

EASTSIDE SCHOOL

PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY



PROSPECTUS 2017



Sungarden Nursery School opened its doors on 24 January 1971, on premises that had originally been a mission station and nursing home. At the time, there was a great need for a school that could care for and educate the children of domestic workers in the Garsfontein township area, and thus began a school with a strong community outreach.

Eastside Primary School has grown out of the strong tradition and ethos built up by Sungarden Nursery School. It currently goes up to Grade 3 but is growing every year until it accommodates Grade 7. Part of the mission of the school is to serve the wider community, and to this end, the school is involved in Early Childhood Education and Teacher Training.

The school is a multi-cultural, non-profit organization that provides a consistent, caring, Christian-based, English-medium education for children from the age of three.

Principal's biography

Mrs Shann de Smidt



Teaching is an integral part of my life. From the time that I took the big decision to study teaching, up to the moments that I spend with the learners in school, as well as with my own grandchildren, 'teaching mode' is how I function best. So whether it's incidental learning as we watch a bug crawling on a leaf, or planned purposeful teaching, that's what I'm passionate about.

I choose still to be a learner and therefore tackle, what for me, are fearsome things like financial literacy, to the enjoyment of creative learning such as photography and landscaping. Being involved in a busy school where learning takes place from the very littlest one who says "babee" in English for the first time, to a French-speaking parent who smiles in delight after having gained skills to help their child progress in reading, is what I love.

I'm married to a wonderful man who chooses to farm, which, over the years, has meant living in very rural areas. So, for me, teaching has been fitting in to where I can pursue helping children flourish. From a far-flung school situated in Falo where I taught English in a high school, to teaching in a top-end private school, I have found great satisfaction in helping learners reach beyond limiting barriers, to become the best they can possibly be.

Teaching adults to read successfully, write, do Math, or helping a four-year old develop their balance, brings me a deep sense of fulfillment. As a pioneer and leader in a strong team, I have successfully started two schools. I was one of the founder teachers in another school group, and over time was promoted to leadership in that institution, finishing after eleven years there, as principal. From that position I took on the post of school administrator in a United States-supported private school, run mainly for orphans who faced extreme challenges in learning because of neglect, abuse, and complications related to, among others, difficulties such as Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

I believe in having parents involved in the teaching and raising of their children, and forming strong partnerships with parents to ensure that both school and home, work effectively together to rear children who are well balanced, with the ability to meet the challenges of life with confidence and grace.

I place an extremely high value on the family, and create opportunities for families within the school context to grow as parents, and for children to develop skills that foster good family relationships. When families face a crisis, or need guidance in child rearing, as a trained counsellor, I come alongside these families in order to assist them to define, and then remediate these crises. A strong school with strong links into families, church, and the greater community, helps prepare children to do life, because life is about teaching and learning.

Principal's dream for the school

Younger children need loving nurture that leads them step-by-step into learning, through directed and well-structured play. This is the tenet that is at the foundation of Sungarden Nursery School.

In the garden area of our school, children learn, climb, run, practise gross motor skills, and use props to participate in fantasy play.

By having fun, and developing routines that are consistently put into place so that children are supported as they grow, children are shepherded into a more structured environment. From the youngest in our school, to the pre-school year, the focus is on all-round development that meets the needs of the growing child in a constantly changing society. So the daily programme contains at its core, a sound curriculum that focuses on the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, life skills, creative, and spiritual growth of each child. The child as an individual is catered for in the learning programme, and help is given when it is recognised that a child is not meeting goals.

Out of this established and successful background, the same qualities of individual learning that equip children for life, became the foundation on which we base a primary school. At Eastside Primary School, the same warm and caring atmosphere exists, but learners tackle the task of more formal learning. With a vibrant and enthusiastic staff, learning takes place in such a way that each child is encouraged to be the best they can be, and appreciated for who they are. Barriers to learning are addressed on an individual basis. Success is celebrated. Learners are encouraged. Family is consulted when difficulties arise.

My dream is that each learner, from the very youngest to the oldest, would reach their full potential, not only in an academic sense but as a well-balanced, positive, secure, and caring

individual who can do life successfully with a deep awareness that significance can be measured in a variety of ways.

I would love to see a school where learning is encouraged to take place in ways that meet the needs of learners and is not only carried out in traditional ways. For older learners, taking a technological leap from text book to e-learning or using master teachers from all over the world, creates an environment where restrictions to learning cease to exist. This would be the way that I see future learners going in order to be as relevant as possible.

Having a school experience that continues to be positive, with children who are motivated in such a way that self-learning and internal discipline becomes the norm, is what I would like our school to move toward. To achieve that means putting building blocks in place, one-by-one, to ensure that learners are enabled to achieve this goal. We would like to have learners with good character formation, strong values and a clear sense of right and wrong, who would bring to our community a sense of righteousness, justice, and children ready to lead the way.



