Welcome to St Denis Pre-Primary. Parents and teachers can help children enjoy a positive start to the school year. We look forward to a wonderful and rewarding year with you and your child.

STAFF

Acting Principal  
Kerry Hewitson

Assistant Principals  
Cordelia Nicholas  
Leanne Fanetti

PRE PRIMARY STAFF

Teacher  
Libby Lanigan

Education Assistant  
Chelsea Burchill

Telephone:  9242 3422  
Fax: 9242 3423

Email:  
admin@stdenis.wa.edu.au  
lanigan.libby@stdenis.wa.edu.au

School Website  
www.stdenis.wa.edu.au
THE LEARNING PROGRAM

In Pre-Primary the majority of the learning is carried out through structured and unstructured play in the learning centres. The learning centres are planned to develop key concepts, skills and attitudes that correspond to current curriculum and developmentally appropriate practices in Early Childhood Education. Interaction in these areas is beneficial to the child’s spiritual, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

Throughout the year we will be working to assist the development of the following skills, values and attitudes in each child in the following ways:

- to develop the awareness of God in all aspects of their life
- to provide a smooth transition from home to school
- to develop a positive self-esteem for each child
- to develop social skills necessary for interaction with peers and adults
- to assist acquisition of independent skills
- to assist the development of language skills (the language program is integrated into all aspects of the Pre-Primary program)
- to develop pre-reading, writing and mathematic skills as a foundation for ongoing learning
- to promote the development of the whole child; physical, spiritual, emotional, social and intellectual

Our Pre-Primary Day

Before School Activities

The classroom door opens at 8:30am and our class bell rings at 8:45am. During this time, we ask that you settle your child and engage in the morning activities. Every second Friday, the children are required to line up by 8:45am for assembly.
News Time
Oral language refers to the act of speaking and listening which strongly impacts on literacy outcomes. As part of our oral language program children will be rostered on to share news. Oral news-telling encourages the development of oral language skills and the sequencing of events. Students may also have "special birthday news" on their birthday. It is only on these occasions that children are able to bring toys to school, and at these times the toys remain in their school bag throughout the day.

Outdoor Play
The session incorporates time for free exploration of outdoor equipment.

Inside Activities
During the morning session, Dedicated Literacy Time is scheduled where children participate in whole class instruction, then work in learning centres. The program is integrated with other learning areas. Activities will be planned using the children's strengths and needs and will incorporate a combination of whole class instruction and small explicit teaching groups.

Afternoon Session
Children participate in language or mathematics related games, activities and construction based play such as Lego and Mobilo. We also have a shared reading time while we rest and relax.

Mat Session
These sessions vary and may consist of music and movement, Religious Education, as well as, thematic, language or mathematic based activities.

Session Times:

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Session One
Recess
Session Two
Lunch
Session Three
Home
Early dismissal / parking
Please note that children should not be left unattended whilst waiting for the Pre-Primary classroom to open at 8:30am. At the conclusion of the day, children must be collected from the Pre-Primary classroom by parents or guardians. In the interests of safety, should you wish to make alternative arrangements, please advise us beforehand, if possible. Duty of care is until 3.15pm. In Second Semester, students may be collected by an older sibling and taken to pick up, with written permission from a parent.

Recess & Lunch
Children need to supply their own recess and lunch. They are able to pre order lunch only from the canteen on a Monday and Friday.

School Uniform
A Pre-Primary polo shirt and sports shorts are a compulsory part of the Pre-Primary uniform. These can be purchased from the uniform shop. Children are asked to wear sensible footwear that they are able to put on and take off by themselves. Sports shoes are to be predominantly white. Sandals may be worn in the warmer months. For the cooler months there is a St Denis track suit that can also be purchased. Please pack a set of spare clothes in your child’s school bag and ensure that all clothing is clearly marked with your child’s name.

On designated sport days students are required to wear a coloured faction polo shirt.

In accordance with the school’s “No hat, no play in the sun” policy, children must wear a school hat all year for outside play.

Health
If children are ill, they should be kept home. When the child returns to the school, a written note or email must be sent outlining the reason for
the absence. If an infectious disease is the cause of absence or illness, please advise the teacher at the onset of the absence.

During the year, a medical check by the school nurse will be provided. You will be given a card to complete and should there be any concerns, the school nurse will contact parents or guardians.

If your child has any allergies, please advise staff and complete an Action Plan.

Absences
Legal requirements on monitoring absenteeism have become much more accountable. Parents must inform the school/class teachers prior to the child being absent if it involves a previously arranged appointment. If parents have forgotten to do so, they must inform the school via the administration office before 9.00am on the day. This can be done by emailing admin@stdenis.wa.edu.au or phoning the office on 9242 3422. Parents running late in dropping off students must continue to sign students in at the administration office.

Under WA Statutory Law, school absences must be notified in writing to the school as immediately as possible following the student’s return to school. The written advice should include the reasons for the student’s absence. As school absence notes are kept on file, notification of a child’s absence should be in writing and addressed to the classroom teacher. In the event of prolonged unexplained absences, we are required to pass on details to the truancy office of the Child Welfare Department.

Notices and Communication
We consider communication between the Pre-Primary and the home to be very important. We will keep you informed about our class through emails, newsletters (on our website) and the noticeboard. If you have any notes for the teacher, please place them in the ‘Note Basket’ on the parent information table.
The **school newsletter** is available *fortnightly*, on a **Thursday**, on the school website. [www.stdenis.wa.edu.au](http://www.stdenis.wa.edu.au). Please provide the school office with your preferred email address to ensure you receive a copy.

**Birthdays**
We are happy for the children to celebrate their birthday in the Pre-Primary by bringing special 'birthday' news. No treats are necessary as we celebrate birthdays in a special Pre-Primary way!

**Parent Roster**
A roster will be placed on the notice board for parents to choose a particular morning on which they would like to help. This is an opportunity for you to spend some time in class with your child and their peers and it is also a great assistance to us. We would prefer it if parents did not bring other young children when on roster. This is a time for you to share with your child. Please maintain confidentiality when working with children in the classroom. If there are any problems with this, please see the Pre-Primary teacher.

If you have any special skills, talents, interests or ideas such as cooking, guitar, crafts that may enhance our program, please let us know.

In the interest of the children, their self-esteem and for developmental purposes, it is asked that when parents come on roster, they let the children do the activities for themselves. Young children learn best about the world around them by “doing”.

**Laundry**
Pre-Primary laundry will be rostered out each Friday. Please ensure that it is returned on the following Monday, as aprons are used daily. Many thanks in anticipation.
Interviews
At the end of Term One interviews will be conducted for parents wishing to discuss any issues regarding their child. A roster will be displayed on the notice board for parents/guardians to choose an appropriate time.

If you would like to see the Pre-Primary teacher about your child during the year, please make an appointment so that relevant information that may assist the interview can be gathered prior to the interview.

Assemblies
Once a fortnight, the Pre-Primary class will join the rest of the school in the hall for assembly on a Friday. Three children each week will receive an Honour Certificate in recognition of their efforts. Names of children receiving Honour Certificates will be printed in the school’s fortnightly newsletter.

Masses
The Pre-Primary children will attend school masses as soon as they have settled into school routines and procedures. Dates of all masses are available on the online school calendar. (On school website: www.stdenis.wa.edu.au)

Cooking
We share regular cooking sessions with the children. Please let us know if your child has any allergies to a particular food.

Library
The children attend library every week. Children will be encouraged to borrow books and these should be returned to the library the following week. Library bags are compulsory for all students.