

The River School Newsletter



It has been an absolute privilege to share the last 29 years of my life journey with The River School. When people asked what I did for work, I would always say, *"Oh, I don't see what I do as work — it's how I live my life... it is who I am."*

In 1997, I moved from NSW to take up the Middle Family teaching position at The River School. It felt like a dream come true ... the chance to enlighten, inspire and support young people on their learning journey was something I had felt deeply called to do since Yr.8 at High School. However, as life often does, it quickly showed me that teaching at The River School was never going to be easy - and still isn't to this day. Instead, it set me on a huge learning curve. My first group of students were energetic, abseiling, swimming, artistic, athletic adventurers (thanks to Roger Westcott, Phil Smith and Liz Shluter) who were happy to do anything except sit at desks. They taught me that learning is less about content and more about the way it is delivered. They taught me to take risks, step outside my comfort zone and teach from the heart.

For more than 30 years I have immersed myself in education — 29 of those at The River School. It is my time here that taught me you can make a difference. Sharing learning with young people has never felt like a job; it ignites something in me and while I am stepping back from the pressures of the Principal role, that passion will never leave me.

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting awards at the Maleny State High School Presentation Ceremony. For the past nine years, as Principal, I have watched the young people who journey through The River School grow into confident, curious human beings with a deep sense of self and compassion for others.

Today some of my closest friendships are with people I once taught who are now in their 30s, and I have met some of my dearest friends working here. Over the years I have also formed countless heart connections with staff, Board members and parents, each of whom, along with the students, have shaped me in profound ways.

Being at The River School has deepened my understanding that Neohumanism is not something you step in and out of. It is a way of being — a lens through which you live in the world. I am honoured to have worked in and led a school whose philosophy guides people to connect with the essence of self, to live with purpose beyond self, and to understand what it means to be part of a universal family, where all beings are equal.

The River School was founded on the virtues of service and love — and over time it has become a living heart in its own right. As I step forward into my next, curious path, I will carry that heart within me — knowing that a piece of me will always beat inside the living heart that is The River School.



RED CEDARS 2026

We wish you all the best as you continue your learning journey and move into high school.

Remember the connections you have made, the tools you have been taught and always follow your dreams.

We are so proud of you all and can't wait to see what your futures will bring!



Opal: Joined The River School in 2024 as our Empowerment Teacher. With her enthusiasm for literacy and learning she has helped develop our InitialLit Intervention program to support our students and foster their love of words. Opal welcomed her little one, Rafi, in October. We wish Opal and the family all the best for 2026.



Cheryl & Dexter: Cheryl joined TRS in 2014, she has supported students in classrooms, OSHC programs and the ECC. Cheryl took on beautifying the school gardens & was joined by Dexter in 2021. We know that 2026 will bring many home garden adventures to fruition.



Kerrie: 2016 saw the beginning of many Literary learning spaces grow with in our school. Kerrie taught in year 3 before moving into the year 6 teacher roll with her final teaching position at TRS as our teaching Librarian. Kerrie instigated the Book Week celebrations & parade, she organised our now annual Trivia Night, implemented the Library system & ensured all books were covered & catalogued. Not a small feat but one that will benefit many students to come. A true legacy to her love of books!



Ange: First joined TRS community in 2021 when Aila began as a Puggle. Ange then joined the staff in 2023 as an LA in the Lillypillies. 2025 saw her energy as our Literacy butterfly working with Opal and the InitialLit Intervention Program.

Kristy: Spent 2025 on leave exploring her passions that lay outside the classroom. She has decided to pursue these full time moving into 2026. We thank Kristy for her love and commitment to the school. Kristy joined TRS in 2014 as the year 4 class teacher. She has also been our Learning Support teacher and the Deputy Principal before returning to the classroom in 2020 as our Lillypilly teacher.

Paula: 2017 saw Paula paddle into the Puggle space and lead the learning of our youngest school students. She has inspired young minds to question and investigate, to explore and examine the world around them. Her enthusiasm and dedication has been inspiring to all and we wish her all the best on the next adventure.





Ann we thank you for
29 years of connections,
inspiration, love, dedication
and sharing the joy that
learning brings.

We love you, and know
that you will always be a
part of the heart of The
River School community.





This year's swimming carnival gave us all a chance to cool off from the heat while the students worked towards beating their personal bests. After spending the term with our lovely swimming coach Maree, the students were keen to show off their skills to the parents and staff in attendance. Inbetween heats, the teachers ran games for all ages in the pool so everyone could keep cool while having fun!



Moral Compass Sessions – Yr. 6

Over Term 4, our Red Cedar Leaders participated in weekly lessons with Ann that focused on connection, ethical and moral discussions, practical activities, and decision-making tools. Through these sessions, students gained valuable knowledge and insights that will support them as they continue their journey, especially as they navigate peer pressure and the complexities of their teenage years.

Topics explored included trusting their own truth and intuition, recognising that their words and actions always have an impact, living their values, and using those values to guide who they want to be in the world and the choices they make.



