



BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

17 March 2022

Term 1 – Issue 3

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL – COLETTE WILLIAMS



Parental Engagement Alive and Well

At Biral Steiner School, we are heavily invested in creating a whole community inclusive of all members of our immediate and wider school. Rudolf Steiner tells us...

'A healthy social life is found only, when in the mirror of each soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the whole community, the virtue of each one is living'

Over the past five weeks, I have been working in close collaboration with Viktoriya on a new school initiative. The introduction of the Class Carer role has evolved from deeply listening to the needs of the Biral Steiner School community.

To provide more opportunities for parents to participate in the school life, we are introducing the role of the Class Carer, which will commence in Term 2.

A Class Carer – is a volunteer parent or a team of 2 parents, who assist in communication between the school and the parents, help in the coordination of events, support the teacher and the parents. Many Steiner schools have this role and report its benefits for the school-parents interaction, improvement in parents and teacher's relations and the school's wellbeing in general. The idea of introducing Class Carers in Birali has evolved from open conversations, initiated by parents, and deeply heard by the school.

We have asked class teachers to nominate a parent/a group of two parents to become their Class Carers. If you would like to become a Class Carer for your class, please talk to your teacher. To help Class Carers settle into their role, we have developed a guide that describes the role in detail. We already have had a series of meetings with teachers and some of the parents to think through the process. At the moment we are setting up a mixed staff-parents team to create the launch of the Class Carer role smooth and enjoyable for all.

Class Carers will be providing other parents with more information about the school life and together with teachers will be constantly looking for new ways for parents to participate and learn more about Steiner approach to education. Class Carers will also be essential connection links during the Schools Fair and Festivals. In that way, the school will be able to distribute the volunteer load more evenly and make volunteer efforts more efficient and enjoyable.

If you have any questions and/or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact your teacher.

From Viktoriya

I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt thank you to Viktoriya for opening this conversation, for sharing the voices of our parent body, for collaboratively developing the Birali Class Carer Guide and sharing this with staff.

With warmth,
Colette Williams
Principal

Vanda – Class 2/3

Adventures in the Mathematics World

In our main lesson, we've heard the story of Thomas, who was a helper of the planet and a castle builder. Then, we got curious about what we needed to do to build something. This is how our adventure started.



We discovered that there are many different things we can measure, such as time, size, money, weight and volume. Having shared our ideas, we agreed that we had to find a strategy to know the size of the objects to use them properly. Then, we started exploring the world around us. We used our feet, fingers, hands, and even a recorder to determine the length of the railing, the soccer goal and the playground. We found it easier to use an object to measure than to use our bodies as we are all different. It seems that we experienced the same issues that the ancient civilizations did. We realised that we needed a standardised unit of measurement.



Christoph – Music



I have had the privilege of getting to know all of the children in all classes of the school (except prep) over the last few weeks while singing and making music with them twice a week.

Over the last couple of weeks, we've been singing rain and storm songs, and then songs to make the rain and storms go away! My Swiss heritage has made it into the classroom with a yodelling song that Class 1 loves to sing, and I'm sure many parents have heard it at home by now.

A big focus in all classes is now the preparation for our Autumn Festival. Songs featuring dragons, St. Michael, the dragon tamer, mist and coloured leaves, apples, pears, nuts and corn. You will all get to hear some of those songs at our festival.



Please take the time to review the updated Handbook. It is a great reference document designed to support families in understanding the school and to strengthen a cohesive home-and-school relationship for our little people.

We will also be printing a hard copy for each family and sending home with the eldest sibling. If you would like another copy at any time, please email info@biralisteiner.qld.edu.au.



THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Why we have an Autumn Festival –

In the Southern Hemisphere, the 21st of March marks the midpoint between summer and winter solstices known as the **autumn equinox**. The autumn equinox marks one of two points in the year where the Sun is exactly above the equator, resulting in day and night of equal length. It is at this time of year when the festival of Michaelmas is celebrated - The Archangel Michael is one of the principal angelic warriors, seen as a protector against the dark of night and a true picture of courage. As we move into Autumn, the



weather is changing and the season of Michaelmas asks us to be thankful for the plentiful harvest of the preceding year and to face the approaching darkness of winter with courage. As we courageously meet the darker days, we often encounter the darker places in ourselves symbolised by the dragon. The fire and fury of the dragon are strong in the world presently and increasingly so with each passing day it seems. We are called to face these challenging times with Michaelic courage to tame the dragon!

The essence of this is captured throughout the different parts of the school at Birali during the Autumn Festival. At the end of Term 1 each year, the Pippis are immersed in various Autumn themed activities with a Harvest Loaf on the last day of term, the Primary School perform a play about Saint Michael battling the Dragon, and the High School students participate in a variety of physical and sensory challenges requiring self-confidence, courage, and trust in each other in the Games of Courage.

We will have more information about these events to come – but we can confirm that parents are invited to watch the Dragon Play on the last day of term at 1:45 PM.

UPDATES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

- [Important - Please update your child's details](#)
- [Playground Additions - Community Vote](#)
- [Update on Artwork project](#)

REMINDER

Please ensure that home toys stay at home. This includes stuffed toys, plastic toys, wooden and electronic toys, sports equipment as well as trading cards. This ensures that all special toys do not get broken or lost at school and minimises issues surrounding sharing and competition with toys and brand names.

Any exceptions to this must be discussed with the class teacher and be kept in your child's bag.

BIRALI VIRTUES PROGRAM

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

[Week 6 - Flexibility](#)

[Week 7 - Forgiveness](#)

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

IMPORTANT DATES

18 th Mar	National close the gap day
8 th Apr	Autumn Festival
11 th -24 th Apr	Autumn Term Break
15 th Apr	Good Friday - Public Holiday
17 th Apr	Easter Sunday
18 th 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 & 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](#)



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