



BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

03 March, 2022

Term 1 – Issue 2

From our Principal – Colette Williams



What is Parental Engagement?

During our School Tour on 19th February, I was asked a question by one of the new families hoping to join the Biral school community. The parent asked... *How do parents get involved in the school?* This question made me deeply ponder how we engage parents at Biral and how the parent 'voice' is heard, lived and celebrated.

I view parental engagement as a partnership approach, whereby parents / carers work in close collaboration with the school to foster relationships, to become involved in the 'life' of the school and to walk together to support the learning journey of the child.

There is a significant difference to be recognised between parental involvement and engagement. Parental engagement is a step ahead of parental involvement, as it

requires a parents' active and meaningful participation in children's education. This requires parents to be present in every aspect of their child's life, from providing basic needs such as shelter and food, to having open communication and showing affection. Parental engagement is characterised by the close relationship between parents and educators. The spirit and strength of this relationship has at the very essence the love of the child and the will to work together to support the child's developmental growth and learning.

I am learning the many ways that Birali engages parents, and I would like to share and celebrate some of our parental engagement mechanisms:

- ❖ Parent Information Sessions
- ❖ Parent Craft Group
- ❖ Mindful Parenting Workshops
- ❖ Parent Artwork Project
- ❖ Parent Library
- ❖ Birali Garden Playgroup
- ❖ Working Bees
- ❖ Parents sharing their gifts and talents by supporting the class teacher (i.e. Gardening, craft etc.)
- ❖ School events such as Creative Spirit Fair and Seasonal Festivals



During our Working Bee on the 19th February, I spent time chatting, working alongside families and observing the ways in which children, families and staff interacted. After the Working Bee, I received the following email from Krista (parent of Sarah – Pippi Class).

Dear Colette, I hope this email find you well. I just wanted to touch base with you about today's working bee. What an awesome morning! Sarah and Tahallie have been forming a lovely friendship in Pippi group these last two weeks and so have their younger siblings. I find myself really drawn to Sam their Mum and today spending time with all our families weeding the garden and sanding chairs was just the most fun time! The children played, we chatted as we worked, and my family walked away with our cups completely full! It was a fantastic time forging new friendships for all!! Something I expected for Sarah but not me or my husband and son Billy. What a perfect way to sum up our experience today. Thank you for today and we look forward to the next one.

Parent 'voice' is highly valued in our school and we will continue to seek your input in many ways. Parent 'voice' is heard through;

- ❖ Gaining parental input towards our Annual School Improvement Plan (ASIP)
- ❖ Seeking feedback in relation to our school's Master Plan
- ❖ Feedback in relation to key school events such as Creative Spirit Fair
- ❖ Feedback – opinion surveys
- ❖ Feedback via our online submission link

This year, we are embarking on some new initiatives in this space to include:

- ❖ The introduction of the Class Carer role
- ❖ The creation of a communal gathering space for parents (watch this space!)

- ❖ The reimagination of a Book Club for parents, with a Steiner philosophical focus

I would like share with you all a quote, provided by Krista (parent of Sarah in our Pippi Class)

*"A healthy social life is found only when in the mirror of each soul the whole community find its reflection and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living".
Rudolf Steiner*



Parental engagement is about being a partner on the journey, sharing your vision of our school, providing constructive feedback, along with valuing and championing our school. We thank all families for walking this journey with us and for being an active member of the Birali Steiner community.

With warmth,
Colette Williams
Principal

Maddie – Class 1



It has been a treat to spend the first 3 weeks with Class 1 and introduce them to the letters through our second main lesson, 'Journey through the Alphabet'. It has been lovely to see the children burst through the door in the morning, bubbling with excitement to see what chalkboard drawing awaits along with our next letter. The children have truly embraced the writing of letters, utilising their prior knowledge of straight and curved lines and have brought pride to their main lesson books. We all have enjoyed writing letters in sand, with our bodies, wooden blocks, blankets, the list goes on! The Class 1 parents even assisted the children in their review of the letter B, by making beeswax bears! Go team!



