



BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

5th May 2022

Term 2 – Issue 1

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL – COLETTE WILLIAMS

Inspiration is found in the most simplistic of places, with this newsletter article being inspired by the native bees, which have found delight in gathering pollen from a flower stem located outside of my office.



Schools are lively places and could easily be described as beehives. For beehives to function, there are many roles of worker bees, drone bees, and queen bees (the mother of the hive).

I take the role of Principal very seriously and lead our school as the mother and protector of all things at Birali. Our school community is also made up of many roles (akin to drone bees and worker bees), all working towards the common goals of our school.

You may have had an opportunity to read the Parent Communication, which was shared Tuesday in relation to our school's future. I am currently working on our K – 12 Implementation Plan, which requires heavy lifting from Leadership and the support of all the bees of our school community. I would like to provide you all with an overview of where we are at in relation to our K – 12 Plan.

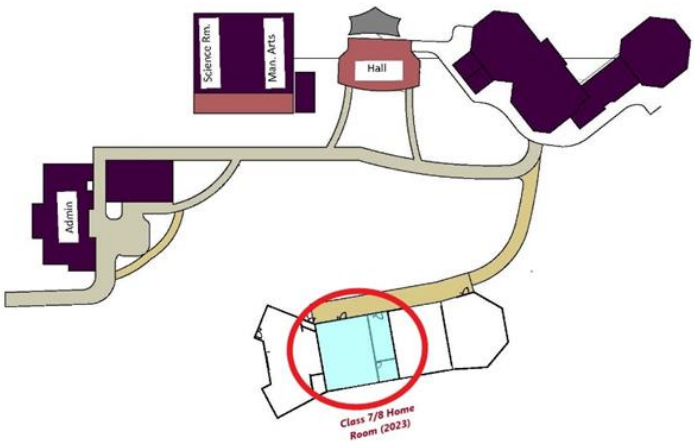
Master Plan:

In Term 1 2022, our school finalised the Building Master Plan of our school and we thank all members of the Birali community for their feedback towards this plan. This plan is based upon developing a K – 12 school.

Our school has completed Stage 2 of our Building Master Plan, with Stage 3 commencing in Semester 2 this year. Stage 3 will involve development of the first room of a new building, which will be situated in the centre of our school. This building will take different shapes over the years to come, with its first use being our Class 7/8 room for 2023. This will enable our Class 7/8 and 9/10 to form a 'high school hub', as it is near the current secondary classrooms. Over the course of some additional stages, the building will be utilised in future years as our Class 7 room, our Library, a multipurpose learning space as well as a teaching kitchen.

Relationships:

To grow the connections and relationships between the students within the High School space, our Class 7 students combined with the 8/9 students to participate in the 'Games of Courage'. Such combined events will continue to take place throughout the year.



Recruitment:

Our Leadership Team have been heavily invested in conducting extensive recruitment processes this year, with a clear and directed plan to source skilled High School specialist, with new staff joining our school with such expertise. Nich,

our current Class 6/7 Teacher is a High School English and Arts Specialist. In 2023, Nich will become our 7/8 Class Guardian and the Class will relocate to their new room. From there, both High School groups will be able to access the High School facilities, being taught by the High School Teachers for their various Main Lessons and Specialist Lessons. The classes will have a “home room” and will still be in the care of their Class Guardians, Emma and Nich.

Implementation Plan:

In Term 1, our Leadership Team engaged in discussions with regards to the K – 12 Implementation Plan. Throughout the course of the year, we will continue to work heavily across this scope of work to develop a clear pathway to map our future growth and development. Some areas of this initial planning phase will involve:

- Understanding the current needs of our school
- Understanding the demographics of our school and wider community, along with data analysis
- Conducting Stakeholder Market Research to gain information in relation the future needs, hopes and aspirations of our school
- Seeking transport options in the short term to accommodate the needs of graduating Class 10 merging into Senior Secondary schooling options
- Connecting with Samford Valley and Noosa Pengari in relation to the Senior Secondary Curriculum
- Budgeting for and engaging a Senior Secondary consultant
- Implementing our High School Marketing and Enrolments Plan
- Conducting Parent Information Sessions to communicate the draft implementation plan and to gain further input and feedback
- Developing learning pathways to include TAFE for Senior Secondary
- Recruitment, staffing attraction and retention
- Analysis of budget requirements, financial implications, student enrolment growth and projections
- Continuation of submitting BGA Applications to sustain building growth and development
- Tertiary entry and pathways

Stakeholder Engagement:

In previous years our School Board endorsed a K – 12 Plan, which aligns with our current Master Plan of our School. The K – 12 Implementation Plan will assist our school in understanding the pathway to grow our school from a P – 9 School (current status), to a K – 12 School. This will involve extensive data analysis, assessment of risks, long-term viability and deeply understanding the contextual needs of our school.

