Welcome to...

Mulgildie State Prep

2019 Information Booklet

TEACHERS: Mrs Kelly Low, Mrs Samantha Dow

TEACHER AIDES: Mrs Helen Schimke, Mrs Fe Domingo & Ms. Belinda Steger
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. Our Prep class will be part of the Mulgildie School Community. Prep students will have the opportunity to work both in their own group and with older peers.

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.

How can you help at home to get your child ready for Prep?
Some ways that you can help get your child ready for their first year of school are to develop their independence, daily routines and their awareness of the world around them:

**Independence** is a big area that you can help your child prepare in. While we are always here to help, children can feel a huge amount of pride in themselves if they are able to recognise their own library bag, or pull on their shoes by themselves.
Ways to improve their independence – encouraging your child to carry their own school bag, recognising their own belongings, eating and drinking without help, using a tissue to blow their own nose and going to the toilet on their own.

**Daily routines** can help your child know what they need to do, when they need to do it and why it’s important.
Daily Routines that can help include – going to bed early, waking up at a certain time – with plenty of getting ready time, eating breakfast, helping to or knowing that he/she have their lunch prepared and in their bag.

Other things to do....
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.
Information that your child learns now, will be with them throughout their lives.

Get to know our great little school....
Drive or walk by at various times so that your child can see what happens during the day and how those activities can change. Bring your child with you if you are popping in to return forms, or picking things up.

All of these things can help your child be ready for a great first year at school.
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
  - A Piece of Fruit for Fruit Break
  - Drinks for the day
  - A spare set of clothes
- A Library bag
- Other items as indicated on the booklist

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.

From reading stories, helping with difficult puzzles, to writing children’s speech – parents are indispensable. The children enjoy cooking 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 prepare items at home or come into the classroom once a week? All offers of help are always welcome.

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.
**Lunches**
At Mulgildie School, we encourage students to try and eat as healthily as possible. We encourage students to bring in a healthy, filling lunch rather than chips or lollies. Sometimes a variety of smaller, easily unwrapped items will work better for your child than one or two larger pieces of food. Water bottles are welcome but we do prefer the students to have plain water rather than cordial or juice.

Lunch Breaks are at 11:00 am and 1:00pm each day. Students will also have a fruit (or vegie) break at about 9-9:30 each day.

**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.

**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 behavior, 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.

**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.

As part of our speaking program, we often have set topics to also help you and your students prepare for Show & Tell.
Junk at Prep
Many important skills are developed by the children’s use of junk materials……. So at times we may ask you to collect 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
- 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 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 or a drawing, 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 collage (whatever item it is) is another way to respond.