you to create the warm, friendly, supportive environment so necessary for positive learning to take place. It’s definitely a team effort!

So get involved by…

- talking with the teacher and the children, to learn about prep
- visiting and joining in - doing the things children are doing
- coming to our monthly P&C meetings
- keeping informed with newsletters and the notice board
- collecting ‘junk’ for us
- discussing any concerns or worries

The children learn best when the important people in their lives establish good partnerships – parents, teacher, other children.

Sharing Information

Events in family life, such as a major illness, accident or death of a relative, friend or pet can be of major concern to a child, and markedly affect their behaviour. As can an exciting or happy occasion. It makes our job easier if we know if anything unusual happens, which may affect your child at prep.

Birthdays at Prep

Birthdays are special days for children. They make them feel important. We love to celebrate them with the children. On your child’s birthday, you may wish to send a cake along to share for morning tea.

Treasures from Home

Toys or jewellery can often get lost or broken when brought to school, so it saves anxiety if these are kept safely at home.

We do encourage the children to bring along interesting things to prep, as part of ‘showing and telling’ to help children develop confidence in speaking and language.
Junk at Prep

Many important skills are developed by the children’s use of junk materials...... So we need an ongoing supply of all sorts of junk or recyclables that you and your friends can collect.

- Cardboard
- Wrapping paper
- Greeting cards
- Envelopes
- Gold/silver foil
- Pieces of wood
- Lace, ribbons
- Beads
- Cardboard cylinders
- Material scraps
- Wool/string/cord
- Dress-up clothes
- Xmas decorations
- Clean egg shells
- Wood shavings
- Cellophane
- Buttons
- Cotton reels
- Paper bags

Prep ‘Product’

During a session at prep, your child will probably take part in a wide variety of activities, some involving active doing, others requiring listening and observing.

Some activities (e.g. painting) conclude with an end product, while others (e.g. observing in the science area or reading stories) do not. Remember, all activities are of equal importance in a child’s overall development.

On the occasions your child does bring home work, it is sometimes hard to ask sensible questions about it. With a painting, for example, sometimes a child simply likes to put colour on paper because it looks and feels good at the time. So beware of over-kill with questions.

Here are some open-ended ones you might try:
- tell me about your picture?
- who is in the picture?
- what is happening?
- where do you see patterns like that?

As well as asking about work, drawing attention to certain elements within the painting or pasting (whatever item it is) is another way to respond.

Children often create (paint, draw, paste, hammer, build, sticky-tape, cut, etc.) for the sheer pleasure of being involved in the ‘doing’ of it. If the creation is made with building blocks or sand, your child cannot bring it home to put on the fridge, but it is no less important than a painting which can be carried home. Sometimes, the children forget to take some work home, or even seem uninterested in the end-product at all.