PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
As 2013 draws to an end I hope everyone takes the time to reflect on all of our student individual and school achievements. There have been so many! As principal I am extremely proud of our students who represent themselves, their families and our school each and every day with honour and pride. Assisting all our students is a wonderful team of staff who want to see each and every student succeed to their full potential. I wish to thank every staff member for their tireless work this year in making a difference for our students. In particular I would like to personally thank our two outstanding Deputy Principals, Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Martin, who bring their professionalism, enthusiasm, passion, dedication, loyalty and teaching and learning talent every day to our school. They along with our executive team and Mrs Russell (our Senior Administration Manager) have made 2013 a time of reflection, renewal and resounding success. It makes my role as the Principal more manageable when individuals of their calibre are working alongside me.
I hope you can all join us on Tuesday 17 December 2013 at Presentation Evening when we showcase 2013.

The end of the year also signals a time of change. In particular for schools it is a time when we farewell staff. The staff leaving at the end of this year include Mr Van der Zwaag, our Librarian who was successful in gaining merit selection to Portland Central School which for Mr Van der Zwaag is much closer to his home; and Dr Finnie, our Head Teacher Social Science who was successful in gaining merit selection to Killarney Heights High School. We wish both of you every success at your new schools. Ms Crossingham and Ms Grimston-Eason will be on maternity leave during 2014 and we look forward to hearing about the new additions to their families. Mr Arthur has extended his leave to include next year and we hope to see him back in 2015.

Elderslie has also had a number of casual and temporary teachers assisting us this year and I would like to pass on my thanks to them. They include Mr Sanderson, Mr M Russell, Mrs Powell, Mrs Wheeler, Mr Edgar, Mr Stone, Ms Sperro, Mr Price, Mr P Russell, Mr Fritz, Mrs Rouen, Mr Quinn, Ms McEvoy, Ms Sakr, Miss Flemming and Mrs Christophers. We will see a number of them back next year, some in different roles. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank all of you for the outstanding contribution you have made to our school community.

A Christmas CAPA
Christmas carols could be heard in our local community on 3 December when Year 9 and CAPA students presented a wonderful showcase of talent at the Xmas CAPA show. The night not only featured student talent but also the sensational vocal talents of Ms Prigg and Mr Burke, and drama performances by Mrs Kelly and Ms Malcolm. Thank you to all the staff who made sure this event was a success – the CAPA staff - Ms Dennis, Mr Burke, Ms Prigg, Mrs Christophers, Ms Donaldson and Ms Grimston-Eason; P&C members; Admin staff, Mrs Rouen and of course the Mums and Dads who supported their children.
Victor Chang Awards
As mentioned in the last Bulletin, Erin Middleton, Year 11 was the EHS recipient of this award.

Congratulations again Erin you are a most worthy recipient.

Regional BLUE Awards
On Monday 2 December 2013 I attended the annual Regional Blues Awards Evening. This year three of our outstanding students were recognised. Jordan Bates, Girls Touch Football; Nathaniel Stewart, Boys Hockey; and Mitchell Dawson, Boys Gymnastics.

All three were presented with the Regional Blue in the presence of their proud parents, Regional conveners and principal. Congratulations to each of you!

End of Year Procedures
An important part of finalising the school year and preparing for the next year is the “Clearance” process. This process has already commenced for Years 10 & 11 and involves the return of school resources (texts/costumes/library books etc) and payment of any outstanding school charges & course charges. All students are required to complete the clearance process. Forms are to be returned to the student office ASAP. This process is essential to allow reissue of texts and other resources to students at the beginning of 2014.

Years 7 to 10 school reports will be issued at their recognition assemblies to be held on Monday 16 December 2013. Included in the report package will be the 2014 school contribution & course charges.

Please remember if you are buying school uniform items over the holiday period make sure it complies with our school uniform policy, especially school shoes.

There will also be a copy of this information on the school website for future reference.

