The Meaning of Life

In September 1942, Viktor Frankl, a Jewish psychiatrist, was arrested and transported to a Nazi concentration camp with his wife and parents. Three years later, when his camp was liberated, most of his family, including his pregnant wife, had perished, but he, had lived. In his 1946 book, “Man's Search for Meaning”, in which he wrote about his experiences in the camps. Frankl concluded that the most significant factor separating those who had survived and those who had not, came down to one thing - meaning.

As he saw in the camps, those who found meaning even in the most horrendous situations were far more resilient than those who did not. "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing," Frankl wrote, "to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances." In his book, he gives examples of two suicidal inmates who were despairing and without hope that there was anything to live for. Frankl writes, it was a matter of convincing them “that life was still expecting something from them; something in the future was expected of them.”

As part of a group of teachers and students who have recently returned from Navigator's Service Learning Trip to an orphanage and a school in Indonesia, we were also reminded of our responsibility to something greater than ourselves, that life expects something from us. It is not the pursuit of individual happiness that much of our culture emphasizes. Happiness cannot be pursued, it must ensue. In other words, happiness grows out of a sense of purpose and meaning in life. As our students discovered, the material possessions and comforts that we think will bring us happiness are fleeting. Rather, taking care of others and contributing to the lives of others makes our lives not only meaningful but brings enduring satisfaction. I have no doubt that in 10 years time, if these students were asked what had the most profound impact on their lives, it would not be their latest i-phone, it would be this trip.

By putting aside selfish interests so that we can serve someone or something larger than ourselves -- by devoting our lives to "giving" rather than "taking" -- we not only find a deep sense of purpose that is at the core of our being, we follow in the footsteps of our God in the earthly Jesus. As Paul exhorts: “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 2:4-5)

Submitted by: Stuart Hill
FROM THE PRINCIPAL.......  

It’s great to be back after a whirlwind last three weeks! As many of you are well aware I spent part of the school holidays and part of the first week of this term in Indonesia, undertaking a Service Learning Trip with 15 students and 5 other staff members. Today the students presented their testimonies to the College community. Many of those who witnessed their presentation were moved by their learning, their empathy and their love of another culture. It was wonderful to see them put into their own words what they learnt and how the students in the Margaretha Orphnage and the SMA GKPS School in North Sumatra touch their hearts in so many ways. I am very proud of them and feel blessed to be a part of their experience. Thank you to our wonderful staff members: Stuart Cox, Stuart Hill, Greg Maxfield and Susan Hopping who were also such a valuable a part of this journey. Photographs have been included in this newsletter.

In the first week of school holidays I attended ACLE (the Australian Conference on Lutheran Education) with Stuart Cox, Andrew Jericho, Stephen Jude, Sarah Hodgson and Liz Smith. The theme of the conference was – Transforming Mind, Body and Heart in Lutheran Education. The full three day conference comprised of keynote speakers and workshops with over 1,000 attendees. Many people came from Lutheran schools in Australia and we were also blessed with words of wisdom from speakers from around the world. This incredible experience gave me the opportunity to learn from others and consider their school's journey's involving topics ranging from differentiation, ICT, theology, curriculum, spirituality, wellbeing, and so much more. It was a great opportunity for my team and I to further our learning in such a variety of fields.

TIME CAPSULE

Today we presented our Time Capsule with the SRC after Chapel to be placed in the ground until our 20th year anniversary in 2028. A variety of items have been placed in it including a Bible, letters, photographs, School tie, school magazines, an Indonesian Ulos and other memorabilia. Special thanks go to Sally Wilsen and Mark Pannizollo for their support and direction in making the time capsule a reality.

FAREWELL TO THE YEAR 12 STUDENTS

This Friday signifies a huge milestone in Navigator College's life as it is the last official school day for our Year 12 students before they embark on swat vac and exams. An exciting day is planned for them, beginning with a breakfast supplied by the Year 11 Hospitality students, followed by a special Chapel service where we can say our farewells to these incredible students before they spend the most part of their final day together as a group. It has been a true blessing to be a part of their journey, many since our first year where they were in Year 8 and I wish them God's richest blessings as they travel through a new, exciting chapter in their lives, exploring great adventures and reaching new goals.

