



# *Kindergarten 2019*



## SCHOOL INFORMATION

<b><u>SCHOOL ADDRESS:</u></b>	2 Orchid Street Joondanna WA 6060
<b><u>SCHOOL PHONE:</u></b>	9242 3422
<b><u>SCHOOL FAX:</u></b>	9242 3423
<b><u>WEBSITE:</u></b>	<a href="http://www.stdenis.wa.edu.au">www.stdenis.wa.edu.au</a>
<b><u>EMAIL:</u></b>	<a href="mailto:admin@stdenis.wa.edu.au">admin@stdenis.wa.edu.au</a>



## KINDERGARTEN STAFF

<b><u>CLASSROOM TEACHER:</u></b>	Ms Cordelia Nicholas
<b><u>EDUCATION ASSISTANTS:</u></b>	Mrs Grace Allen, Mrs Lisa Ciffolilli & Mrs Dobrina Ferialdi
<b><u>EMAIL ADDRESS:</u></b>	<a href="mailto:cordelia.nicholas@cewa.edu.au">cordelia.nicholas@cewa.edu.au</a>

## TERM DATES 2019

**TERM ONE**  
Monday 4 February – Friday 12 April

**TERM TWO**  
Monday 29 April – Friday 5 July

**TERM THREE**  
Monday 22 July – Friday 27 September

**TERM FOUR**  
Monday 14 October – Friday 13 December



*Term Dates*

**\*\*Please note:** The dates may vary due to set Pupil Free Days.  
These will be advertised in the school planner, website and school newsletter.

# Welcome

16 November 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome to St Denis School and our world of happy, rewarding learning adventures of progressive discovery and achievement for primary students.

At St Denis, holistic education of the whole person is at the heart of our strategic vision. Working with parents as primary educators of their children, we are committed to helping students learn and develop their potential and share in the joys of Christian life with which God blesses us.

In an increasingly complex and challenging world, the education of our students, crucially, is grounded in Gospel values and spiritual and faith growth in synergy with academic achievement and development of social skills and confidence.

Positive and harmonious unity between students, parents, teachers and all members of our school community is promoted and nurtured through understanding, compassion, respect, love of others, and a shared love of God.

I warmly invite you to tour the St Denis website and discover more of how St Denis makes education an enjoyable and richly engaging experience for its students.

Mr Eugene Lee  
Principal



# From the Teacher

16 November 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome to Kindergarten. I trust it will be an enjoyable and exciting experience for your child.

Kindergarten is a very special year for your child. The Kindergarten program aims to create an environment where children learn through free play, discovery, hands-on activities and teacher directed activities, which are appropriate to their developmental level.

The Kindergarten environment aims to:

- Develop a sense of wonder about God
- Allow children to be children
- Provide rich experiences that are stimulating, hands-on, creative and challenging
- Foster in each child an enthusiasm and joy for learning
- Develop their pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills
- Develop the ability to communicate verbally and non verbally their thoughts, ideas and feelings
- Encourage socialisation and positive relationships
- Develop their fine and gross motor skills
- Encourage a healthy moral awareness
- Make Kindergarten a place where children feel comfortable and valued, in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Our planning is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework and WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and has strong links to the Australian Curriculum. This describes the broad parameters, structure, principles and outcomes required to enhance children's learning from birth to five. It focuses on: play-based intentional learning; the role of teachers in facilitating children's learning; five outcomes and seamless transition from learning in childcare to learning in school.

The Kindergarten program is developed through the interest of the children. During a year, one or more units of inquiry may be covered. Most of the activities, reading material and discussions focus on developing knowledge about the topic. The children will attend one physical education session per week with our specialty PE teacher. They also participate in one music session per week with our music specialist teacher.

The classroom is arranged into a variety of learning centres in which the children can visit during indoor activity time. Children will also complete teacher directed activities during the sessions.

Outdoor time is when the children can run around and play with their friends. A variety of equipment is set up each day to help to develop their gross motor skills.

I look forward to working with you and your child in the coming year.

Ms Cordelia Nicholas  
Assistant Principal & Kindergarten Teacher



## Arrival/Departure & Communication

- Kindergarten days are **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am – 2.45pm**
- Kindy doors open at **8:45 am** and parents are invited to stay with their child for a short period to do puzzles or to read a book or enjoy the outdoor play space.
- The Kindergarten child is usually accompanied by a parent. If this is sometimes not the case, please inform the teacher of your alternative arrangements. If another person is to regularly deliver or collect your child, written confirmation is required.
- It is important that your child carries their own school bag and places it in the bag rack. They place their lunch box in the basket and drink bottle on the tray.
- If your child is distressed, especially in the first weeks of school, it is advisable that you leave promptly and let the staff look after the child. Be assured that children usually settle quickly when mum or dad are out of sight. If at any time your child is distressed and cannot be placated, you will be contacted.
- Please ensure that your child is collected promptly at 2.45 pm. If in an emergency you are late or someone else is to pick up your child, please ring the school office and the Kindy staff will be informed of the situation.
- Children who are not collected by 3.15pm will be taken to the administration office for collection.
- If you need to collect your child early, please sign your child out at the school's administration office prior to collecting your child and take an 'Early Leave Pass' to the classroom.
- Please do not allow your child to play on any of the playground equipment around the school before or after school.