Student Attendance 2014
Any student who is not able to attend school on the first day of the 2014 school year must apply to the Principal for “exemption from school attendance” before the end of 2013. Application forms can be obtained from the Student Administration Office.

Years 7, 11 and 12 return on Wednesday 29 January 2014 (normal school uniform to be worn, students will follow the Friday Week A timetable – no sport. Sport will be held on Friday when all students are in attendance)

Years 8, 9 and 10 return on Thursday 30 January 2014
Organisation for Friday, Week A (first week back in 2014) all students will follow the Wednesday Week A timetable so that Sport can operate with the entire school student body present to outline 2014 Sport and Swimming Carnival information. Students studying a Trade Training Course please note that courses will not commence in Week A.

School Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 6 February 2014, at Camden Pool.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year
Looking forward to a great 2014

M Fawcett
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Natalie Martin (DP Years 8, 10 & 12)
The Year 12 Formal which was held at the City Beach Function Centre was an extremely pleasant evening. It was wonderful to see our school leaders dressed in their finest outfits and join together in the celebration of their final year of school. The formal committee were responsible for organising the student awards and Isabella Wisniewska needs to be thanked for the excellent ribbons that she made for the night. Kelsey Richmond also dedicated many hours towards the development of two slideshows which were displayed on the evening.

Year 10 have successfully transitioned into Year 11 classes and have started wearing their senior uniforms. They are certainly looking like and behaving like senior students. As part of this transition program a number of study skills workshops have been delivered to students by their teachers. These workshops have included; summarising, note taking, essay writing, research skills and stress management. I would like to thank all of the staff who were involved in delivering these workshops and for training our students in preparing adequately for assessment tasks. As part of their conclusion to their junior schooling the End of Year Function was held on the 12th December at Campbelltown Catholic Club.
Students can access their RoSA results (eRecord) via students online on the Board of Studies website from the 11th December onwards. If students are leaving school they need to see me so that I can register for them to be able to receive a Testamur which will be posted by the Board of Studies in January 2014.

On the 6th December we held the Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day. Ms Kelly did an outstanding job of organising this event and we have had much positive feedback from the many parents who attended on the day. This was a day to showcase the talents of our school prefects and teaching staff. Year 6 students participated in many activities and from my observations our future students were having a lot of fun and managed to start making new friends. The SRC were in charge of the BBQ and their efforts were greatly appreciated. I would like to thank all of our teaching staff who were involved in this event as their efforts contributed significantly to the day’s success.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Elderslie High School this year; we have a really dedicated executive team and staff team which has enabled the school to offer a large number of extra-curricular activities for our students to be involved in throughout the year. Our students are extremely successful as a result of the support and encouragement they receive from our dedicated teachers. I would like to wish all students and parents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to working in partnership with the Elderslie community in 2014.

Jennifer Lawrence (DP Years 7, 9 & 11)
Year 7 Elective Choices
By now all students should be well aware of the elective choice that they were allocated for 2014. I must extend my thanks to Miss Cavalieri and Miss Bolton for their hard work on this process. One hundred per cent of our students were allocated one of their choices although there may be some who did not get their first preference. For the large part, this is due to a limitation on minimum and maximum class sizes. Any courses we were not able to run simply had insufficient numbers for us to run a class. This elective does represent the first time in the students’ lives that they have been able to make a choice about a course that they study, which is a very exciting opportunity. I would remind all students that unlike previous year groups, this choice is only for one year and that mid-way through 2014, students will choose two full electives which they will commit to for a two year period.

Sick Students & Emergency Contacts
Even though winter is well behind us, a number of students have been unwell lately and have reported to the sick bay. When a child presents at the sick bay, the office staff will ring parents to organise the collection of their child as soon as possible. We have had a number of families for whom contact has been made difficult due to change in parental phone numbers or emergency contacts that are unable to collect the child from school. We ask all families to re-assess the people they have listed as emergency contacts and choose people that are nearby the school and largely available to help out when and if an emergency strikes. It is very hard when a student cannot be picked up as children remain in the sick bay for long periods of time which can be upsetting for them and difficult for the office staff who have other duties to attend to.

