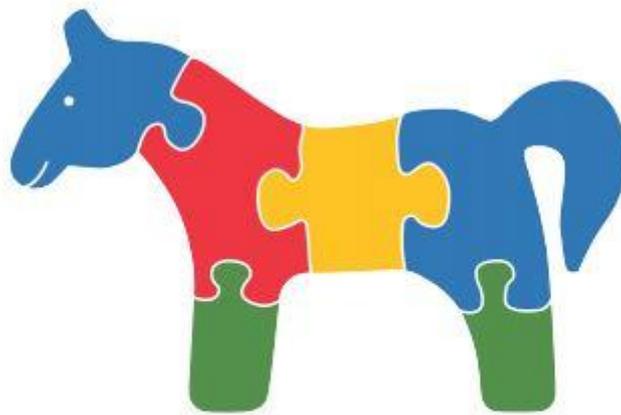


Welcome to the
ST. MARTINI
KINDERGARTEN
Parent Info



ST. MARTINI
Kindergarten + Vorschule

St. Martini Pre-Primary School (RF) NPC

Company Reg. No.: 1999/003225/08

Non-Profit Org. No.: 035-328-NPO

Public Benefit Org. No.: 930014551

Head Office

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www.stmartini.org.za

CITYBOWL

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WYNBERG

52 Waterloo Road, Wynberg, 7800

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DIRECTORS

Dr. C Nolte-Schamm

R Fitschen

HJW Hildebrand

M Merkel

P Gerntholtz

S Welzel

Cape Town, November 2020

Dear Parents,

Soon your child will be joining our Kindergarten and embark on a new life experience. For some, this will be the first time away from home for a longer period. The children will establish a relationship with their Kindergarten teacher and make friends with other peers in their group.

This informational welcome pack will provide you with practical information about the Kindergarten, our daily routine and goals. Furthermore, it will help you support and encourage your child so that he feels happy and secure in his new environment.

The St. Martini Kindergarten was established by the St. Martini congregation nearly 60 years ago. It is our aim to offer a wholesome and balanced learning environment to the children in our care. Besides instilling the German culture, language and traditions, we emphasize our Christian values.

The education and developmental milestone practices and methods of the Kindergarten are suited to each child's abilities, interests and needs. Every child is encouraged to develop and excel in each of these areas according to their individual personalities.

You as parents will also be supported and guided through this initial stage of your child's education. It is important that parents and teachers work together.

We welcome you and your child into the St. Martini family and look forward to a warm and open relationship.

Corinna Lengner

Principal

P/S During the COVID-19 pandemic period, we have changed many phases of our daily routine and structured programme.

Please note that this is in your child's best interest and all staff, parents and children must adhere to the rules.

Introduction of the Kindergarten:

Our Kindergarten in the Central Business District (CBD) is made up of 3 main age groups:

3 - 4 years: Hasengruppe
4 - 5 years: Eisbären- and Bärengruppe
5 - 6 years: Löwen- and Leopardengruppe

In our Wynberg branch we have 3 groups:

3 - 4 years: Sternengruppe
4 - 5 years: Mondgruppe
5 - 6 years: Sonnengruppe

Each class is attended by between 18 to 22 children. Every group is headed by a qualified Kindergarten teacher and supported by an assistant. In addition, the groups are regularly visited by German-speaking interns.

Our opening times

During the school term, we are open daily from 8:00 to 17:00.

7:30 - 8:00 arrival time
12:30 - 13:00 collection time
13:00 – 17:00 aftercare

Start of lessons: 8:00 in the CBD and in Wynberg

The Grade R classes in both the CBD and Wynberg branch start promptly at 8:00. The other classes start slightly later (by latest 8.30), it is however recommended that all children are at the Kindergarten ideally by 8:15 but 8:30 the latest.

A typical day at the Kindergarten may look like this:

The following activities form part of a typical day at the Kindergarten. A detailed plan is available in each class.

Arrival and greeting time

We look forward to welcoming your child to our Kindergarten and will ensure that time is taken to greet each child personally. This first contact of the day is an important one, as the child will feel warmly welcomed and noticed. Please feel free to have short discussions with the teacher regarding your child during arrival or pick up time. Should you need to discuss something at length, we can certainly arrange a meeting.

Morning ring

After arriving at the Kindergarten, each group will start the day with a morning ring. The children will experience coming together as a group and will be informed of the day's plans and activities.

When the children gather around for ring time, we also use the opportunity to play games, listen to stories, sing songs or celebrate birthdays. We share news, learn about the environment by means of active theme discussions and encourage the children to "show and tell". Most importantly, they learn to listen, not only to the teacher, but also to their peers.