InitialLit Lillypillies – Yr.1

Last week, our Lillypilly students received certificates celebrating their completion of the Year 1 InitialLit phonics and reading program. Ann has guided the program over the past three terms, with Judy, our new Principal, joining in to support learning toward the end of Term 4. We are incredibly proud of these wonderful students. Their commitment and hard work have paid off, with every child showing excellent progress.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our learning assistant, Natalie, whose organisation, attention to detail, and invaluable support in both small-group and individual sessions made a significant difference to student success.



Red Cedar student **Willow** was presented with a certificate and prize for winning the Districts division of the Lions Club Peace Poster competition. This year's theme was "Together as One".

Willow's artwork has progressed to the National judging that will be held in Adelaide, May 2026. We look forward to hearing how she fares.

The presentation was attended by two of the local Lions Club members and Diane Unwin the District representative. The presentation was followed by a morning tea, where the Red Cedar and Regent students were able to ask the Lions representatives about the works they do within the community.



The Lions International Peace Poster Contest is one of many Lions Clubs International Youth Programs that aim to provide opportunities for self-development, education, contribution and achievement for young people.

The Contest presents a unique, enjoyable and enriched educational experience for youth and an enrichment of school curriculum areas of learning, creating, communicating, technology and achievement and contributes to further development of artistic and writing skill, self-expression and personal growth; sharing ideas and messages of peace and acknowledging youth positive efforts and achievements.

Wattles

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Wrapping Up a Wonderfully Creative Year of Learning

As we reach the end of another remarkable school year, it's a joy to pause and celebrate the incredible journey the Wattle class has taken. Having previously taught these wonderful learners in Year Two, I feel truly privileged to have been gifted the opportunity to guide them once again next year. Watching them grow, both as devoted learners and fabulous friends, has been one of the greatest highlights of my teaching year.

Throughout the past months, the classroom has been alive with curiosity, creativity, and a sense of adventure. Together, we have explored the fascinating world of science, investigating questions big and small, and discovering just how much wonder exists in the everyday. Their enthusiasm for understanding how things work has been inspiring, and I hope I have inspired a budding scientist amongst them.

This year has also seen our students step into the role of environment advocates, showing genuine care for the world around them. From discussing sustainability to taking action within our school community, their passion for protecting our planet has shone brightly.

In mathematics, they have truly lived up to the title of magical mathematicians, tackling challenges, making connections, and celebrating the joy of problem-solving. Their confidence has grown enormously, and it has been wonderful to watch them persevere and succeed.

And of course, their creativity has flourished as imaginative and expressive writers and artists. Whether crafting stories, sharing ideas, or exploring new genres, they have embraced storytelling with courage and originality.

It has been a year filled with growth, laughter, discovery, and endless creativity. I am incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and feel both grateful and excited to continue this learning journey with them next year.

Wishing all our students and families a restful, joyful break and looking forward to the adventures ahead in the new school year!

Warmest wishes, Lynne.

What an incredible year it has been for the Regents. From the excitement of school camp, where courage, teamwork and lifelong memories were made, to welcoming our Taiwanese visitors and building friendships that stretched across cultures and language, our journey together has been rich and full. We raced, cheered and moved our bodies at the School Olympics and Swimming Carnival and demonstrated how rich the River School spirit is. We also came together as a community for a joyful and excellent Spring Fair, where our creativity and effort shone brightly. Between all of these adventures we found time to learn and laugh we laugh along the way but most importantly we grew, not just in knowledge but in confidence and kindness. The friendships formed this year will continue to ripple beyond the classroom and each Regent should feel proud of the learning, resilience and heart they brought to every moment this year.



The Regents 2025 review.

Energy Contribution

Parent volunteers are invaluable to every school community. The River School offers our families an opportunity to maintain their term fees at the base level by giving some of their time and energy to the school.

Family Requirement: 10 hours per term (p/family)

Cash equivalent: \$200 (ie.\$20 p/hr)

All hours being claimed as energy contribution, must be recorded on an Energy Contribution Card at the office *during the term the work is carried out*. Energy Contribution hours not worked within the term will be invoiced to families at the end of the respective term. Energy Contribution hours can be 'banked' and carried forward to the next term but cannot be backdated to previous terms.

Energy Contribution hours worked by a family belong solely to that family's school fee account, they are not tradable, transferable and cannot be applied to any other part of a family's school fees.

Please contact the office or speak with your classroom teacher to discover the many ways you can work off Energy hours.

Please note:

The Energy Contribution Hours record is separate from the Onsite Sign in sheet. The onsite sign in sheet is in case of emergencies and so we know who is onsite where and when.

We don't go back and cross reference this for each day each family and allocate your Energy Hours for you.

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS!



PARENTS & CARERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND CLASS CELEBRATIONS.