Donations of Uniform
The end of the school year brings some families to the end of their association with Elderslie High School as their sons and daughters graduate. If your child has finished their school years with us or perhaps is moving from the junior to the senior school and you no longer require their uniform, we would happy to accept it as a donation to the school second hand uniform pool. This allows us to support families in need as much as possible. Donations may be dropped off to the front office.

Great Opportunities for Students
In the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to participate in and observe a wide array of classroom and whole school activities at Elderslie High School. I was fortunate enough to attend the Japanese excursion with Mr Tan and a fantastic group of Year 7 and 11 students. The students really enjoyed the Japanese Film Festival and restaurant they were able to visit. I was also invited along with Mrs Fawcett and Mrs Martin to watch the cast of the musical for 2014 rehearsing a very catchy piece from one of the possible scripts being considered. I was amazed at the energy and enthusiasm being demonstrated by all the students within the musical group and it makes it very clear to me why performing arts is such a big hit with the students when I see such talent being channelled by the CAPA staff. Christmas CAPA from Year 9 performing arts students was yet another highlight, as was watching the leaders of tomorrow from Year 9 participate in the Peer Mediation training program.

Happy Holidays
Of course, this is the last edition of the Parent Bulletin for 2013. As my first year at Elderslie draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students and their families a very safe and happy holiday break. I very much look forward to working with you in 2014.
DEC STUDENT VOLUNTEERING AWARD
This year our students have achieved 7 Black Opal Awards, 13 Diamond Awards, 18 Gold Awards, 16 Silver Awards and 14 Bronze Awards. This is representative of many of our Volunteers. Many of our Peer Mentors, Duke of Edinburgh Award students, Peer Reading Tutors, exam reader/writers, Stage Crew, Referees and Animal Nursery helpers, who are volunteering regularly have logged in their hours.

The DEC Student Volunteering Awards program encourages all students to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering during the time they are in Years 9 and 10. In appreciation of this contribution to the community, students will receive Premier’s Certificates (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond and Black Opal respectively) for completing 20, 40, 60, 80 or over 150 hours of volunteering.

Now is the time to log onto the site and begin or continue to enter your hours to add to your hours for the next group of certificates. Year 10 can add hours until the beginning of 2014 school year.

How To Log On
Log on to the student portal and follow the “other sites” prompt. Scroll down until P and find the Premier’s Student Volunteering Awards then enter new activity. The process only takes a few minutes. If you require assistance see Mrs Rouen, Mr Kafataris or Miss Zammit for help enrolling.

TAS HOME ECONOMICS REPORT
Yr 9 Textiles Technology
2013 has been an amazing year. The year 9 Textiles students have worked tirelessly to create a skirt and embellished top, a Family Tree Cushion, Teddy bear and beautiful fabric baubles. The ladies have all continued to develop their creativity, construction and embellishment skills throughout the year. Every student has worked hard to achieve their personal best this year allowing them to produce outstanding final products. The class has been an absolute pleasure to teach. Well Done Ladies.

Miss Golden

Community & Family Studies Year 12
The Year 12 Community and Family Studies Class had the privilege of listening to a talk from two adults about how they fit into our Area of Study topics; Pregnancy and Diabetes. Jonathan spoke to the class about living with Type 2 diabetes. We asked a series of questions about what it is like living with this chronic illness and how it affects the people around him. Jon was far from shy and more than happy to answer all of our questions. We learnt about how his diabetes were discovered after he was in a car accident, how Jon’s insulin pump worked as well as learning about how he and his wife had to adapt to his situation by becoming more organised.

Jon’s wife, Elise, spoke to us about being pregnant and her expectations for when she has the baby. Once again we bombarded her with mountains of questions wanting to know everything there is to know about being pregnant. She let us in on all the myths about pregnancy and told us although the baby was a surprise she doesn’t mind if it’s a boy or a girl; Madeline or Henry.

