



# BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

17 February 2022

Term 1 – Issue 1

## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL – COLETTE WILLIAMS

Welcome everyone to the 2022 school year! Over the past four weeks, I have had the absolute pleasure of meeting all students, staff and many of the families of the Biral School family. Thank you everyone for such a warm welcome and I look forward to meeting new faces and getting to know you all over the coming weeks, months and years ahead. I feel truly blessed to have been guided to land on Biral soil.

Over the past six weeks, I have deeply listened to staff, parents, students and members of the local Beachmere community. There is a common thread woven between what has been shared. Biral is filled with the creative spirit and this energy provides a sense of calm that is felt, lived and breathed throughout the school. This

When a new Principal is appointed, there are often many questions that school communities would like to know about who is 'behind' the role of Principal at our school?

### *What is my story?*

My story is the most wonderful journey, which has led me to rest on Biral soil. I have been an educator for over 23 years and during this time, have been blessed to work across many diverse school sectors and settings. This experience has shaped who I am as an educator and also has led me to seek a school setting that aligns with the way I believe children should learn (pedagogy) and to align my spirituality with educating children (philosophy). I have learned the fundamentals of teaching, the essential skills of management, the joy of educating little children through awe and wonder, led spiritual faith-based communities and everything in between. Having worked

with children from Kindergarten to Class 10, I understand the importance of educating children through the heart, head and hands. The combination of pedagogy and philosophy working in unison is what has guided me to land here, at Birali.

### *What is my vision?*

With the appointment of a new Principal, members of the school community may wonder...Where is our school heading? What can we



expect? What is the vision of the school? All questions can be answered quite simply. My vision of the school is OUR vision of OUR school. During my short time at Birali, I have been overwhelmed with the openness in which parents, staff and students have shared the rich history, current status and future plans for our school. I have reviewed our Strategic Plan (2021 – 2024) and am currently in the process of collaboratively constructing our Annual School Improvement Plan. This plan is in draft form, as all key stakeholders of our school community need a ‘voice’ in the development of this plan. I will be sharing this plan and seeking input, feedback, and wisdom from our parent body. Our collective vision will provide a road map for the school year.

### *How will our vision be implemented?*

Our collective vision will be guided by deeply listening, pondering, reflecting, strategizing and collaborating. Our plan ‘talks’ to many policies, guidelines and governance requirements. Succinct timeframes will underpin our strategy, with key projects having action plans to guide their success. Many of the key projects will require a loud parent voice. Our vision is to walk side by side with our families and to have a clear and coherent stakeholder voice woven throughout our entire vision.

### *What expectations does the Principal have of students, parents, staff?*

The students are always placed at the core of all decisions that we make in our school. I expect the children to come to school each day with enthusiasm, energy, and an eagerness to learn. Parents are the child's first educator, and as such, I expect parents to walk side by side with our school to support their child's learning journey. This is achieved by developing authentic relationships with families and deeply listening to the needs of all children in our care. Our staff provide the framework where learning occurs, underpinned by Steiner Pedagogy and Philosophy. I expect all staff to teach by who they are. I expect staff to wear their heart on their sleeve, to be real, to love their students and to be an extension of the family.



With warmth,  
Colette Williams  
Principal

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## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Michelle - Prep

This was my first Rose Ceremony at Birali, though not my first at a Steiner School. The first I ever attended was in the role of mother, when my daughter Oriana was entering Class 1. I remember how tiny and super proud she looked as she accepted her rose. The accommodating Class 12 student knelt to hand her the rose when he registered just how small she really was in comparison to himself. She gave him her winning smile and strode confidently away. Now I've had the privilege to experience the ceremony as teacher and honestly the feelings aren't that

different. Pride, sadness, hopefulness, excitement, some relief (don't tell!), it's all the same. The Pippi's of 2021 taught me so much and in turn, I was rewarded with the confidence and trust they placed in me to lead them into the arms of their new teacher. On behalf of Becci, Megan and Lily, I wish the new Class 1's and their families of 2022 an exciting and joyful journey forward.



## Lisa – Class 4/5

Class 4/5 have welcomed 4 new students: Kiola, Olivia, Blake and Polo. The children have merged into the class like they have always been here.

Class 4/5's first main lesson is the "History of handwriting". The children have been learning about the first writing that was created, including Cuneiform, Phoenician and Kanji writing systems. The class has been very 'hands on' with making clay plaques with cuneiform character, clay ink pots, wax feather holders and today, the children created feather quills. We will also be making our own ink from Dragon Fruit and learning some calligraphy style letters.



In craft we have started making pencil cases with felt and next week, cross stitch will enter their world. It has been a very busy and exciting start to the term and this

enthusiasm towards learning will continue with our next main lesson focusing on “The Human Being and Animal Kingdom”.



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Community,

How wonderful to have begun the 2022 school year after the delayed start.

The Board warmly welcomed Colette to her role as School Principal with a shared lunch, while also thanking Helen Starr again for her steadfast leadership in 2021 and welcoming her back onto the Board. We were sorry to receive Emma Murphy’s resignation from the Board this month. She brought much knowledge and experience to Board discussions and will be missed. Thank you, Emma.

We have been in regular communication with the Leadership Team as they navigated the challenges that the new year brought. We thank them for their professional, diligent handling of the extra accountabilities over many weeks to ensure the school was ready to welcome back the students.

New families to the school are welcomed and encouraged to join the Moreton Bay Birali Steiner School Association in support of the school. Information regarding the Association is on the school website.

Enjoy the start of the school year.

Birali Board  
MBBSSA inc

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## UPDATES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

- [What Makes an amazing Steiner Teacher?](#)
- [The colours of Birali are being lived and expressed through our artwork project. Come in on a Friday morning at 8:30am to sew, stitch and yarn with us!](#)

## REMINDER

Be aware that with the warmer weather now upon us, mosquitos and ticks are more active. Please ensure students have their own mosquito repellent available, parents are reminded to refresh on the recommended method of tick removal by [clicking here.](#)

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## BIRALI VIRTUES PROGRAM

Each week the school explores a new virtue, with the introduction made at assembly on Mondays.

[Week 1 Purposefulness](#)

[Week 2 Thankfulness](#)

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

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## IMPORTANT DATES

19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Working Bee
11 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Autumn Term Break
15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Good Friday – Public Holiday
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Sunday
18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Monday – Public Holiday

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## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### BIRALI PLAYGROUP in the Pippi Garden

Wednesdays

**8.30 am – 10.30 am and 12.15 pm – 2.15 pm**

**Afternoon group has places available.**

Registration required via Admin.

Download the Playgroup Registration Form by [clicking here](#).

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

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### BIRALI COLLECTIVE (SHOP)

Tues & Fri 2.00 PM – 3.00 PM

### BIRALI PARENT CRAFT GROUP

Located under the pergola outside reception.

**Weds 8.45 AM to 12.00 PM**

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## 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

Click here to visit: [Biralisteinerteachers.com.au](#)

### Parent Run Social Media Groups:

- Biralisteinerteachers (Click here to join)
- Biralisteinerteachers Facebook (Click here to join)
- Biralisteinerteachers Instagram (Click here to join)
- Please ask Biralisteinerteachers for links to class pages

## CONTACT DETAILS

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