What Sungarden Nursery School offers

The school provides an up-to-date and relevant programme to prepare children for our own Grade 1 class, as well as for any other Grade 1 class in South Africa and abroad. The programme for three-, four-, or five-year olds, takes account of the individual needs of every child in a secure, healthy and disciplined environment.

Music and movement classes are part of the well-balanced curriculum, and extra mural activities such as Playball, Kindergym, modern dancing, swimming, Miki Maths and soccer, can be used to enhance the learner's development.



Sungarden Nursery School is proud to have qualified and experienced teaching staff that offer the following classes:

DOLPHINS

2-3 years (max 14 children), teacher with assistant caregiver

TEDDIES

3-4 years (max 20 children), teacher with assistant caregiver

BUNNIES

4-5 years (max 25 children), teacher with assistant caregiver

ELEPHANTS

5-6 years, Grade R (max 25 children)

The curriculum

The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) of the Department of Basic Education is used as a core curriculum throughout the school as learners build toward the Grade R year. To this is added other useful material such as Letterland, and Time2Read.

The curriculum includes:

- an age-appropriate development-based programme that uses a progressive approach to learning.
- a balanced, flexible, rich language component that is integrated in all activities to afford the development of basic skills, such as listening, speaking and phonics, as well as many other pre-reading and pre-writing skills.
- a strong approach to Mathematics in order to build a foundation for future achievement.
- theme-based learning to develop knowledge, vocabulary, concepts, perceptual skills, and an awareness of the immediate and wider environment.
- opportunities to experience and learn from their environment through structured and free play activities, both indoors and outdoors.

Grade R's follow a special programme which develops skills essential for school readiness, after which they move onto more formal

activities. The perpetual learning opportunity offered to each child leads to a well-balanced and confident learner.

Our staff members are constantly participating in various courses, in order to be trained to meet the challenges of children in modern times, as well as the latest GDE requirements.



What Eastside Primary School offers

Eastside Primary School is an English-medium school which will continue to build on the basic foundation of early learning that is a characteristic of Sungarden Nursery School.

CAPS is used as the basic curriculum to which extras such as intense auditory and visual perception, motor and development skills, as well as communication and problem-solving skills, are added. The school has a very strong reading and character-building programme. Eastside Primary School offers basic sport training, as well as arts and cultural activities.



The school is committed to:

- maintain a high standard of education that prepares the learner to meet the challenges of life.
- build a firm foundation for the future, so that learners are able to reach their full potential and use their God-given abilities.
- recognize the right of the individual while teaching learners to serve others.
- meet the needs of the families in the school and thus reach the community.
- teach learners to work together for the benefit of the whole.
- create opportunities to extend creativity and a sense of self-worth in every learner.
- develop a caring, committed and dedicated staff who practise the high standards of honesty, integrity and impartiality.

The curriculum

Eastside Primary School uses CAPS compliant material, chosen to challenge learners to extend knowledge and apply information and skills gained, in order to solve problems. The concept of self learning begins in the lower grades and increases incrementally into the higher grades. This is invaluable for assisting learners to take responsibility for their own learning.

The use of baseline assessment ensures that teachers design a learning programme that meets the needs of learners, especially for learners enrolled in the school for the first time.

Continuous Assessment is practised in the lower grades, with tests and examinations as part of the assessment process in the Intermediate Phase.

Benchmarking against national norms and standards will be introduced as the school develops.

Parents are kept informed of their child's progress through parent teacher meetings and school reports. Learners needing additional

support are identified as early as possible in the year. After consultation with parents, a learning support programme is constructed to ensure that the learner has the best support possible.

Fundraising

The school uses as many opportunities as possible to raise additional funds. Events such as "Munchie Makers" - which is also part of the Entrepreneur Training Programme - and an annual Book Sale, contribute to raising money. As Eastside is a growing school, the need for new classrooms arises every year.

There is also a need for Scholarship funds, and any benefactor is able to request a Certificate under the Public Benefit Organisation. There are numerous opportunities to contribute to Skills Development, therefore maximising BEE points.

The school would also welcome the assistance of local or international interns, wanting to gain experience in the field of Education, Sport, and Therapy.





School Management



The management of the school is vested in a School Board comprised of parents, staff, members of the community and Eastside Community Church Leadership Management Team members.

Contact details

Sungarden Nursery School and Eastside Primary are situated in the east of Pretoria, at 850 Primula Road, Moreleta Park.

For any enquiries or further details, the school may be contacted on telephone 012 993 1725, or school@eastside.org.za or sungarden@telkomsa.net





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