Families of the Year 12 students are invited to a Valedictory Service and Dinner for the Year 12 students on Thursday, the 21st of November. Please keep this date free in your diaries.

God bless,
Kaye

BOOK CLUB

Book Club brochures for Term 4 have been sent home with the youngest in the family.

If you are interested in purchasing any items from Scholastic please return the order form by Friday 25th of October. Unfortunately, no orders can be taken after this date due to processing requirements.

If you order/pay on line or by phone it is essential you provide a receipt number on the order form or a copy of your print out. Many thanks for your continuing support as the College benefits from your orders in the form of free books for our library.

Annette Mesecke & Uta McQuillan, Librarians

HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Navigator College is offering a Homestay Program for students who cannot commute to the College daily. The Homestay Program involves families in Port Lincoln who are willing to board students during the school term. Some of these students will require board for five days per week, others seven days per week. The host family will receive payment from the family of the boarding student, according to the guidelines set out by Navigator College.

If you are interested in boarding a student please contact Mark Thiel on 86842012 or the College on 86825099, or call into the front office for an information booklet.

2014 TEACHER ASSISTANT

We have just received notification that next year we will be hosting a female Teacher Assistant from Kobe, Japan to assist in the Japanese room. This is very exciting news for our Japanese language program and will be of great benefit to our students and their learning. As part of the host program agreement, we are seeking interested families who could provide accommodation for our Teacher Assistant. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and their families to enhance their cultural connections. If you would like more information or are interested in being a host family either long or short term we ask you to please contact me directly (fparenta@navigator.sa.edu.au) or leave your details at the front office. Thank you in anticipation.

Fiona Parenta, Japanese Teacher

A FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY WITH ANZ BANK

We've been given the opportunity to strengthen our support for Navigator College Incorporated through a referral program with ANZ Bank. For every drawn home loan referred to ANZ, we will earn an upfront commission (up to 0.5% of the eligible ANZ loan amount actually approved and drawn). With this additional income, we hope to continue to grow and benefit the community through Navigator College Incorporated.

To find out more, including terms and conditions, call ANZ Port Lincoln Branch Manager, Kathryn Piatnicki on (08) 8682 5402. Alternatively, see Liz Smith for a referral form.

Liz Smith, Business Manager
This week the Junior School students have been conducting their school swimming lessons. Despite our best intentions to program swimming in the warmer months of the year, the weather had other plans. A fun time has certainly been had by all. As I watched the various students prepare to take the plunge into the pool, I was prompted to think of the many parallels between learning to swim and learning in general. Some students jump in regardless of the consequences. They are innate risk takers and work out ways to solve the problems once they are well and truly in them.

Some students are quite crippled by fear, are very wary of the risks involved with the activity and are really reluctant to step out of their comfort zone.

Others need a certain amount of reassurance and at times wait for their peers to attempt the task before developing the courage to have a go themselves.

All students, regardless, progress at their own rate and their pathway towards learning how to swim is unique. They all strive to do the best they can.

As adults we also approach learning in different ways. Tonight’s iPad Information evening is a chance to develop our understanding of the direction IT is taking 21st Century learning in. Some of us will jump right in. Others will be crippled with fear, whilst others wait for their peers to test the water before gaining the courage to have a go. No matter what our pathway towards learning, we have the opportunity to enhance our children’s learning by exploring the current technologies and embracing the concept and benefits that come with using IT as a tool.

Hope to see you there!

Steve Jude
Head of Junior School

Reception Excursion to the Kallinyalla Nursery

On Thursday the 18th of October our Reception classes went on an excursion to Kallinyalla Plant Nursery. Our classes are currently inquiring into the central idea “Plants are a life sustaining resource for us and other living things.” At Kallinyalla, Tom showed us how to plant seeds and we were allowed to touch and smell various leaves from different plants. We also learnt about the types of pests that eat plants. In groups, we explored the nursery with iPads and took pictures to share with the rest of the class. The Reception students were extremely respectful as they manoeuvred through the nursery amongst staff and other shoppers. A big thank you goes to Tom and the staff at Kallinyalla Plant Nursery for a fabulous and informative excursion, and also to our parent helpers and Mrs Davis who joined us on the day. We learnt lots and had an awesome time!

