"IT’S ALL HAPPENING AT NAVIGATOR"
(To borrow a well-worn phrase by a legendary Australian cricket commentator!)

In the interests of keeping our community “in the loop”, we would like to take this opportunity to provide in summarized form, an update on what’s been happening including some exciting news about what lies ahead. College Council working through the Leadership Team and under the guidance of our new Principal, has now finalized the Navigator Future Directions Action Plan which is very systematic to school improvement. The final version of the document has identified over 100 tasks, initiatives and projects for careful investigation and / or implementation in the near future, taking into account the input that was collected from across the entire College community. Many of these tasks are already well underway.

We would like to highlight some of the major initiatives that will change the face of Navigator College and in particular, significantly help us to consolidate the development of the Middle and Senior Schools.

PEDAL PRIX IS COMING TO NAVIGATOR!
A vision for participation in the Pedal Prix was outlined as part of our Future Directions Information nights earlier in the year. Our plan is to have two Middle School teams entered in the 24-hour event at Murray Bridge in late September next year. Ultimately we would aim to undertake much of the hands-on “vehicle” development work as part of the team entry each year. Our Head of Middle School, Andrew Jericho will initially be responsible for overseeing our inaugural Pedal Prix entry. We will be seeking support from school families to help make it happen.

DESIGN -TECHNOLOGY FACILITY TO EXPAND
The task of increasing our options and expanding opportunities in practical, hands-on, materials, design and construction areas is high on our list of priorities. An immediate response to this identified need for 2017, is for the College to double the practical classroom working space that it has available for these practical areas. This will enable us to offer an expanded range of practical experiences to our students particularly across the Middle School in Years 6 – 9. From Year 10 level, students will be able to access any of the Construction Pathways courses that are available through TAFE. We are also keen to facilitate school-based apprenticeship opportunities, particularly in and around the building trades. We have created a significant staff PAR (Position of Additional Responsibility) to oversee the Student Pathways area of curriculum development at the College.
RECEPTION – YEAR 1 OUTDOOR SPACE
Further work has been commissioned to allow more loose parts and nature play materials to be purchased for the Reception and Year 1 play space. This continues to provide a sanctuary for our youngest learners where they can inquire and play during their recess and lunchtime whilst developing an affinity for nature. The theory of loose parts empowers students to use their creativity to problem solve, invent, deconstruct and create.

JUNIOR SCHOOL LEARNING SPACE MAKEOVER
During the summer break the College will invest in revamping the Junior School classroom learning spaces. The purchase of a variety of furniture items will provide aesthetically pleasing classrooms and see the development of innovative classroom furniture arrangements. Students will have a choice about what learning space works well for them and a flexibility in seating styles will cater for all learners more effectively.

NAVIGATOR BUSH BLOCK
The successful launch of our bush block earlier this year has now been the catalyst for the development of our nature play curriculum across the Junior School. More classes will visit the bush block, where students are able to develop their appreciation for nature. Students will design and suggest ways that the bush block can then be developed to ensure its successful sustainability into the future.

END OF YEAR SERVICE

Junior School – 12 noon Thursday 15th Dec
Middle School – 1.30pm Thursday 15th Dec
Senior School – 7.30pm Tuesday 6th Dec, Nautilus Theatre
Year 12 Pre Service Function for Students and Families – 6.00pm Tuesday 6th Dec, Nautilus Theatre

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017

Monday 30th January – ELC students start
Tuesday 31st January – Year 12 Student Leadership Day
Wednesday 1st February – ALL STUDENTS start
COLLEGE SPECIAL FOCUS ON MUSIC IS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF

All of the necessary planning in staffing, resourcing and logistical arrangements are now well advanced in relation to our launch of a bold and adventurous initiative that we believe will transform the music program of Navigator College to amongst the top echelons of music schools in Australia. While it is not uncommon for schools to focus on music, it is rare for young people to be given an experience like the one being planned for Navigator from 2017. Our program will be underpinned by a blanket instrumental immersion scheme, commencing in Year 6 and 7 next year. Every student in these year levels will be provided free of charge, with a concert band instrument – either a trumpet, trombone, flute or clarinet. The College will also provide the instrumental tuition for each student in this program. Ultimately we would love to be able to participate in one of the top school music events in Australia – the Generations for Jazz festival held annually in Mt Gambier.

SPORTS STADIUM UPDATE

Plans for construction of our two-court sports stadium complex have been submitted for planning approval. Working drawings are currently being prepared in readiness to immediately proceed to tender once we have a signature from the Federal Education Minister. Our aim is to start construction early next year. An artist’s impression of the final plan for the new building is included here. Very exciting times!

COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW AND SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Some changes are in the wind here. Preliminary plans have been made to have a more intentional use of social media as a key means of communication in three threads:

* Upcoming Information
* Reporting to the community on events and achievements
* As a tool for marketing and promotions

We will review and refine our communication strategies and processes in general. We will mix things up, with the occasional special hard-copy communication like this one.

FINANCES, FUNDING AND FEES

The College fees for 2017 have been reviewed. We would like to advise that we have managed to keep the annual fee increase for 2017 to 2.9%. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Liz Smith at the College.
COLLEGE SPORTS GUERNSEYS
We appreciate that a number of school families have contributed to the purchase of multiple sets of sports uniforms for school sport competitions under a sponsorship arrangement. We are awaiting the final sizing details before placing our final order for about 90 sports Guernseys / Uniforms of various types.

FOCUS ON WELL-BEING
A Pastoral Care Leadership Team will be put in place for the start of 2017. This group will be responsible for the oversight of the well-being of all members of the College community. We would also like to remind families of the recent introduction of a hotline that we have set up specifically as another way of bringing any alleged bullying concerns to our attention. For your information once again, the email address is: nobullying@navigator.sa.edu.au. This can also be accessed from the home page of the College website.

NAVIGATOR BUSINESS DIRECTORY
As a complimentary service to College families involved in business, we are looking to compile a Navigator College Business Directory. Our aim is to help support and promote the businesses and services of families who have connections to the College. Businesses will be invited to submit a brief display ad, complete with contact details and the option of providing a business logo. We will be seeking registrations of interest by separate communication in the near future.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
Following feedback from the parent community we have made some immediate changes to the report format. A full review of the reporting process and format is about to be commissioned to determine what further changes need to be made. We would also like to assist parents to gain a greater understanding of how to more effectively use the ManageBac online information system.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AND ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL
The Principals of the three Port Lincoln schools that offer secondary education, have been working hard to develop a spirit of sharing and partnership that will ultimately be of great benefit for young people on the Eyre Peninsula. We have effectively opened our doors to each other to share facilities and courses, particularly in the area of Vocational Education, but also for specialist senior secondary courses. This is an exciting new era for secondary education in this community.