## 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 9.00 am on the day. This can be done by emailing the office or phoning the office on 9242 3422.
- Parents running late must sign students in at the administration office and obtain a 'Late Arrival Pass.'
- It is a legal requirement that a note is given to the teacher explaining your child's absence.

## Kindergarten Information Board



Outside the Kindergarten classroom there will be an information board which will inform parents of upcoming events and any important information that you need to be aware of. However, any information regarding important dates will be in the school newsletter. We will also send home regular class newsletters.

## What to Bring to Kindergarten

- A **MIDDLE to LARGE SIZED** backpack, which can hold a lunchbox, drink bottle, change of clothes and your child's work.
- A **COMPLETE** change of clothes. This is necessary the full year round. Please make sure the clothes are appropriate for the weather.
- A hat, which has a wide brim, or a cap with a neck protection flap. The school has a '**No Hat-No Play**' policy and this discipline starts in Kindergarten.
- A water bottle - **WATER ONLY**. No juice boxes or cordial.
- Morning tea and lunch – further information below.
- A library bag.
- Two boxes of tissues (please provide at beginning of school year)



## What to Wear to Kindergarten

- It is very important that children wear clothes that are comfortable and manageable. Activities are often messy, so please don't send your child in their best clothes.
- Our uniform shop sells a 'Kindy Juniors T-shirt' and shorts.
- Avoid clothing that may cause difficulty when going to the toilet.
- Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to children before coming to school. Sunscreen is also available for re-application during the day.



- Having manageable shoes will increase your child's independence and confidence. Please ensure children are wearing sensible shoes or sandals that they can independently take off and put on.
- **SHOES, SNEAKERS OR SANDALS WITH VELCRO STRAPS** are recommended. No high heels, thongs or backless shoes. Sport shoes must be worn on sports days.

## Toileting

- It is encouraged that all children be toilet trained before attending Kindergarten. If a medical condition exists, the teacher must be informed.
- In the event of a toileting accident, wet clothing will be cleaned as much as possible, soaked in NAPISAN and then sent home in a plastic tub and soaked in Napisan. If soiled, the child will be made as clean and comfortable as possible and, if necessary, parents will be contacted to pick up their child.
- Parents are required to provide at least one change of clothing to be kept in the child's bag. Please ensure clothing is appropriate to the weather.

## Important Information about Kindergarten

### Morning Tea



Morning tea should be predominantly fruit and vegetables. Cubed cheese, sultanas, dried fruit, vegetables (carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes, cucumber/celery sticks etc) are all suitable alternatives. Rice crackers and crackers are also allowed. Children bring their own morning tea. Please place in a separate container.

### Lunch



In Kindergarten, we promote a healthy, nutritious approach to food, so we ask that all food brought in by your child is 'HEALTHY'. Children will be required to bring lunch. Lunch boxes must be clearly labelled.

**St Denis is an allergy aware school. Please avoid sending any foods that contains nuts or traces of nuts. Many muesli bars contain nuts.**

### Drinks



A water bottle – **WATER ONLY**. No juice boxes or cordial. When playing outside children have access to the water fountains.

## **Family Roster**



- We welcome and encourage parents and other family members to come into Kindergarten on roster. Parents need to sign in at the administration office and receive a 'visitor's badge.'

Rosters will be displayed each term. It will begin Term 1, Week 3. Times are usually between 9am-11.30am.

- If you work and are unable to commit to the above times please talk to Ms Nicholas. I am happy to work around your schedule and welcome your involvement.
- Your roster day involves assisting children with activities and most of all having a fun and enjoyable day with your child. Family roster gives you an opportunity to see what your child is doing at Kindergarten and also to see how the sessions are run.
- We ask that siblings are not brought to the Kindergarten when you are on roster so that you can participate fully and not be distracted by other young ones.

## **Excursions and Guest Speakers**

- Excursions and guest speakers are part of the class program.
- Notices will be sent home to inform parents of details of each excursion or incursion. Parent helpers are invited to join us on our excursions; however we regret that we cannot take younger siblings. Children will always be accompanied by the appropriate number of adults.



## **Early Intervention**

- Speech screening will be conducted by a registered Speech Therapist in Kindergarten. The classroom teacher will also complete the Pre-Literacy Screening in during the year. The school nurse will visit the Kindergarten children to check their hearing and vision.
- Continual monitoring of the children throughout the year mapping their progress. Collaboration and partnership with families to ensure the best start for school.
- We will be involved in a 'Finger Gym' Program with qualified Occupational Therapists for ten weeks in Term 2. We also run a Perceptual Motor Program throughout the year.

