NEW BEGINNINGS ARE POSSIBLE  Michelle Jude – LSO Curriculum

As we look around us today, we notice that after the fresh summer rains have fallen, we are surrounded by lush green hillsides and newly sprouted foliage. Seeing this fresh new growth is a pleasant and refreshing sight to behold. Normally at this time of year our surroundings would be brown, barren and dry. At times we may feel dry and weary but God gives us the opportunity to also have a fresh start. He works in our hearts in whatever area needs revitalizing and renewing. The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time to reflect on this.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

CONTINUING THE PROCESS OF SHAPING OUR FUTURE DIRECTIONS  
Neville Grieger, Principal

During the second half of 2016 we embarked upon a comprehensive process of consultation with the College Community. The culmination of this work was the release of the Navigator College Future Directions Key Statements and associated Action Plan. Over 100 tasks, projects, initiatives and reviews were listed. Many of those tasks have already been completed or are well under way. Some significant initiatives have already been introduced as reported in the special Newsletter at the end of last year. You can click on this link to review the content of that communication Newsletter-End-of-Year-2016.pdf or find it under the ‘For Parents’ Newsletters page on our website.

During this process we have been very keen to take into consideration the voice of Navigator families. One of the issues that was identified in the Parent Survey responses, was in relation to our Assessment and Reporting processes. The Educational Leadership Team has given this task a high priority. A working party with representatives from across all sectors of the College has worked hard to produce a set of suggested refinements to our reporting process. A key thread of thinking being simplifying and reducing the volume of material that is sent home, while not compromising the quality of information. We are pleased to report that some changes will be implemented across all sub-schools as from the first reporting cycle this term. (More information in the near future.) The revision of reporting will be an ongoing process throughout the course of 2017. Your continued feedback will be invited at various points along the way.

Meanwhile, there are two other quite major areas of College operations that have been listed for review:

• College communications
• College Uniform Policy

We would again like to invite families to have input into the future shaping of these important areas. In the interests of efficiency for collection of information, we have prepared an electronic survey for your convenience. The link is provided below for your immediate access. It will also be sent to all staff and families in a separate email. We look forward to working with you in these review processes.

SURVEY LINK > https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9BTH7GL

We would like to congratulate three of our staff, who will be taking maternity leave during the course of 2017.

• Rhiannon Perkins – will be on leave from the start of term 2
• Rhianna Whenan – will be on leave from the start of term 2.
• Sarah Smith – will be on leave from the start of term 3.

We have already commenced the process of seeking replacement staff. A number of other staff will also be taking other types of leave at various times throughout the year. These will be advised as the leave periods draw closer.

There was an omission in the staffing and class allocation information that was sent out at the end of last year. This was in relation to Elise Watherston, who has taken up the challenge of teaching Japanese for one day a week in the Junior School (R-2). Elise who has visited Japan a number of times, is excited to be able to have the opportunity to follow a passion of hers to be able to teach Japanese.
A MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL
STEPHEN JUDE – HEAD OF SCHOOL

There certainly is a buzz amongst the college as new students and their families mingle with existing students and their families, all of whom are getting used to a new class and different routines. The beginning of another school year is an exciting time for all. We have begun the year with a focus on learning principles. We have asked ourselves what are great learners, and what is great learning? We have sought to deepen our understanding about what learners need in order to be successful. From this inquiry, we as a College are in the process of devising some non-negotiables when it comes to learning. As the year progresses you will hear the term “great learners” often and we will share our guiding learning principles with you. We have a wonderful platform from which to launch a very successful 2017 and are looking forward to partnering with our community in this journey.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
ANDREW JERICHO – HEAD OF SCHOOL

The Middle School team would like to extend to you a joyous welcome to the 2017 Year! The Bible says in Colossians 3 to: “clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowances for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you… Above all clothe yourselves in love which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

Immersing our learning in this kind of thinking, we position ourselves for an incredible year in Middle School. Culture has always been a strength of Navigator and we will continue to build on this. This is a partnership between teachers, students, parents and support staff with a common purpose. As we unite and deepen our relationships and interactions with these values, this is going to be an amazing year of growth for our students. This year communication and connection are high on our priorities and we encourage you to actively engage with us in these areas. We’d love to work with you to ensure you are informed via Parent Information nights, that you are kept up to date via the College website and blog as well as most importantly, feeling connected in person, via diary and email. We have exciting curriculum, extracurricular and leadership opportunities emerging in 2017. We look forward to sharing these at the Parent Information Night on Thursday February 9th at 7 pm in the Senior School. We are looking forward to working closely with you this Year.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL
JAMIE FEWSTER – HEAD OF SCHOOL

What a fantastic start to 2017! Classes have picked up from where they left off from ‘Step Up’ last year, which has added a valuable 2 weeks of effective contact time to a busy schedule. The Year 12’s met together on the day before the rest of the students returned, for a leadership day. This day focused on working together, bonding as a group and looking at ways to support each other through the final year of school. It was a great way to kick off the year. The Year 10’s and 11’s have also shown a dedication to their studies and as a whole, the students are demonstrating what it means to be a cohesive Senior School.

So as we kick off 2017, I pray that you have a blessed year, full of excitement, hard work and fulfillment. May you look to Jesus to find comfort in the tough times and joy in the celebrations. As Jesus says in John 15:11 – “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

SPASH CARNIVAL
MIDDLE / SENIOR SCHOOL

Venue: Cummins Community Pool
Date: 22nd February

What to wear:
Full sports uniform, including sports shoes and Navigator College Hat

What to bring:
Bathers, T-shirt to cover up and/or rashie, Towel, Goggles (optional), Sunscreen, Water Bottle, Recess and Lunch (or money to buy from their canteen).

SPORTS DAY – 10TH MARCH
ELC / JUNIOR / MIDDLE / SENIOR SCHOOL

Held over at Ravendale Oval. A canteen will be available on the day and all families are encouraged to attend.