We had a great time speaking to and listening to Jonathan and Elise, we definitely learnt lots about Pregnancy and Diabetes. Thank you to Mrs Ulrich for inviting them into speaking with us as well as Jonathan and Elise for taking their time to talk to us.

Anna Olsen and Claire Smith

SPORT
This has been another successful sporting year for Elderslie High School. Staff, parents and of course our talented students have been working together to achieve excellence and maintain Elderslie’s position as the premier sporting high school in the local district.

Elderslie’s accolades are numerous, including the retention of the Clutha Cup for the most outstanding school in the Zone for carnival performance. Elderslie High School has also won all 3 zone and Regional carnival point scores in 2013. This means we are the champion school in the Macarthur Zone and Sydney South West Region in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. This also culminated in Elderslie High School being crowned the female champion school at the NSW CHS Swimming Championships.

Several students also excelled at their given sport to reach NSW representation. It is with pleasure and pride that we salute all our athletes for all their efforts and
achieved. They bring honour and prestige to the staff and students of Elderslie High School. We look forward to continued success in 2014.

SPORTING NEWS

Congratulations to the following students:

* Rhiannon Nasko – Selected in the SSW Open Girls Regional Water Polo Team.
* Gabriele Plain - Selected in the SSW Open Girls Regional Softball Team.
* Emily Fickle - Selected in the SSW Open Girls Regional Softball Team.
* Tiarne McDonald - Selected in the SSW Open Girls Regional Cricket Team.
* Yardley Polson - Selected in the SSW Open Girls Regional Cricket Team.
* Hannah Trethewy - Selected in the SSW Open Girls Regional Cricket Team.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Information

Bronze and Silver Award participants should now be well on their way to completing their respective awards. I am expecting that all participants will have completed their Bronze or Silver Award by the start of the 2014 academic year! Let’s get those awards completed so that you can continue the award in 2014!!

Silver and Gold expeditions will be starting early in Term 1 2014. Hopefully every participant who wishes to continue the award will be ready for another big year.

Information meeting for students in Yr 8 interested in joining the award in 2014 will occur early in Term 1, 2014. Information regarding the requirements of the award can be found on the EHS website.

The proposed dates for camps next year are outlined below.

D of E EXPEDITIONS 2014

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On a more disappointing note: The Department of Sport and Recreation, which is the body that runs the award in NSW, has increased prices to join the awards and to progress from one award to another. This was done to bring NSW “in line” with the cost in other states!! The award fees will be as follows from January 1 2014.

- Bronze - $105.00
- Silver - $110.00
- Gold - $125.00

I hope this circumstance will not affect participants and their family’s too much in the future as the award is a worthwhile achievement for students. If money is paid and registration confirmed before the end of the 2013 school year, the price to start the next level will still be $100. Receipts need to be shown to Mr Marshall and the ORB application submitted for this to occur.

If there are any questions or problems please see Mr Marshall or Ms George.

Paul Marshall
D of E Coordinator

NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY

On Friday 29th November, I had the privilege of accompanying our school captains and vice captains to the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour for the 2013 National Young Leaders Day. The day for 2700 future leaders was themed around the idea of “I ALWAYS WONDERED why somebody didn’t do something. THEN I REALISED ... I am somebody”.

Two of the guest speakers, Markus Zusak, the author of ‘The Fly’ and Sarah Wilson, journalist and author of ‘1 Quit Sugar’ emphasised no matter how many knockbacks and drafts to get the perfect product, you just have to persevere and keep trying. Markus Zusak said “Every time you fail and try again it leads you a step in the right direction”. Another quote of his after reflecting on the influence of his family was, “It’s not that you didn’t win by so much.... you need to win by so much that no one can take it off you”.

Lieutenant General David Morrison, the Chief of the 112 year old Australian Army, commanded the student’s full attention. An amazing speaker he inspired us with many words “Throw ourselves into life, because it is not a rehearsal. When referring to our electronic world he wisely said, “Do not seek cheap applause.” We are all the legacy of those who shape our lives, family, teachers... He questioned the students: What is your legacy? What ripple will you leave, as the world awaits your contribution, your ideas and energy? He told the audience that they could make a difference, as actions speak louder than words and to have belief in what they were doing.