## Routines and Rules

- It is important for children to follow the Kindergarten routines which will be established during the year. St Denis School follows the 123 Magic program. Positive reinforcement is used to guide children to the appropriate behaviour. Children are not to bring toys into Kindergarten, we do not want toys lost or damaged. They are asked not to wear play jewellery to school.
- In Term 1, Weeks 1 and 2 the children will have a staggered intake to allow them to settle into school and establish some friendships with other children and relationships with the Kindy staff.

## Birthdays

- We love to celebrate birthdays in Kindergarten. We promote a healthy and nutritious approach to food at school. Children are made to feel special on their day but parents are advised that **cakes and lollies are not permitted at St Denis Kindergarten.**

## Playdough Roster

- Throughout the year we would like to start a playdough roster (voluntary basis). We would supply you with the ingredients and recipe and ask that you make a particular coloured playdough for the week.
- I have heard that the **Thermo mix** makes awesome playdough! If you are able to assist our classroom it would be much appreciated!

## Interviews and Appointments



Please take note, if you wish to speak to the teacher regarding any personal issues or questions, we ask that you make an appointment with the teacher after school.

## Kindergarten Digital Portfolios & Seesaw



A **digital portfolio** will be used to showcase the children's learning. This evidence of learning might include products, work samples and lots of photos that reflect the learning process.

**Seesaw** is a digital tool that is used to inform parents of the many activities that the children are involved in on a daily basis.

## **Specialist Teachers & Programs**

As part of our schools registration we must provide a developmentally appropriate protective behaviours curriculum. Our school has adopted the 'Keeping Safe' program.

In Kindergarten we also offer the 'Paths Program' to assist with the social and emotional health of students.

The students attend Music sessions with Ms Kat Woodward and Physical Education with Mrs Leone McNamara.

In addition to this Mr Lee assists with our Perceptual Motor Program. In Term 2 the children participate in the 'Finger Gym' program with ABC Occupational Therapy.

In Term 4 the children participate in a 4 week 'Tiny Tots Tennis' program.

## **Health and Medication**

- Please do not send your child to Kindergarten if he/she is unwell. This is very important not only for your child but the health of all children and staff. A child who has been unwell may wake up seemingly well but within an hour or two may feel unwell again, so please take this into consideration when deciding whether to send your child to school or not.
- If your child falls ill or is injured while at school you will be contacted. Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date with the office and the Kindy staff.
- If your child has any medical conditions or allergies (especially to food), it is essential that you advise the school, and in particular the Kindergarten staff at the beginning of the year. In some cases, a management plan may be requested, e.g. for children with asthma or severe allergy.
- All medication for *high risk* children is kept in separate containers in the classroom. All medication received by high risk children must be recorded.
- No medication is to be administered to any child unless parents have completed authorisation forms. All instruction times and dosages must be in writing. All medications must be clearly labelled and handed to staff, not left in the child's bag.
- Parents are requested to inform the school if a child has had a communicable/infectious disease and are required to observe the exclusion from school period. Public Health Department recommendations for most common infectious diseases are listed on their website.



## The Role of Parents



Your child's relationship with you will be more important than ever as they begin this big, new 'adventure'.

Parents are the safe bases from which children can move out to explore the world, to learn and grow and become socially confident, responsible young people.

Parents also support children in feeling happy and confident at school by taking steps such as:

- Make sure the clothes that are worn to school are easy to put on and take off, and that lunches and snacks are easy to unwrap.
- Remind your child that they need to use the toilets at school and ask if they need help.
- Use shoes with Velcro fasteners until your child can manage more complicated fastenings.
- Label everything-including shoes and socks.
- Pack an extra pair of underwear and summer clothes in the bottom of the bag; accidents do happen and it reassures them to know they have 'back up supplies' of their own things.
- Expect that children may be tired in the first few weeks of school, even if they have been used to care situations. Provide a cuddle and some quiet time when they first arrive home.
- Make sure children have sufficient sleep. Add an afternoon nap at weekends if your child seems over-tired.
- Ask about their day, but expect that you might get a shrug, or an off-hand reply; learn to ask questions that require some elaboration, such as: 'What was your favourite thing about school today?', 'Tell me about your drawing?'

*(Source: Your child's first year at school: A book for parents – Jenni Connor and Pam Linke)*



## **ST DENIS SCHOOL PRAYER**

Lord of all creation

We thank you for our school  
And pray that our talents and gifts  
May be developed and used for the good of all.

We pray for our teachers, friends and families  
As we grow in love and friendship  
And build a sharing community  
In the peace and love of Christ.

May we strive for excellence in all we do.  
As we reach our full potential,  
And become a model of Christian living  
In the footsteps of Jesus and our Mother, Mary.

Help us to be patient and kind at all times.  
Teach us wisdom, love, goodwill and peace,  
To know the rewards of learning,  
And the warmth of friendship.

Help us all to seek the truth.

Amen.