CLASS TEACHERS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Class end-of-year Celebrations

WATTLES: MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER 11:15AM	PUGGLES: MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER 12:45PM
PICCABEENS: TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 11:30AM	REGENTS: TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 1:15PM
RED CEDARS: TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER BLI BLI WATER PARK	
KINGFISHERS: WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 9:00AM	RED CEDARS: THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 10:00AM SCHOOL CLAP OUT AND CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION. WHOLE SCHOOL INVITED! 6:00PM GRADUATION DINNER



2026 School Calendar for families

Updated: 03.12.2025

Term 1	
Monday 26 th January	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Australia Day
Tuesday 27 th January	First day of term
Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th February	Class meetings during 2 week
TBC BY 2026 P&F committee	Café Night & P&F AGM
Wednesday 11 th – Monday 23 rd March	NAPLAN years 3 & 5
Week 8	Parent Teacher Interviews held this week
Week 9	Announced Fire Drill
TBC	Red Cedar Camp – Details to follow
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of term
Friday 3 rd April	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
2 week Autumn Holidays	
Term 2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lions Peace Poster 	
Monday 20 th April	First day of term
Wednesday 6 th May	Red Cedars at Kids in Action – Field Day
Monday 4 th May	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Labour Day
TBC BY 2026 P&F committee	Café Night
Tuesday 26 th May	Red Cedars Readers Cup Challenge
Friday 29 th May	MALENY SHOW HOLIDAY/River Cafe
Wednesday 27 th May – Wednesday 3 rd June	Reconciliation Week
Friday 5 th June	World Environment Day
Week 9	Announced Lock Down Drill
Friday 26 th June	Last day of term
2 week Winter Holidays	
Term 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unannounced Fire Drill term 3 TRUE Program 	
Monday 13 th July	PUPIL FREE DAY
Tuesday 14 th July	First day of term
Friday: 24 th July & 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th August	5 x Olympic Training Rotations
Wednesday 29 th – Friday 31 st July	Mapleton QCCC Camp years 4/5
TBC BY 2026 P&F committee	Café Night
Monday 24 th – Friday 28 th August	BOOK WEEK – Parade Friday 28 th
Wednesday 9 th September	Red Cedars at Kids in Action Conference day
Friday 4 th October	OLYMPICS Day
Week 8	Parent Teacher Interviews held this week
Wednesday 9 th – Friday 11 th September	House of Happiness Bribie Island Camp years 1 - 3
Friday 11 th September	Last day of term
3 week Spring Holidays	
Term 4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unannounced Lock Down Drill term 4 5 x Swimming Rotations & Carnival 	
Monday 5 th October	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Kings Birthday
Tuesday 6 th October	First day of term
TBC BY 2026 P&F committee	SPRING FAIR
TBC Monday	PUPIL FREE DAY Following Spring Fair
TBC November	Maleny Music Festival
Thursday 10 th December	Red Cedar Clap out & Graduation dinner
Friday 11 th December	Last day of term & Clean UP Day
6 week Summer Holidays	



From 20 September 2025, there are new laws in Queensland about Blue Cards and higher consistency around when parent volunteers need one. These changes are designed to protect children, while keeping things simple and fair for parents who volunteer.

To support these changes and to improve child safety throughout QLD, we are encouraging all parents to apply for a

Volunteer card and become linked to the school. if they plan on undertaking volunteer within the school environment.

In 2026 all parents/carers who attend camps or join our P&F will need to have an active linked card. Previously this was not a requirement for parents who completed the *Restricted Persons* form.

A volunteer card has no cost involved and all applications are now done online via this link: <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/regulated-industries-and-licensing/blue-card/applications/apply>

If you have any questions please email pira@riverschool.com.au or stop in for a chat.



CATBIRD THEATRE PRESENTS A NEW HOLIDAY PLAY FOR THE FAMILY



'T WAS
DECEMBER 19, 20, & 21
MALENY PLAYHOUSE

Witta Tennis

Kid's Tennis Coaching

Witta Tennis Club is registered as a provider for.

Queensland Government Play On Sports Vouchers

We welcome young tennis players to sign on for Term 1 2026, Tennis Coaching Program.
The coaching sessions are one hour each week for 10 weeks.

The cost for the program is \$200.00, which is the value of the Voucher.

The vouchers are available at:

<https://www.sport.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports>

For more information about the coaching program contact:

mareehooley@gmail.com or 0437 295 501



ROSETTA BOOKS

School Holiday Activities for Kids

Fri Dec 12: Sarah Pye

Appearing at the Maleny Christmas Street Party with her puppet friends from 5pm and signing copies of *Curious Kai Asks Why*



CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

Thur Dec 18: Kate Foster

10.30-11.30am Storytime & Superpup craft session! (All ages)
12.30-1.30pm Roll-The-Dice Adventure Writing workshop for primary school kids! (7+)



Thur Jan 8: M J Gibbs

10.00-11.00am Holiday Beach Collage and Shell Necklace Craft (4-12)



Thur Jan 15: Emily Serow

10.00-11.00am Storytime, koala-themed craft and treasure hunt (3+)



WORKSHOP COST \$5.00
(redeemable against book purchase)

More details and bookings at www.rosettabooks.com.au



End of 2025 ~ Final Farewell

We finish the year with a big thanks! Thank you to the teachers for their amazing work, dedication and professionalism. Thank you to parents for working with us and entrusting your precious children to our care. Thank you to our LA's and support staff, cleaners, everyone!! We wish you a safe and peaceful holiday.