



BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

16th June 2022

Term 2 – Issue 4

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL – COLETTE WILLIAMS



I always think it is interesting what occurs once you project something out into the universe. This projection provided me with the absolute gift of leading Biral Steiner School.

During this year, I have been blessed to work alongside families, staff, Leadership Team, Board Directors, and the children of our school community. Over cups of tea, round table discussions, catch ups on the fly, or formal meetings, I have gained enormous insights into the gift of what comes from a Steiner Education. Such insights have also been gained by deeply listening beyond the use of my ears alone.

What have I come to understand about Biral Steiner School?

Biral has the most amazing inner strength, which has witnessed a re-birth this year. Our school has warmly welcomed new children, parents, and staff to our school, bringing new talents and giftedness to our school.

The foundational parents have an absolute commitment to our school and provide rich insights into the future direction of our school. We also have incredibly talented and creative parents, who willingly share such giftedness to enrich the lives

of the children in our care. The introduction of the Class Carer role has seen parents demonstrate their support of our Class Teachers and school, with this initiative continuing to



evolve. Furthermore, our families are heavily invested in supporting their child to grow and flourish, underpinned by a Steiner pedagogical and philosophical approach.

The children of Birali have incredible inner spirit and their creativity and individuality is nurtured through rich relationships developed between Class Teacher / Guardian and child. The lives of the children is enriched, through our holistic and integrated approach to curriculum delivery. I have come to understand this to be a gift. Your children are truly blessed.



I also have come to understand the talents and giftedness of our staff. Upon my arrival at Birali, many conversations circulated in relation to *What it means to be a Steiner Teacher?* I

know that being a Steiner Teacher is truly about who you are. You cannot fake who you are as a teacher. It requires a full investment of self and to wear your heart on your sleeve. Through the diversity of our teaching experience, we come to realise that our vocation is expressed over time. As Teachers, we come to realise how much our work embodies our vision of teaching and our beliefs about students. We grow to understand that teaching is a calling that makes claim on our souls. Teaching is a gift.

I would like to express my gratitude to all children, families, and staff for the gift of leading Birali. I have felt light and strength, which has given rise to such love for all things 'Birali'.

Thank you!

Goodbye for now.



Yuka - Japanese



Konnichiwa, minasan! (Hello, everyone!)

Class 1 are having a wonderful time in Japanese lessons for the first year. They absorb perfectly what they have learnt so quickly. This term, they have learnt numbers in Kanji (one of Japanese characters) with body movement, colours with a song, self-introduction, the weather and so on. During May, we celebrated the special event "Kodomo no hi" (children's day) in recognition of children's well-being and growth. Class 1 children made "Koinobori" (carp streamer) to celebrate, then they made their own to take home. According to the activities, they learnt shapes, and family members as well.

Class 2/3 continues to learn new words and have presented self-introduction confidently. They also celebrated "Kodomo no hi" and made "Kabuto" (Samurai helmet) to care for their own head/brain's growth which led to their learning. This



term, we observed fantastic efforts during their speech for self-introduction in Japanese in front of everyone.

Class 4/5 continues to learn more and more in positive way. They have been doing origami activities to learn culture and language to include family members and month of birthdays. This term, we congratulate Class 4/5 for their wonderful efforts they made during their speech for self-introduction in Japanese, which they shared in front of the whole class.