During breaks students had the opportunity to peruse and talk to organisations and universities that had set up stalls in the expo. Information about various courses, programs and co-curricular activities that help students’ future
development as leaders was given, as well as free promotional merchandise and the chance to enter and hopefully win competitions.

A 10K project provided an opportunity for students to give their vision of the future world. Students recorded their ideas at a film set during the lunch break. Adam Taiba’s idea was “I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY... people socially accept alcohol THEN I REALISED... alcohol-fuelled violence is a major crime SO I WILL promote the effects of alcohol induced violence in liaison with the police.

Erin Middleton’s idea was "I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY...the youth of today misuse words, giving them negative connotations and consequently discriminating against various groups. THEN I REALISED... a lot of youths don't realise the damaging culture they're creating, or know that there are so many fantastic, non-derogatory words out there. SO I WILL... endeavour to implement a program to educate the youth of today, starting in my local community and expanding to a nationwide vocabulary lesson."

Hopefully, one day, our wonderful potential leader’s ideas will help them become the somebody who will bring about a change for the better. Lastly, Zoe Martin’s own personal motto is “The meaning of life is to give life meaning”.

Jenny Woo (Yr 12 Adviser)

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL EXCURSION

On the 14th of November 40 students from our school travelled by train into the city as part of the Japanese Film Festival.

We attended the George Street Cinemas to watch a Japanese movie called ‘Tug of War’. The movie was about a group of women that were put together to make a tug of war team which they won. Even though I could not understand what they were saying I enjoyed the movie very much although my eyes were getting sore from reading the subtitles.

After the movie was over we crossed the road and went to a beautiful Japanese restaurant, where we had the most delicious Japanese dishes. We all started off with and bowl of salad and miso soup. After we finished, we ate our pre-ordered dishes that we got to choose. I had a salmon and avocado sushi roll and Udon noodles with Green Tea ice-cream for dessert. It was delicious.

When we all had finished our meals we headed to Town Hall station to come home. We arrived back at Campbelltown station around three-thirty.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the excursion and was lucky to be chosen to attend.

By Jessica Erskine 7O

James Craven, Ani Hoxha (Captain), Adam Taiba, Ms Woo, Zoe Martin, Todd Thurlow (Captain), Erin Middleton

CAMDEN – WOLLONGONG BEACH BUS
2013/2014
The Camden-Wollongong Beach Bus is a free bus service to Wollongong beach for young people 12-18 years old. It operates during the summer school holiday period. This year, the people are required to present a valid school pass or concession card when collecting tickets and must live, work or study in the Camden Local Government Area. Tickets will be available for collection from Monday 16th December 2013 at Camden and Narellan Library.

Note: Camden Council and Busways take no responsibility for young people using this service. No supervision will be provided. Parental consent forms will need to be signed and presented upon ticket collection. Forms and information can be downloaded from www.camden.nsw.gov.au from early December.

For more information about this service, please contact 4645 5021 or email youth@camden.nsw.gov.au

The end of the year is fast approaching and the final Recognition Assemblies for Semester 2 are scheduled for Monday, 16th December. It is a time where we, along with parents and grandparents, celebrate our students’ achievements. We recognise those students who achieve first in class and their personal best as well as those who have gained levels in Elderslie High’s merit scheme. It is at Presentation Evening where first in course is presented. The assemblies are scheduled for:

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We are very proud of our uniform. A reminder that all students are expected to wear full school uniform. Only students with full school uniform will be allowed on stage to receive their awards. This includes the correct footwear of plain black or brown leather shoes.

Parents and grandparents are invited to these events. Tea and coffee will be available in the staff common room for parents and grandparents 15 minutes prior to the commencement of each assembly.