Kallinyalla Plant Nursery have also kindly donated a box of gardening equipment to our school, which have come in very helpful throughout this unit of inquiry. Along with the Year 10’s and Mr Wohling, we have planted and begun taking care of some vegetable gardens behind the Science lab. Please feel free to ask your child to show you the garden and go for a wander down that way to see what we’ve been growing. Here are some pictures of us using our gardening tools to tend to our gardens. Thank you Kallinyalla!

Elise Kimber, Melissa Little – Receptions Teachers
MODELLING THE ATTRIBUTES
WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO DEVELOP

“Who is your greatest role model?” Is often a question that is asked of students in their schooling. The responses vary from family members to sporting heros, whether a child can pin point the actual people or not, influence certainly comes from somewhere, peers, parents, teachers, etc. I believe we should not underestimate the power of setting an example. I recently read a tweet that said “Be the person you want your kids to be”.

Today I’m dwelling on two qualities I believe our children need, and the need to see these from all of us that are role models in their lives.

The first is ‘Resilience’ the ability to press on in the face of adversity (as one of my senior students once defined it). How are we modelling this? Is the question I challenge us all to think about. When challenges and obstacles arise in life, do we show our children how to make excuses or how to find a pathway through? When we ‘don’t feel like’ doing something do we model how to give up and say it’s too hard, or dig deep and rise to the occasion? It’s an interesting scenario to ponder, not so much to worry about the influence we had yesterday but to choose how you influence your children, students or peers tomorrow. I can assure you that when a child’s role model lives with resilience that will be an attitude that they are inspired by.

The second quality we talk a lot about is that of being ‘Reflective’. To step back and consider the actions and decisions of yesterday, and make connection with their consequences and rewards for today, then make changes for the future. Again this is not a quality to beat yourself up with, rather to better equip yourself for tomorrow.

At Navigator College I am proud of the ability of the staff and community to embrace the changing landscape of the school and strive to continually shape our practice such that it is the best we can offer our students. I encourage us all as a College community to role model being reflective. A person is in trouble when they think they have everything absolutely perfect. The challenge is that it requires change and risk. To truly be reflective we look at where we are, honestly, then identify a strategy to improve it, take a risk and try it. Then reflect again.

Thank you as a community for your commitment to the journey at Navigator. Thank you for understanding as we are about a better future for our students and because of this we will explore change, we will rework ways of doing things, we will be cutting edge. More importantly thank you for modelling to your children, what it is to be reflective, yet live life with resilience.

This Week:

Finally it is here, the Year 6/7 Canberra Trip takes place in Week 3. This is an amazing opportunity for our students to visit our Nation’s Capital. I want to thank the teachers in advance for their organisation of this. I wish all of the students attending all the best on this great adventure. To all of the parents, I want to thank you for releasing your children on this camp. It really will be a pivotal camp in their schooling.

Congratulations to our Year 12 Class. I wish you all the best in your last week of lessons. It has been a privilege to journey with you during your schooling. I wish you all the best in your upcoming exams.

Andrew Jericho
Head of Middle School

FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL.......

Over the holidays 6 staff and 15 students, including myself, went on a Service Learning trip to North Sumatra, Indonesia to reconnect the partnership Navigator College, established in 2012. With a new group of Year 11 students the experiences were going to be challenging and rewarding at the same time. The brief for this year was to include a greater cultural immersion that would develop a deeper understanding of the Indonesian culture, language and customs. This is exactly what we received! Our staff and students were invited to a ceremony to initiate our Principal, Kaye into the Saragih family. Whilst I had a little knowledge of what was going to happen, I was surprised by the extent to which Mr. Jintan Saragih went to make this an experience to remember. The closest Australian event I can liken it to is a wedding. There were about 400 people in attendance, consisting of family friends and the local community or neighbours. We were showered in gifts of Ulos and Hioh and a special meal shared with everyone what a special gift it was.