Our Class 1 gardens are starting to receive makeovers, with our little native corner underneath the banksia underway. We have planted grasses, pigface and saltbush and have high hopes of attracting some frog and lizard friends!



Jenny – 8/9 Science

Electromagnetism Main Lesson

After a challenging start to the school year, Class 8/9 have successfully completed their first physics main lesson. In this physics lesson, their focus was the investigation of the invisible forces of electricity and magnetism. These forces were studied separately in Class 6 as natural phenomena existing in the outer world, while in Class 7 these forces were examined as inner phenomena of current electricity. By Class 8, the students are ready to be puzzled, perplexed and excited by the mysterious relationship between these two forces known as electromagnetism.

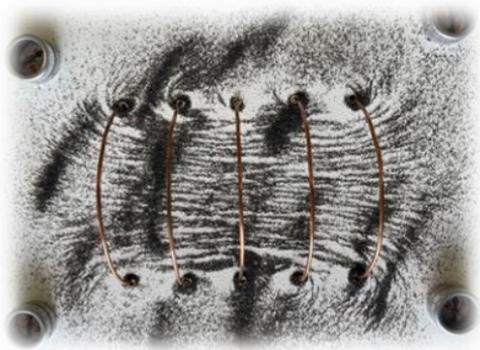


Figure 1: Magnetic field around current-carrying copper coil

The journey began with Hans Oersted in 1820 with his serendipitous discovery of a magnetic field surrounding a conducting wire in an electric circuit and culminated with technological developments of the electric telegraph, electric motor, and electric generator.



Figure 2: Simple D-cell electric motor (Ethan)

Through a variety of historical experiments and demonstrations, the students explored the triumph of electromagnetism as the foundation of the many devices and appliances surrounding us today in our homes and in our modern world.

It was a very busy three weeks, and their journey will continue in Class 9 with the question of how the human voice may be sent electrically.

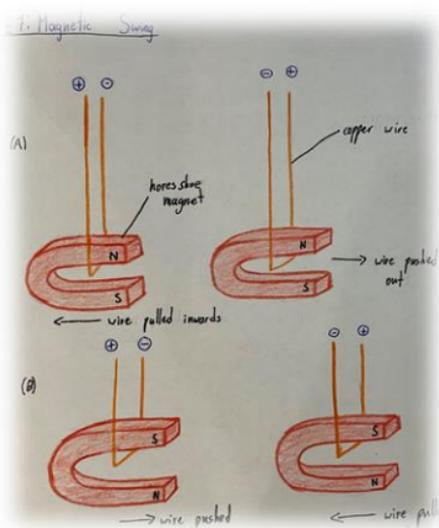


Figure 3: A magnetic swing (Geramie)

Updates you may have missed

- [Good News! Masks Update](#)
- [Wet Weather Information](#)
- [Parent Artwork Project update 25 Feb](#)
- [Colour the days of your child's life](#)

Reminder

We encourage a diet of unprocessed wholegrain products, fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, proteins and home baked food.

Please do not send in lollies, chips, chocolates, cordials, carbonated drinks or anything with a high sugar content or colourings. Please remove packaging from store bought food, prior to placing in your child's lunch box.

Teachers will ask a child to leave food in their lunchbox to return home if the food item misaligns with this policy.

Birali Virtues Program

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

[Week 4 - Unity](#)

[Week 5 - Cleanliness](#)

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

Important Dates

8th March	<u>Class 6/7 Meeting 5:30pm</u>
18th March	National Close the Gap Day
11th-24th Apr	Autumn Term Break
15th Apr	Good Friday – Public Holiday
17th Apr	Easter Sunday
18th Apr	Easter Monday – Public Holiday

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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

Birali Playgroup in the Pippi Garden

Wednesdays

8.30 am – 10.30 am and 12.15 pm – 2.15 pm

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

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

Community Notices

Click here to visit: [Birali Classifieds](#)

Birali Steiner School believes in the importance of community. We have created this page for our local community to share events, workshops or promote their business.

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

Steiner & Anthroposophical 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](#)