Small group activities

Learning is more effective when done individually or in small groups. The small group activity session will involve six to seven children at a time and will last between 10 to 15 minutes. The material for the small group sessions is well prepared and of interest to the children.

In this way, it doesn't feel like learning to them, but rather like having fun. The Kindergarten teacher prepares a wide range of materials to enrich language and numeracy skills and to stimulate fine as well as gross motor development.

Language Education

KIKUS – DEUTSCH is an educational language program which is offered at the Kindergarten to the 3 -5-year-old children. It has been specifically developed for children who are non-German speaking on a mother tongue level.

The aim is to advance those children playfully, systematically and practically in the German language.

At the same time the development of the first language will be supported by means of guided parent-child cooperation. So far, our work has shown that cooperation between the school and the parents can achieve a lot for the individual child.

- Our 3-year-olds will have daily input from a KIKUS trained teacher.
- If the 4-5-year old's still struggle with the German language, they will have to join a group who receives support from our language specialist. This will be mandatory and an additional charge for language support will be levied.
- NO child will be admitted into Grade R if they cannot communicate freely in German.

WUPPI is a training program from Germany, introducing Grade R children to basic reading and writing skills before the beginning of formal school. By means of a daily training program, the auditory and phonological skills are

developed in a playful manner. Our visitor from outer space, WUPPI, delights everyone with his inquisitive mind and invites: participation and interaction.

Physical Movement

Once a week the children participate in a movement session where we concentrate on gross-motor development. We offer age appropriate activities to develop their physical skills.

Weekly church service

Given its Christian foundation and heritage it has been a tradition from the very beginning of the Kindergarten's existence for the children to assemble for a weekly devotion - usually in our beautiful church, sometimes in the classrooms.

For more information on the form and content of these church services, see the letter by the Pastor posted on the website, or ask the pastor or principal.

Breakfast

Before free play time, the children can enjoy a communal breakfast within their group.

Please ensure that you provide your child with a healthy, filling daily snack. It is important to us that every child recognizes and appreciates healthy eating and nutritional habits.

All parents are requested to consider the following for their child's snack:

- A healthy breakfast consisting of fruit, wholegrain bread, yoghurt, carrot sticks, biltong, baby tomatoes, etc.
- We encourage the drinking of water and allow only sugar- and caffeine free drinks (e.g. no coca cola or other fizzy drinks or sweetened juices).
- Please do not pack sweets, biscuits, cereal bars, muffins, white bread, chocolate or chips etc.

Freeplay

During free play, your child gathers important information and experiences about life. He learns to make choices: who to play with, where to play and what to play. Important social interaction takes place enhancing his social and emotional development.

The variety of play opportunities, areas and materials will appeal to the child's skills and strengths and thereby encourage active participation.

Children often deal with and work through experiences through fantasy-filled role play. They will tend to 'slip' into various different roles and through this, widen their social handling abilities.

The Kindergarten teacher will participate during free play, as and when it is required by the children, and will take her cue from the children. In order to further each child's developmental needs, they are observed on an ongoing basis.

Creative activities

We encourage creativity and provide a variety of creative activities in- and outdoors. The children make use of different materials e.g. paint, cardboard boxes, wood, clay, beads etc. All these will intrigue the child and offer opportunities to explore and discover different media.

Creative development also encompasses music, movement, arts and craft, speech and play. The aim of the child's creative activity does not necessarily lie in the end product, but in the process of creating it.

Story time

We end the morning with reading a story which is essential in fostering language skills. It also helps cultivate active listening and concentration. To develop a love for reading we encourage the children to take books home and share them with their parents and siblings.

Lunch

Lunch will be served at 12:30 and can be booked in advance. Relevant application forms & menus are available online.

Please note that as we do not have a dishwasher to wash the used utensils at a high temperature, the children must bring their own. Practical is a lunchbox with lid and cutlery stored in a zip lock bag.

Aftercare

Aftercare starts at 13:00 and ends at 17:00. Collection time from aftercare is flexible and all parents must sign their children out on the collection list provided. Invoices will be calculated according to the details on these lists. Should you forget to sign your child out, the 17:00 fee will apply automatically.

If a child is collected late, after 17:00, a late collection fee will be levied. If this occurs regularly, the child may be excluded from aftercare.

Extramural activities

An extensive program is offered both in the city bowl and in Wynberg. Extramurals must be booked directly with the provider. The list of extramural activities, with lesson times and fees, is available upon request. Children in the age group between the ages of 3 – 4 should only participate in one activity. Please note that during the COVID-19 pandemic period, only a limited number of activities will be on offer in the afternoon (details to follow).

