



BIRALI STEINER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8th of March 2024

Term 1 – Issue 3

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

As we enter the first week of Autumn, the preparations for the Autumn Festival are well underway. In our schools, we can easily fall into routines with our festivals without understanding the WHY behind what we are doing...

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!



We look forward to the Autumn Festival celebrations on the last day of Term 1, Thursday 28th March!

Warm regards,

Chloe Ann Francis

Principal

FRAN – PEDAGOGICAL COORDINATOR

I have reflected a lot lately on that word 'Community'. It means so many different things to many people, yet mostly we agree that coming together in a new way is what is needed for these times of change and crisis.

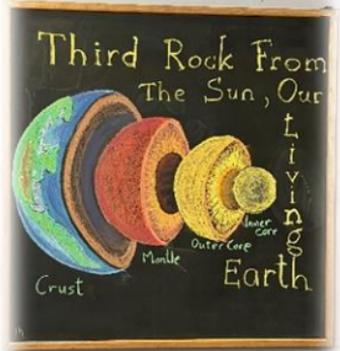
Because we are a Steiner School, if you are reading this, it is likely you agree that Rudolf Steiner's ideas and social principles are the foundation to what we are building together. This is tricky of course, because he was so prolific and forward-thinking in his lectures and written work. Most people find diving into his works quite challenging.

Of course, as parents, there is no obligation to do this study yourself. You are trusting that the staff are on a continuing journey of 'Steiner learning', that we value the curriculum design, the methodology of teaching practice and

organisation of the social body. This is a path of self-reflection, of clarity in communication and of thoughtful, balanced and focussed action.

LISA - CLASS 6/7

Class 6/7 started the year with Geology - discovering how our planet was created and the understanding of young and old mountains.



Our next Main Lesson

is Business Maths. The class had an ice-cream stall to understand what is needed to run a shop and to learn about percentage and profit. We have been playing a "Game of Life" where

they are on an island fleeing Rome and now need to survive with the trades they are able to do. This is a very complex games that teaches the students how to barter and to support each other to survive.

Our next Main Lesson will be Astronomy, and for this we will be heading to the Brisbane Planetarium to understand what is out there.



MARIANNE & AGNES – EXTRA LESSON

Extra Lesson seeks to develop the person as a threefold being: a healthy balance of the physical life (will), social and emotional (feeling) life and academic (thinking) life. The physical foundations laid strongly impact the successful laying down of body- brain pathways and social adjustment for learning. It is all a balancing act. To sit on a chair, to write and to think at the same time is overwhelming.



Little people often experience

immense frustration and it is helpful to understand what may be going on developmentally, to listen to and reflect back calmly when finding strategies to

deal with situations; and to reduce over-stimulation (noise, lots of words, travel, deadlines stress, machinery, clatter, screens and clutter)...and relax, and remember things will sort themselves out.



We have a renovated work space (thankyou Beck!!), on the deck, near class 3. There we do movement, sound therapy and artistic based activities to help the individual 'come into their body'. We meet all new

students and do whole class and small group activities on a regular basis, as well as deal with daily challenges.

CREATIVE SPIRIT FAIR

Each year, Birali hosts the Creative Spirit Fair to invite families and the wider community to a fun day filled with activities,

performances, displays and tours that show case the Creative Spirit of Birali students. Parents and carers are asked to participate in the organisation and running of the Fair which can include planning prior to the day as well as being rostered for a shift operating a stall/activity on the day. We couldn't do this without our wonderful families that volunteer their time to help pull this wonderful event off and help share our beautiful school with the wider community and continue to grow our school into the future.

The fair team has begun initial planning and will be seeking further parent volunteer support in the coming weeks - keep a look out for the announcements if you're looking to be part of the planning team.



IMPORTANT DATES

9 th March	<u>Slow Stitch Workshop</u>
16 th March	Working Bee & School Tour
17 th March	Close the Gap Day
28 th March	Autumn Festival & Last day of Term 1
29 th March	Good Friday
31 st March	Easter Sunday
15 th April	Start of Term 2
23 rd April	Parent Meet & Greet
25 th April	Anzac Day

UPDATES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

- [Handwork in Steiner Education](#)
- [Snake Expedition](#)
- [Bus Option During Road Closure](#)
- [Indigenous Mural Project](#)
- [Beachmere Rd Update](#)
- [Have you completed your Edstart plan?](#)

REMINDER

Collaborative Home-School Relationships:

The school recognises that the relationships between teachers, parents and students is essential. Throughout the year there are many opportunities for parents to enhance their understanding of Steiner Education and support their children's development. Parents are encouraged to attend education events such as talks, seminars and workshops. These events are advertised in the newsletter, on the school's website and Facebook page. The deeper your understanding of the principles of Steiner Education and how our school functions, the more you will understand your child's progress and the stronger will be your ability to support your child in getting the very best of what the school has to offer.

BIRALI VIRTUES PROGRAM

Each week the school explores a new virtue.

Week 5 – [Excellence](#)

Week 6 – [Flexibility](#)

To read more about the virtues program please [click 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, and workshops or promote their business.

Parent Organised Activities: Each Friday afternoon (after School) families are welcome to gather at Clayton Park in Beachmere to wind down after a busy week.

Moreton Bay Mobile Library is also at Clayton Park each Friday until 4 p.m.

*Please note that this is not a school-run activity.

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

CRAFT GROUP

You are invited to join us at craft group each Wednesday, 8:45 am - 11:45 am. No crafting experience needed - all Projects are easily taught by Trish, our craft co-ordinator.



Wednesdays - 8:45 am - 11:45 am

Week 2 - felt lavender sachets

Week 3 - Needle book/ sewing kit

Week 4 - Needle felted beehive

Week 5 - crafting for the fair

Week 6 - Felt dragon

Week 7 - crafting for the fair

Week 8 - felt easter rabbit / bilby

Week 9 - crafting for the fair

Collective shop opening hours:

Mondays and Fridays, 2:15 pm - 3 pm & Wednesdays, 8:45 - 11:45

STEINER QUOTE

The most important thing in arithmetic is not the shapes of the numbers but the reality living in them.

This living reality has much more meaning for the spiritual world than what lives in reading and writing.

Rudolf Steiner



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](#)

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