Stuart Cox
Head of Senior School
Dr. Stuart Hill continues with his experiences of the trip.

This was one of many significant highlights that we experienced. Amongst others, we enjoyed a special welcome from Ridwin Purbi's family, with both staff and students being the recipients of their wonderful hospitality including a meal and beautifully woven Ulos.

Students and staff were immediately engaged in service to the Indonesian people: first to the Margaretha Orphanage and then to GKPS School. At the orphanage, students gained their first taste of how fortunate they were in Australia. Students at the orphanage had come from tragic backgrounds and they lived very simple lives but they received a wealth of love from the orphanage staff and each other. They truly understood what it meant to be a family and the obligations that everyone had for each other without it being a burden. Our students played games, read stories and developed close bonds with the orphans and it was an emotional time saying farewell.

At GKPS school the students experienced the joys and difficulties of teaching, so much so that it confirmed a calling for some. But this was a different type of teaching, with friendships being formed immediately. Often, the students were overwhelmed by the attention that they received. Social activities were also organised and the annual Australia Indonesia AFL Competition saw Australia run out victorious, 4 goals to 2. This was despite some very stiff opposition and perhaps a bit of luck on Australia’s behalf. Visits to local attractions following school in the afternoons allowed students to see some of the beautiful countryside, historic sites and markets packed with unusual foods.

Everywhere we went the familiar cry “Horas” (Welcome / hello) would greet us, and students quickly learnt to respond with equal enthusiasm. Consequently, the trip provided an opportunity for students and staff to not only teach English, but also to learn the language of a most populous near neighbour. We soon discovered how little we knew about our northern friends.

During our time at the school we enjoyed not only being feted by the students, we were blessed by beautiful singing each day. In particular, the girls from the boarding school provided us with evening performances of joyous melodies with three part harmonies. After an hour of practice, the girls would wander off to bed at 9.30pm, only to be up again at 4.30am in the morning preparing breakfast and getting ready for school. This was something that staff and students found challenging (along with showers using a scoop of cold water, squat toilets, spicy food, large numbers of people smoking and rubbish, amongst other things). The warmth of the people though made these matters appear insignificant.

Dr. Stuart Hill
Teacher

This week we say farewell to our Year 12 Students as they enter their SWATVAC period before exams. We will celebrate a special time on Friday to farewell them which includes a breakfast supplied by the Year 11 hospitality students and a Chapel service held in their honour. If you have the opportunity to attend the chapel service you are welcome.

Stuart Cox
Head of Senior School
SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO INDONESIA
**Family & Fishers Trade Day at the Port Lincoln Marina**

**Sunday 27th October 2013**

11.00 - 3.00pm

Showcasing the vibrant commercial fishing industry in Port Lincoln and celebrating some of the world’s most sought after seafood from our pristine waters.

For more information visit

www.seafooddirections.net.au

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**Car Boot and Trailer Sale**

**Port Lincoln Primary School Oval**

**Sunday October 27th**

10am start to 3:30pm

**Fundraiser for Amber Dohnt**

**Miss Hotondo Homes**

**Port Lincoln - Tunarama Ambassador**

Registrations before

Saturday 21st October by calling 86826600

All welcome – car boots – trailers - stalls

Boot or Car space $10.00

Trailer Space up to 8x5 $15.00

Stall space $15.00

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**Movie Fundraiser**

‘Thor 2’

For Destiny Rescue

**Thursday October 31st at 7.00pm**

Tickets are $15 from Baby Dreamz or by calling Naomi on 0402 634836

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**Give your marriage a tune up…..**

4 Sessions Wednesday Evenings:

- 23rd Oct
- 30th Oct
- 6th Nov
- 13th Nov

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**Ravendale Complex**

Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Cost: $40.00 per couple or $20.00 per single

*Nibbles provided*

Bookings phone Grant & Lisa Heidenreich:

0429 822 507

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Free Creche available—Bookings Essential

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Give your marriage a tune up…..

4 Sessions Wednesday Evenings:

- 23rd Oct
- 30th Oct
- 6th Nov
- 13th Nov

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