How you can have your say:

Governing bodies of the Kindergarten

The St. Martini Kindergarten, established 1961 by the St. Martini Lutheran Church of Cape Town, is registered as an “NPO” (Non-profit organisation) and has its own constitution.

The following people and organizations support the Kindergarten:

- **The parents of the Kindergarten children**
- **The Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt (DSK)**
- **The Western Cape Education Department**
- **The German Lutheran St. Martini Church of Cape Town**

Board of Directors

The Pastor and two representatives of the St. Martini Church, one representative of the Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt, two parent representatives, the Kindergarten principal and the Operations Manager in an advisory capacity.

Management Committee

Two directors, where possible two parent representatives per group, the principal, the Operations Manager and all the teachers of the Kindergarten in an advisory capacity.

Portfolio Committees

Personnel-, Finance-, Public Relations/Marketing and IT, Holiday/Aftercare, Garden and building-, Events- and Fundraising committee.

At the start of the school year, during the first parent evening, parents will be asked to make themselves available for these committees. Members get confirmed at the AGM in March / April.

The Management Committee has the important task of being the communication channel between the Board of Directors and the parents. Meetings are held once a term and the different committees report back on their projects.

How to stay well informed:

Communication is important, and we will keep you informed on a regular basis about important kindergarten news and activities.

D6 Communicator for parents

We make use of the “d6 school communicator” application. This can be downloaded for free by parents and staff of the school. The download of this app is strongly recommended.

Please ensure that you regularly look at the notice boards and collect “mail” from your child’s pocket.

All information concerning the Kindergarten will be displayed on the notice board outside the office.

Discussion about the child’s progress

At least once a year, (May/June) we’ll ask you to attend a meeting regarding your child’s development. The Kindergarten teacher will put up an appointment roster on the notice board, into which you can enter your preferred appointment dates. Should there be no suitable appointment time for you, please approach us directly and arrange a suitable time.

This parent-teacher talk usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes. Should you have questions or problems regarding your child or the Kindergarten at any other time, please feel free to speak to us. At the end of the school year, parents will receive a written report regarding the development and achievements of their child.

Parent evening

We warmly welcome and invite you to join our planned parent evening at the beginning of the year. The same applies to our “Hand in Hand” series of talks during the year. The “Hand in Hand” talks are on a Saturday morning and childcare is provided.

Festivals and celebrations

Highlights of the school year are our Kindergarten Festivals and other traditional celebrations. Our family church services, movie afternoons and flea markets, spring concert, lantern festival, birthdays, school outings, visit by the Nikolaus, Grade R farewell and many more are all part of it.

No festivals or functions are currently allowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photos and recordings of the children

During the school year we photograph and film the children at various celebrations and outings. The recorded material may be used for:

- internal documentation of the daily program
- the observation of a child's development

Together with the Kindergarten contract and other formal documentation you will receive a consent form for your signature, allowing the Kindergarten to use recorded material for internal purposes. Should we ever wish to use it externally, i.e. for marketing purposes, we will separately and personally ask for your permission.

Telephone and address lists

Every family will receive a telephone and address list of their child's group. These lists will be updated regularly. Please obtain the latest list from the office to keep you up to date with changes.

Please sign the consent form, together with all the other documents, to allow the Kindergarten to add your particulars to the group list.

Regarding your child:

Toys

As a rule, your child may not bring toys to the Kindergarten. This applies unless we are having a pre-planned 'toy-day', of which you will be notified. In this case, the child may bring one toy from home. Please note that any toys of a 'violent' nature are not permitted e.g. toy guns, swords etc. Neither are electronic devices and "gadgets". We accept no liability for the toys brought to the Kindergarten.

Birthday celebrations

Every child's birthday is a very important occasion at the Kindergarten. We celebrate with candles, a small present and sharing some special treats that the birthday child has brought from home. These may be special sandwiches, pretzels, cake, cupcakes, ice cream, hotdogs, etc. In order to make the preparation of this special day easier for us, please inform us of your plans a few days in advance. **During the COVID-19 pandemic period, only cellophane sealed, bought cakes are allowed. No home baked goods are permitted to be shared.**

Appropriate seasonal clothing

When your child starts at our Kindergarten, we will supply him with a t-shirt. Your child will be requested to wear this Kindergarten shirt when going on outings or excursions.

During the hot summer months (term 1 & 4), it is compulsory for the children to wear a hat during outside play. We further request that you please send your child to school with applied sun block and a sunhat in summer. Kindergarten sun hats are for sale at the office.

