SERVICE HAS LONG BEEN A PART OF WHO WE ARE

Neville Grieger, Principal

Service has long been a part of who we are at Navigator College. It is one of our core values. WHY is the concept of service critical to us in our schools? Do we serve for the right reasons?

One of the symptomatic features of our times, is the tendency for human beings to be i-centric within the i-world that we now live in. Put bluntly – “as long as I’m OK (and I am permanently wired to my device) that’s all that matters.” Educators these days have a major obligation to challenge the thinking of young people, to help them to instinctively think FIRST about the well-being of others around them.

One of the ways in which we can bring SERVICE more to the forefront of who we are and how we operate, is to embed the concept into the teaching and learning program across all levels of our school community. We can learn about serving and we can serve while learning. Many would refer to this concept as Service Learning. It is important when we run service programs to incorporate appropriate lead-up, on-going journaling and reflection opportunities, including from a spiritual perspective in order to fully develop a holistic view of service. While it is good to come out of involvement in a service program feeling that one has made a difference, it should never be to the extent about doing the service because it makes ME feel good. The primary motivation needs to be one that is fuelled by a burning desire to make a difference in the lives of others – to give spontaneously and generously of ourselves and out of our plenty so where we want to get to.

Our Service Learning annual trip to Indonesia has provided young people with an amazing opportunity to form more compassionate attitudes and realize that we have by comparison, abundance to the extreme in our context here in this part of the world.

INDONESIA SERVICE TOUR

At the Middle/Senior School Assembly on Thursday 22nd September a group of 15 Year 11 students and staff were presented to the College community. These students and staff will be leaving on Monday 28th September on the annual Service Learning trip to Indonesia. Pastor Phil led a short ceremony to commission the group with the work that they will be doing in Indonesia. They will be teaching English in our sister school SMA GPIKS and working with children in the Margarethia Orphanage. We wish them God’s blessings as they embark on this important service opportunity.

FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL

This semester the Middle School has restructured our Home Group morning sessions to create a refreshing experience for students. The Wednesday Morning ‘Flow’ sessions have been an opportunity for students to pursue the development of a skill of their choice. The guidelines are that students design a progression such that the skill increases in challenge proportionally to the development of their ability. The result is positive engagement and growth in the capacity of students to use their strengths and interests to drive learning. Research shows that students able to lead themselves into this kind of engagement will enjoy more positive wellbeing. Our Year 8 and 9 students have been pursuing many skills including: learning an instrument, developing artistic skills, photography skills, honing sporting skills, cooking for charity, and learning dance. This Home Group program is gaining momentum.

YEAR 2 THURUNA CAMP

During Week 7, our Year 2 classes headed off on camp to Thuruna. Our camp was part of the frontloading for our new unit of inquiry “Public places have an important purpose in a community.” Along the way we explored a large variety of public places between Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay. Some of the public places we explored were the Port Lincoln Library, the skate park, the forecourt, the playground at North Shields and the Tumby Bay jetty. We also went to the Council Chambers at Tumby Bay to interview Mayor Sam Teller. As a follow up to this we also invited Mayor Bruce Green into our classrooms to speak about public places in Port Lincoln. We asked him many questions about public places, why they are needed and how they are developed. A sincere thank you to Mayor Bruce Green, Mayor Sam Teller, Port Lincoln Library’s Louise Midgen, our friendly bus driver Wally, the parents who donated delicious food to eat whilst on camp, and all the awesome helpers we took on camp. We had a fabulous time!

YEAR 4 INVESTIGATE SCIENTISTS

The Year 4 current unit of inquiry is looking at the central ideas: Scientists use a variety of skills, attributes and tools to investigate how the world works.” Students wanted to know how scientists came up with experiments and then how do they record and make sense of their findings. Students have conducted experiments to answer questions such as: does water evaporate from a dish or a plate more in the sun or shade, does slime behave like a solid, a liquid or a gas, what happens when we keep heating ice? They talked to guest speaker Dr Ben Stobart about Marine Science research and how his projects have contributed to understanding how the abalone industry is kept sustainable and how coral reefs have been affected by global warming. Their next step is to plan an experiment which will answer a question and carry it out safely, presenting their findings as a scientific procedure.

AMEB MUSIC AWARDS

Four Navigator College students were presented certificates of achievement for completing AMEB Music Exams at the Middle School Assembly recently. Bailey Skalicky achieved Honours in Trumpet Grade 1, Nina Verhoven achieved Honours in Flute Grade 2 and Allyce Fatchen achieved a Credit for French Horn Grade 2. Lewis Haines also achieved a Pass with Merit for Piano Grade 1 however was absent for the presentation of the certificate. Congratulations must go these students for their commitment and effort in practicing and preparing for their exam. Well done!