



BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14 May, 2021

Term 2 – Issue 2

On Thursday this week, staff engaged in an 'extraordinary' collegial meeting on top of Wild Horse Mountain, to learn about and celebrate the festival of Ascension. Ascension and Whitsun are two festivals closely associated with, and providing a kind of culmination of, the esoteric mysteries contained within the festivals of Christmas and Easter.



It is often at the times of the festival that questions arise most frequently for the school community about the role of religion in Steiner schools. I found an excellent article by a gentleman, now passed, named William Ward that describes the relationship between Steiner Education and religion. I have included some excerpts below and the link to the full article.

"The inspiration for Waldorf Education arises from a worldview or philosophy called Anthroposophy.

This broad body of research, knowledge, and experience holds a spiritual view of human nature and development...

The anthroposophical worldview understands the historical evolution of consciousness in many cultures as the background for each individual's path of self-discovery. The fundamental tone of this worldview - which is not a religion- is in harmony with many world religions and philosophies. It stands in opposition, however, to the powerful, contemporary cultural currents based on materialism...

In the free search for those spiritual and cultural values that give one meaning and purpose in life, many, if not most, teachers in Waldorf schools discover in Anthroposophy a remarkably insightful conception of human development and spiritual wisdom, one that is as practical as it is profound...

Some parents may wish to learn about it... and do so out of individual initiative. They soon discover that Anthroposophy at its root is deeply Christian in outlook. To the student of Anthroposophy, Christ's deeds, example, and teachings offer spiritual resources and guidance toward the fulfillment of our human nature. This Christian orientation, however, is not narrow or sectarian. It perceives, despite the many religious conflicts history records, an overarching harmony among the world's inspired religions, with each serving the spiritual guidance of humanity. The name Christ and the word Christianity can have strong connotations, positive and negative. In the context of Anthroposophy, however, the Christ impulse is a universally available matrix of human aspirations, transformative ideals, and deeds. It does not involve theological speculation, sectarian dogma, blind faith, institutionalized ritual, or a missionary agenda.

In this view-as surely as the Sun shines on each of us regardless of our religious affiliation, non-

affiliation, or ethical philosophy-fundamental, human-spiritual realities, such as love, compassion, reverence for the divine, peace, healing, and freedom are essential goals of our true humanity. Such universal aspirations comprise the spirit of humanity and find expression in the multiplicity of languages, cultures, and religions...

Waldorf teachers also teach the Eightfold Path of the Buddha; the Old Testament and Judaism; Islam; the teachings of Confucius; the teachings of Zarathustra; and Egyptian, Greek, and Norse mythology. Although limited by our own personal backgrounds, we enter into diverse world cultures with as much reverence and depth as possible. While there are important differences between the world religions, a remarkable common ground-what has been referred to above as the spirit of humanity-is evident..."

What image of the human being do the Waldorf schools seek to bring to the children as a model and inspiration?.....It is an image of the human being as loving, compassionate, reverent, respectful, engaged, tolerant, peaceful, joyful, patient, good, upright, wise, balanced, in harmony with the cosmos, nature, and humanity.

No religion or code of ethics can arrogate these fundamental and universal values as it's unique possession.

<http://www.waldorflibrary.org/images/stories/articles/waldorfchristianward.pdf>

Have a wonderful week.
Pep Wright



FROM THE BOARD

Birali Steiner School will continue to be a busy and productive place to be in Term 2 2021.

This term a significant event in the school calendar is the *Creative Spirit Fair* to be held at the school Sunday 30th May from 9am to 3pm. Special thanks and acknowledgement to the school community of volunteers both parents and staff that are working diligently towards making this day a success. It takes considerable efforts to bring together a day like this and make it a successful community day for Birali Steiner School.

The MBBSSA inc Annual General Meeting will also be held this term on Monday June 7th at Birali Steiner School at 5pm. Members will receive an email with an Agenda and required documentation in coming weeks. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM. Thank you to those of you that have shown interest in volunteering as a Board Director.

If you have not renewed your MBBSSA membership or would like to become a new member so you can participate in the AGM voting process, please visit the school website and download a membership form or contact the school office.

The MBBSSA Birali Board



FEATURE ARTICLES

Ted – Games of Courage

The inaugural 'Biralí Autumn Games of Courage' was held in the second week after the holidays. The Middle School children participated in a variety of physical and sensory challenges that required self-confidence, courage, and trust in each other. As the students move into adolescence, they continue to experience a great shift in their soul life; looking more toward each other as they seek direction in life. The games afford an opportunity to show respect for the individuality of others while striving to be supportive of the group and considerate of other's needs. To successfully participate in the Games of Courage the students must embody these qualities wholeheartedly.



On the day we had two teams battle it out for the trophy: Muspelheim from the land of Fire and Nephilheim from the land of Frost Giants. It was neck and neck throughout the day. Muspelheim took out the "Stave Throwing" and the "Mission Impossible Web", while the Ice Giants were not to be outdone winning the "Frozen Fingers" (of course) and "Land Canoes". With a count back of the scores the Fire team were leading 115 to 109, and with a final 30 points up for grabs in the "Tug-War" the games are yet to be decided.



We look forward to making the Games of Courage an annual event at the Autumn Festival in keeping with the Michaelic Impulse of courage. The excitement and anticipation was building for weeks before the Games were postponed due to Co-vid Lockdowns and many students were bitterly disappointed the games did not go ahead. It turned out to be a great day of fun, fortitude, and friendship on a sunny April afternoon.



Becci - Prep

It has been a wonderful and busy start to our second term. We started the term by creating a leaf-shaped eco-print using garden flowers and cooked in turmeric. This 'autumn leaf' went home as a start for the children's own nature table. For Mother's Day they made wet-felted soap. We hope you enjoyed this special treat! Soon we will start winter lanterns in preparation for our end of Term Festival.



Our morning circles, based on fairy tales such as Briar Rose and The Three Bears, are helping to

develop the children's gross motor and oral language skills.

On our nature-day adventures we have experienced the joys of warm, rainy and windy weather. We have observed children challenging themselves to climb higher, get closer to crabs, learn to get dirty and enjoy the sensory experiences the natural world offers. We were all in awe as we watched a sea-eagle land in a tree and eat a fish from its claw.



LIDS FOR KIDS – UPDATE

To date, we have collected 7,608 lids for 2021. These will go to create up to 15 prosthetics for children. Thank you for the support from families over the past few months collecting the bottle lids to go towards prosthetics for children.

Unfortunately, the drop off locations have been closed. We are currently seeking an alternative recycling solution.

We will update you in the coming weeks on the progress, and thank you for your support.

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 1 - [Diligence](#)

Week 2 - [Love](#)

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

IMPORTANT DATES

21st May -Mindful Parenting Lorraine Birse

27th May - Reconciliation week starts

30th May - Creative Spirit Fair

31st May - Pupil Free Day

24th May -Mindful Parenting Tracy Taylor

1st June -Mindful Parenting Ted Muller

10th June - *Prep Info Evening 7pm*

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 CREATIVE SPIRIT FAIR

Donations for Biralí Bazaar

- Please [click here](#) to view requirements in School Stream

Bek Blansjaar Coordinator

Creative Spirit Fair 2021 - 07 5429 0511

rblansjaar@biralisteiner.qld.edu.au



Look out for the stilt-walkers at the Fair



STEINER & ANTHROPOSPHICAL LINKS

These Steiner/Anthroposophical related activities and services, whilst not directly related to 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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