Please take into consideration that the clothes your child wears to school should be comfortable and practical. Girls should not wear long dresses/skirts, as this hampers their movement, especially on the jungle gym. Please refrain from dressing your child in 'superhero' outfits, the same applies to fairy dresses and princess outfits.

Labelling your child's jackets, shoes, juice bottle etc., makes for easier identification and lessens confusion. All unclaimed/unnamed lost items will be donated to a children's charity at the end of each term.

Illnesses

Should your child fall ill or be unable to attend the Kindergarten for any reason, please inform us by phoning the Kindergarten office or sending an email before 08h30.

If your child has a contagious illness e.g.: chickenpox or head lice, please inform us immediately. For more information, please refer to the health and safety regulations and the infection control policy.

As a rule, please keep your child at home until none of the symptoms (e.g. fever, rash) are evident anymore and until the contagious stage has passed. In some cases, a doctor's certificate may be necessary to confirm that the child is non-contagious. **IMPORTANT:** Please inform your child's teacher about any allergies your child may have.

As we must adhere to the COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocol, the children are welcomed in the morning at our screening station and their temperature is taken. If it is above 37.5, the child must be taken home immediately. At lunchtime the temperature is taken a second time.

Insurance coverage/once-off annual renewal

The security of your child is important to us. Your child is insured against injuries at the Kindergarten. This insurance applies as follows:

- On the direct route to and from the Kindergarten
- During the time your child is physically at the Kindergarten
- During all outings officially organised by the Kindergarten

A detailed information brochure is available at the Kindergarten office.

Supervision and responsibility

07:30 – 17:00

During the time that your child is at the Kindergarten, you hand over the care and responsibility of the child to the Kindergarten teachers. We are responsible for the well-being and safety of your child from the time you drop him off in the morning and until you collect him from the Kindergarten.

The supervision on the way to and from the Kindergarten is solely the parents' responsibility. This rule also applies to the people who have been given permission by you to fetch your child. Please enter the name of the person, who is to take your child home, into the relevant list or send an email.

When you attend Kindergarten celebrations or functions, it is your responsibility to supervise your child.

For the safety and well-being of everybody, especially the children, we kindly ask that you respect the following rules:

- Please ensure that you and your child wear a mask when coming to and leaving the Kindergarten
- Please ensure that every inside gate is securely shut after coming in/going out
- Drive slowly and carefully on the parking grounds
- Please don't park in front of the parking gate (on the yellow markings) in Loop Street

Is your child ready for school?

After the pre-school (Grade R) year, your child will be attending Grade 1 at a Primary School. While you can choose which school, you deem best for your child, the DSK has listed the following requirements for school readiness:

- A good foundation of the German language in understanding and speech (the child needs to be able to converse in German, be able to answer questions and speak in full sentences. (Non-German speaking children need to attend a German Kindergarten for at least 3 years prior to entering grade 1 at the DSK).
- Confidence and an open mind in new situations. A willingness to take on tasks and complete them within an acceptable time frame, motivated to learn and the ability to concentrate well.
- Social awareness and respect, self- confidence and the ability to speak out in larger groups.

Practically this means, your child can:

- Wash, brush teeth and dress/undress himself (for sports/at class camps)
- Go up and down stairs using alternative feet
- Use a knife, spoon, fork and scissors responsibly
- Build, draw, paint, mould, play alone and within a group
- Follow rules (e.g. class, school, talking)
- Show interest in reading, writing, numbers, letters
- Is eager to learn, shows curiosity and is inquisitive
- Is excited about starting school and can write own name
- Listen attentively to the teacher and peers and retell stories
- Identify and differentiate between important colours
- Count to 10 and conceptualise quantities up to 5
- Say own first- and surname, address, telephone nr., age and date of birth
- Be polite and friendly and says 'please' and 'thank you'
- Recognise and look after his labelled belongings
- Blow his nose by himself
- Independently use the toilet and know how to ask for permission
- Tidy away games and materials that he has used and handle borrowed items with care
- Understand and follow simple instructions
- Tie a bow, shoelaces
- File and organise worksheets properly
- Pack and unpack his school bag by himself

Closing words:

We hope that this information gives you some insight into our work and guides you during your child's time at the Kindergarten. In order for your child to get used to his new surroundings and to settle down, it is important that he attends Kindergarten regularly.

We look forward to an open and trustworthy relationship and wish you and your child a happy and enriching time at our Kindergarten.

Your St. Martini Kindergarten Team

Diese Information ist auf Deutsch erhältlich!