



BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2 April, 2021

Term 1 – Issue 5

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for a wonderful send-off on Monday complete with speeches, musical presentations and an enthusiastic performance of the play, 'St. Michael and the Dragon'. With the lockdown announcement Monday morning, it was incredible that the Board, Staff, Students and the Community could organise the event scheduled for Thursday at such short notice. I am forever grateful and honoured to have been part of this compassionate community.



Thank you also for the wonderful acknowledgement, cards, and gifts. I spent a couple of hours on Monday evening reading all of your kind comments which were very heartwarming. I was also humbled that so many parents were able to attend the event.

My last week at Biralí has been filled with emotion and warm-hearted memories. Wishing the Biralí Community all the very best for the future and a safe Easter break.



Chris at his last Monday Morning assembly.

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind blow always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall gently on your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his/her hands

Chris Jack



FROM THE BOARD



Thank you, Chris,

After nearly 7 years of establishing, leading and developing the Birali Steiner School at Beachmere Principal Chris Jack will step down from his role of Principal this week.

Having successfully led the School from its humble beginnings in the Beachmere Community Hall space, to the purchase of land, the newly built school and grounds development, Chris is ready to hand over the leadership to a new Principal who can take Birali Steiner School to its next stage of development.

We have seen incredible change under Chris's leadership over the years. The School has:

- continued to promote its Vision Statement of educating the whole child "Head Heart and Hands"
- delivered on its Mission Statement of providing an educational experience, which balances academic, artistic and practical learning experiences founded on the principles of Anthroposophy.
- clearly promoted education as a partnership between the home and the school
- grown the school from 14 students in 2014 to more than 100 students today

With these strong foundations, a deeply connected community and a thriving culture, Birali Steiner School will continue to prosper. We wish Chris the best in his future endeavours.

Birali Steiner School Board

Announcement from the board chair

I am excited to announce that Pep Wright has accepted the role of Interim Principal starting Monday 12th April 2021.

Pep is an experienced Principal and primary school teacher with over 25 years in the education sector. She started her journey into Steiner education as a founding teacher and Board member at Cairns Rudolf Steiner School in 2003. After 10 years there she relocated to Brisbane so her 4 children could continue their own Steiner education at which time Pep commenced work at Samford Valley Steiner School as a teacher. She then accepted the role of Primary and Early Childhood Education Administrator. Pep was promoted to the role of School Director/Principal at Samford Valley where she held the role for 4 years.

Pep took a year off in 2020 to undertake full-time training in Eurythmy at Pacifica College. Feeling very nourished Pep is very excited to be back working in a Steiner school environment again.

I hope you will join the Board in welcoming Pep to Birali.

Warm regards

Steve Laughton

Birali Steiner School Board Chair

FEATURE ARTICLES

Luke – 5/6

Class 5/6 have recently completed their camp to Moreton Island. This amazing adventure deeply challenged all children capacities, encouraging team building, resilience and immersion and enjoyment of nature. The four-day camp was first overshadowed by stormy weather and strong winds which the children enjoyed on the ferry ride over. Once on the island storm clouds subsided, we settled into camp and enjoyed an afternoon swimming amongst the shipwrecks, fishing and playing games on the beach.



We rose early next morning to the sun shining and to a 4wd tour to swim at the Blue Lagoon, we visited Cape Moreton Lighthouse built by convicts in 1859 and finished off the day at the stunning Champagne Rock Pools.



The following day we climbed a massive sand dune called Australia Hill and we were rewarded with the most epic views of the coast. In the afternoon children enjoyed sand tobogganing in the Moreton Island Desert. All in all, a fantastic end to our term!



Chloe Ann

Middle School Crafts

This term in Handcraft/Woodwork lessons, the Middle School students have been finishing their woodcarving projects.

Starting with a block of jelutong carving wood, each student measured the shape of their spoon and created the concave form using a mallet, chisel and gouge. The handle is then cut and shaped using rasps and a whittling blade. The finished form is refined with sandpaper and oiled with homemade beeswax wood polish. Unlike modelling, woodcarving requires a perception of what needs to be removed in order to find form.



This works with the student's growing capacity at this age to see and work with negative space.



At an age of growing levels of self-responsibility, students experience the care and control required to use mounted woodworking tools. This level of care is also required for machine sewing. After practicing stitching onto paper, students measure and cut fabric squares to make a set of juggling balls.



MONDAY MORNING MEET-UP CALLOUT

Unfortunately the "Monday Morning Meetup" at the hub has not flourished. Biralali places a high value on community. Therefore, if a group of parents would like to put forward an alternative format that would better suit the community please contact Beck Hewat to book the school facilities: -

businessmanager@biralisteiner.qld.edu.au

LIDS FOR KIDS – UPDATE

To date we have collected 6,644 lids for 2021. These will go to create up to 13 prosthetics for children. Thankyou everyone, keep the lids coming in term 2!!

BIRALI VIRTUES PROGRAM

Each week the school explores a new virtue, with the introduction made at assembly on Mondays. Please click the links below to view each Virtue.

Week 9 – [Joyfulness](#)

Week 10 – [Caring](#)

To read more about the virtues program please: [Click here.](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

1st Apr – End Term 1

19th Apr – Start Term 2

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

PLAYGROUP

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am – 11am
Registration required via Admin.

- Download the Playgroup Registration Form by [clicking here](#).
- Download the Playgroup Code of Conduct by [clicking here](#).

BIRALI PARENT CRAFT GROUP

Wednesdays 8:45am- 12pm
to view the full schedule please [click here](#):

BIRALI COLLECTIVE (CRAFT SHOP)

Open during term
Tues & Fri 2.00 PM– 3.00 PM
Weds 8.45 AM to 12.00 PM

CALLOUT FOR SPONSORS

CREATIVE SPIRIT FAIR

Why sponsor our fair?

- Increase visibility & express your support for a local school.
- Receive exclusive exposure through our newsletter & Facebook account.
- Receive a Certificate of Appreciation

Bek Blansjaar Sponsorship Coordinator
Creative Spirit Fair 2021 - 07 5429 0511
rblansjaar@biralisteiner.qld.edu.au

STEINER & ANTHROPOSPHICAL LINKS

These Steiner/Anthroposophical related activities and services, whilst not directly related the school, can be seen to be in sympathy with and supportive of the impulse of Steiner education.

- **Waldorf 100** Learn to change the world [Click here](#)
- **Waldorf Resources** for schools, parents and teachers. [Click here](#)
- **Waldorf Today** [Click here](#)
- **Sydney Rudolf Steiner College**
- **What's on Teacher Training and Adult Education.** [Click here](#)
- **Steiner Education Australia SEA** is the peak body for Australian Steiner Schools. SEA support, advocate and represent the free and healthy development of Steiner education in contemporary, diverse contexts. [Click here](#)
- **Keeping the Light Alive!** Monthly articles demonstrating Rudolf Steiner's relevance to today's world. [Click here](#)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Parent Run Social Media Groups:

- **Birali Parents** [\(Click here to join\)](#)
- **Birali Bazaar (Buy & Sell)** [\(Click here to join\)](#)
- Please ask Birali Parents for links to class pages

CONTACT DETAILS

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