Community Support:

I understand that there is concern within our school community about our plans in the High School space. In 2023, our enrolments will project a P – 10 School, with plans to be established for merging our High School students into the senior secondary space in 2024. The implementation plan will assist in ensuring our school continues to grow well into the future. To grow our school will require a 'beehive' approach, whereby we trust in the leadership of the Queen Bee and all gather as a united force as drone and worker bees. I thank all members of our school community for the collaborative approach in which we are planning a shared vision for the future of our school.

With warmth,
Colette Williams
Principal



Lisa – Class 4/5



“Namaste”,

Class 4/5 are taking a journey back in time to Ancient India and the great Mythology stories that were told. We have been embracing the culture with meditation, new songs, dances, and cooking. This will be followed with an Indian feast in week 7. This term will also take us to Ancient Persia and Egypt. Students will listen to myths of The Creation Story, Brahma and the Indian, Ramayana and Manu and the Fish, just to name a few.



Strings has come back into the schedule with 15-20 minutes practice each morning. It is lovely to hear them play with enthusiasm.

Our hügelkultur garden was seed bombed last Friday, which means the children literally threw the seed balls into the area and now we wait and observe our garden grow.



Chloe – Games of Courage

As part of the Birali Autumn Festival, the High School students participated in the Games of Courage. The Class 8/9s were joined by the Class 7 students to participate 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 experience a great shift in their soul life; they are now looking towards their peers for direction and approval.



The students from Class 8/9 and Class 7 were divided into two teams of “Warm Colours” and “Cool Colours.” Some of the morning games included Tug of War, which was followed with an Ice Bucket Challenge where the students showed courage as they submerged their hands into the freezing cold ice to collect small items, gaining points for their team. After morning tea,

they climbed through a rope “Spider Web”, working together to avoid the webs. Then they put their senses to the test through a blindfolded maze which incorporated obstacles challenging their senses of taste, hearing, smell and movement.

The afternoon ended with a game of “Sheet Volleyball” and a cooperative rafting game. The students participated tremendously, working together with trust in one another as they met the challenges with great endurance and courage!



UPDATES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

- Our Future - Birali Steiner School
- Playground Update
- New Guided Readers!
- School Transport Assistance
- Parent Artwork Project - What does Birali mean to you?
- Can you knit or crochet?
- Reconciliation Update

REMINDER

Attendance

Birali Steiner School prioritises your child's success through learning and their engagement in our school community. At Birali we care about your child and their wellbeing. We will contact you through SMS if your child is not at school and we appreciate your advice by reply.

Steiner schools incorporate teaching through periods of main lesson blocks and practice lessons, with each day building upon the next. As such, consistency in attendance and timely

arrival between 8.15am and 8.30am, is essential for your child's education.

Parents have a legal requirement to ensure their children attend school, unless in times of illness and other family circumstances.

Please notify administration by 9:00am providing reason for any absence.

Lack of notification and reason for absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

The school is required to record all absences, late arrivals/early departures. Any absence of ten days or more, requires prior approval by the school's Principal. The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, and other governing bodies, require data from the school regarding attendance, as well as unexplained and extended absences.

BIRALI VIRTUES PROGRAM

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

Week 1 - Service

Week 2 - Orderliness

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

IMPORTANT DATES

May 14th

May 26th

May 26th

May 28th

27th June

Working Bee & School Tour

[Mindful Parenting with Pep Wright - Foundations of Steiner Education](#)

National Sorry Day

[National Reconciliation Week](#)

[School Term Break begins](#)

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](#).

BIRALI BOOK GROUP

Fridays

8.40am to 9.40am

A Passionate Schooling by Alduino Mazzone PhD

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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