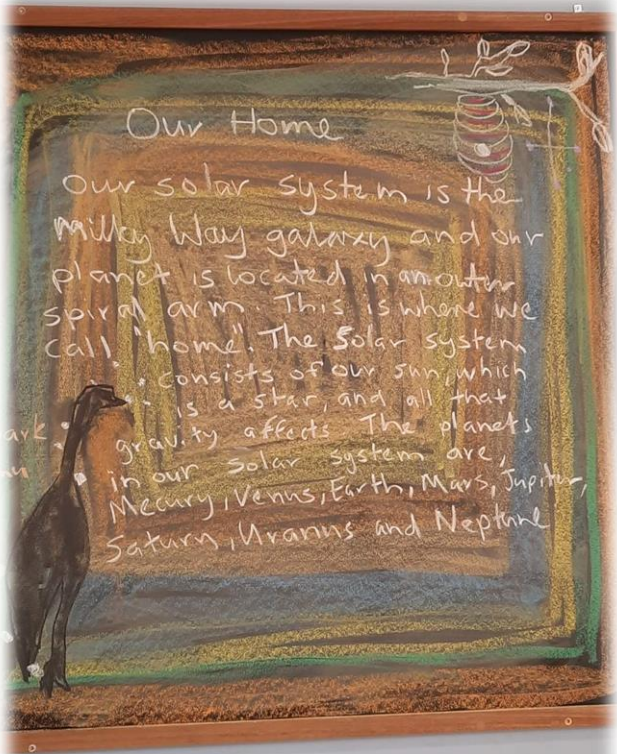
Class 6/7 continues to learn new words and aspects of different culture. They have been making a wonderful effort to learn Japanese character, Hiragana. Also, they have made a



beautiful cake in origami as circle of love to show their cooperation, which has been leading to a sentence "----- ga suki desu ka" (Do you like-----?) Example: Keeki ga suki desu ka (Do you like a cake?)

Class 8/9 continue to learn Japanese characters, along with Kanji using calligraphy.

Nich – Class 6 / 7



Class 6/7 have had a busy term so far engaging with a Business Mathematics Main Lesson where students developed confidence when working with fractions, percentages and to develop budgets and a variety of real-life mathematical applications. Currently, students are coming to the end of the Australia and Beyond Main lesson where they have explored local and global geography to evaluate the liveability of various regions using 5 criteria. Students have also worked comparing and contrasting economic and indigenous perspective related to geography in order to extend their worldviews. Students have also been working on creating a doll and a lantern for the Winter Festival in craft.



Students will now extend their investigations of the earth to the sky in the Astronomy Main lesson which is very timely as the winter sky is perfect for star gazing during our Winter Solstice celebrations. Students will do some star gazing on the Winter festival evening and another night will be planned in Term 3. Class 6/7 are also collecting firewood for the Winter festival and if you know of any properties in the local area where we can get some wood for the bonfire please let Nich know as soon as possible.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Thank you and Farewell Colette

This week we say farewell to Colette Williams, Principal. The Birali Board would like to thank Colette for her time at Birali Steiner School. Colette joined the school community seamlessly and her professional leadership, together with her warm nature has guided the school through changes, successes and challenges this year. We thank Colette for her leadership and wish her all the best for the future both professionally and personally. We warmly thank her for the important time she has nurtured our school.

Thank you, Colette, from the Birali Board and the Birali MBBSSA Community, we value the time you have spent with us.

“From thee stream light and strength, to thee rise love and thanks” Rudolf Steiner

UPDATES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

- [After school activities supervision](#)
- [Principal Recruitment & Interim Principal Update](#)
- [Class 8/9 have been working with Platonic Solids](#)
- [Class 1 Whipbird Quest](#)
- [What is the Winter Festival?](#)
- [Can you help?](#)
- [Semester 1 Student reports](#)

REMINDER

Mobile Phones and other Electronic Devices

Birali Steiner School is **mobile phone free** for students. We recognise that at times and in certain specific circumstances a student may need to have access to a mobile phone/communication/electronic device prior to or immediately after school. In these circumstances, storage of the phone/device is in the locked cabinet inside

Administration. Students are required to leave their phone switched off while on school grounds.

BIRALI VIRTUES PROGRAM

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

[Week 7 - Gentleness](#)

[Week 8 - Commitment](#)

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

IMPORTANT DATES

22nd June

24th June

24th June

7th July

8th July

11th July

14th July

14th July

[Pippi Winter Festival](#)

[Class 1 – 9 Winter Festival](#)

[End of School Term 2](#)

[Office Closed \(staff training day\)](#)

[Office Closed \(staff training day\)](#)

[Term 3 begins](#)

[Parent Meet & Greet](#)

[Prep & Class 1 Info Night](#)

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

9.00 am – 11.00 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 SINGING

Tuesdays after school

DRUMMING FOR FUN

Wednesdays after school

BIRALI BOOK GROUP

Friday mornings

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

CONTACT DETAIL

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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](#)