P Skaroupka

LEARNING SUPPORT
Disability Provisions for the HSC
Some students require assistance to sit the HSC. The Board of Studies is the body which governs conditions under which this may happen. There are a range of categories for which disability provisions may be granted. These are outlined on the Board of Studies website. It is a lengthy process and some parents have already begun the application process. Some have taken the opportunity to book specialist appointments over the Christmas holidays as there is often a long waiting list. All documentation needs to be with the school well before the closing date of the end of term 1. If you are contemplating disability provisions for your child you need to begin now. All documentation needs to be with the school well before the closing date of the end of term 1.

If you have further questions, contact Mrs Skaroupka or members of the Learning Support Team.

CAPA Update
Congratulations to all of the students who participated in making A Christmas CAPA Evening a huge success. Well done to all!

Students from the Year 11 Drama class really enjoyed viewing Waiting for Godot on Monday, 18th November, 2013 at the Sydney Theatre Company, Walsh Bay. They found the performance both enlightening and confusing! Congratulations to Jennifer Freeman on her selection for OnStage 2014. OnStage is a showcase of outstanding HSC Drama works from 2013 and Jennifer has been selected
for Scriptwriting. Year 10, 11 and 12 Drama are looking forward to attending OnStage, 2014 on Wednesday, 12th February, 2014.

There are still a few Dance Calendars available for purchase from the Student Office. The calendar would make a great Christmas present and is an excellent memory of this year’s routines.

Congratulations to all of the students who performed as part of the 30th Anniversary Schools Spectacular at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on the 29th and 30th November, 2013. Well done to all!

The School Musical Cast for 2014 performed at the Carrington Retirement Village Nursing Home on Wednesday, 20th November 2013. It was a great opportunity for the students to perform some of their musical items they have been working on over the past few weeks and spend some time with members of our local community. The residents and nursing staff were very impressed with our professionalism.

Thank you to all of the students who assisted with the Stocktaking of the Studio and Hall during Week 10. You all worked really hard and had a major impact on the organisation of all of our equipment and costumes in preparation for 2014.

Just a reminder to all dance students that auditions for the Dance Company, Dance Ensemble and Dance Transition Ensemble will be held at the end of Week 1 and beginning of Week 2 in Term 1, 2014. The students will need to listen to Daily Notices to stay up to date with organisation for the auditions. The Musical and Dance Information Evening will be on Tuesday, 11th February, 2014 from 6.00 pm in the School Hall. Put that date in your diary!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elderslie High School Stage Crew for their hard work during 2013. These students give up a lot of time and put in a lot of hours behind the scenes at all of the major school events. Well done to all!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who assist with aspects of the performing arts, without your help the students would not achieve such excellent results or experience as many fantastic opportunities. So during 2014, come along and enjoy the performances of our talented CAPA students.

**CAPA Faculty**

The annual Presentation Evening is on Tuesday, 17th December 2013 at Camden Civic Centre from 7.15 pm. This is shaping up to be a wonderful evening with over 220 students receiving awards for leadership, academic, agricultural, cultural and sporting achievements at Regional and State level during 2013. Students receiving awards would already have received a letter which details the organisation for the evening. Reply slips need to be returned to the box in the Studio by Friday, 13th December, 2013. The Dance Company, Ballroom Dance Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, Orchestra and Jamie-Lee Turner will all be performing on the evening. Permission Notes should be returned to the box in the Studio by Friday, 13th December, 2013. Please come along and celebrate the achievements of the wonderful students from Elderslie High School.

**Ms S Dennis**

**PRESENTATION EVENING 2013**
### CAN YOU HELP?

**STS STUDENT EXCHANGE**

STS Student Exchange are seeking a second host family for Minna from Finland who is at Elderslie High School. Host families just need an interest in other cultures, warm heart, open minds and a spare bed in their family home for Minna.

If you can or have any questions please call Kath between 9am and 9pm any day on 0401 741 754 or Beth in STS – free call 1800 263 964

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<td>Dance &amp; Musical Info Evening</td>
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**Elderslie High School**

Educating all students to achieve their personal best