PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Elderslie High School shines in the media. Firstly Kieran Raymond, Year 10 featured as part of the 'Indivisibles will take FIRST place' article in the local press. Kieran was part of a local team of students from Macarthur who made the final four of the National Technology Challenge titles at Macquarie University. The team was then invited to compete in the Technology Challenge World Championships to be held in St Louis.

Then on 26 February 2014 the school represented by Olivia De La Mare, Liam Callaghan, Theven Chinnathumby and Hannah Jenkins made page 12 of the Sydney Morning Herald as part of the promotion for The Royal Easter Show. (http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/easter-eggs-hatch-early-for-a-tweet-and-greet-20140225-33fmo.html)

Finally Emily Simpson (Year 9) featured in advertising for the Teachers Mutual Bank. If you want to see Emily in the advertisement simply go to the the website http://www.tmbank.com.au/ and click the video play icon.

On 14 February, Ms Dennis and I also had the privilege of attending OnStage, a performance of selected HSC 2013 Drama pieces/work. Jennifer Freeman had her Drama script selected for this event which meant that it was directed and performed by professionals. It was an outstanding performance and a true reflection of Jennifer’s outstanding writing ability, personality and wit. Congratulations Jennifer!

Following is a picture of Ms Dennis and Jennifer taken after the performance. Jennifer received an award from the Board of Studies at a ceremony held that evening.

With all the success of our students and the school over many, many years we are proud to be a public school, especially when there appears to be a growing assumption in our community that “private” is better. Here at Elderslie High School we have the characteristics that I am sure parents are often looking for in a school – results (both academic, cultural, sporting), excellent reputation; convenience; safe and caring environment where the welfare of students is paramount; explicit value systems; diverse range of extra-curricular activities; extensive gifted and talented program; robust learning support program; and qualified, experienced staff.

At our last P&C meeting the new office bearers for 2014 were elected. Congratulations to Mick Hovey (President), Gail Lees (Vice President), Catriona Lindsay (Treasurer), Heidi Speed (Secretary) and Lee Anne Hovey (Fund Raising). This group of parents along with the regulars who attend the meetings are wonderful ambassadors for our school. They

Upcoming Events

Mar 10 Yr 6-7 2015 Information Evening
Yr 11 Assessment period 1

Mar 11 P & C Meeting 7pm

Mar 14 EHS Talent Quest 7pm

Mar 27 Vaccinations / ALL Yr 7 & 9 BOYS

Apr 4 Camden Show 4 to 7 Apr

Apr 7 Yr 11 CAPA Evening 7pm

Apr 8 Yrs 7,11 & 12 Parent Teacher Night

Apr 9 EHS Cross Country Carnival at Camden Equestrian Park

See back page for more details

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are dynamic, caring and dedicated parents who work hand-in-hand with the school staff and students to enhance our great school. I would also like to thank the 2013 office bearers for their outstanding contributions to the school. Please join us at the next P&G meeting when we will meet the 2014 scholarship recipients and also hear a presentation from our head Teacher, English, Sonja Dokmanovic who leads the school literacy and numeracy team.

Our Community of Schools 2014 program with Mawarra, Elderslie and Cobbitty Primary Schools has commenced. Mrs Amos is coordinating the program for our school. Each year we evaluate the program and look for ways to continue to improve. In 2014 we will continue with our Literacy and Numeracy focus, Dance, Drama and Japanese programs as well as increase opportunities for Years 4 and 5 students and Gifted and Talented students.

‘In the interest of safety’. Recently I have noticed students entering the school from Hilder Street using the staff carpark gates and then walking outside the marked area. The safest and preferred option for students is to use the pedestrian gate (directly behind the hall). This way the risk of students being struck by a vehicle entering or leaving the school premises is reduced.

I would like to thank all students and parents for following and implementing the school’s uniform policy. We appreciate the effort made by our students and their families in getting their child/ren to wear the correct uniform, in particular shoes, and hope we have the same understanding when it comes to students wearing the correct school jumper and jacket in the colder weather.

**Upcoming events**

Year 6 (Year 7 2015) Information Evening will be held on Monday 10 March 2014. The tours will commence promptly at 5.30pm and conclude in time for the information session to commence in the school hall at 7pm.

Elderslie High School Talent Quest 2014 will be held tonight, Friday 14 March 2014. Please come along and support our talented performers. It will be great night.

*Mrs Fawcett, Principal*

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**Natalie Martin (DP Years 7, 9 & 11)**

I attended the school swimming carnival on the 6th of February and was pleased to see staff dressed in a Hawaiian theme for the day along with Yr 12 students in historical costumes. There was a positive atmosphere amongst staff and students with the PDHPE Faculty providing competitive swimming events alongside non-competitive activities thereby catering for all students. Whilst the carnival was well attended I would like to reinforce with parents that carnivals are considered a normal school day and all students are expected to attend.
Year 7 Camp
Year 7 attended Camp Yarramundi from the 19th to the 21st of February. Students were divided into eight groups and participated in multiple activities which included kayaking, high ropes, alpine rescue, initiative games, rock climbing, giant swing, flying fox and caving. This was a great opportunity for Year 7 to get to know each other and develop their interpersonal skills as many of the activities required trust, reliability and good communication to be successful. All group leaders issued PBL awards and many students were rewarded for positive behaviour during the prize draw after the camp disco. From my observations students were thoroughly enjoying themselves and I would like to thank all of the staff who gave up their time to attend and Miss Kelly and Miss Spero who successfully organised this event.

Positive Behaviour Learning
The PBL (Positive Behaviour Learning) Team held two assemblies to promote positive behaviour to students. The theme of the assemblies was ‘Cool the Conflict’ where students viewed a film starring some of our senior students. Students were reminded about the purpose of PBL in the school and at the conclusion of the assembly students went back to classes and completed a PBL lesson focusing on resolving the conflict that had occurred in the film. Teachers are being encouraged to hand out PBL merits every lesson and there will be weekly prize draws at school assemblies to regularly recognise positive behaviour. There will be a fortnightly PBL theme which will be reinforced by staff through daily notices and issuing of PBL merits. Themes for the remainder of the term will be assessment, plagiarism and getting to class on time.

Parent Teacher Night Years 7, 11 & 12
On the 8th April there will be the annual Year 7 Showcase and Parent Teacher Night for Year 7, 11 and 12. For the first time we will require parents to book their interviews online, further information about this will be published on the school website in the coming week. Parents are encouraged to attend this evening in order to meet the teachers and support their children if any concerns are identified.

From the ATSI Team
The school receives Norta Norta funding for our junior and senior Aboriginal students. The Junior funding enables the school to provide a learning support officer for four days per week to provide learning support in Year 7 through to Year 10 Aboriginal students. This program commenced on Monday the 17th February and should continue for most of the year. Our senior Aboriginal students can access up to three hours of tutoring per week which will be paid for by these funds. All senior Aboriginal students have been interviewed and informed about this opportunity. Students are required to organise a tutor which can be at school, at home or at a tutorial centre. The Aboriginal Team will be following up to ensure that all students who are interested in this opportunity are able to access it successfully.

Jennifer Lawrence (DP Years 8, 10 & 12)
Year 6 into 7 Transition
We have already begun to plan for the cohort of 2015 and have recently appointed Mr Scott Atterton to the role of Year 7 Year Adviser for this year group. Mr Atterton will be assisted by Ms Emma Donaldson. Our first transition event for the year will be our Year 6 into 7 Information Evening which will be held at the school on Monday 10 March. We will be conducting tours of the school every 15 minutes between 5.30 and 6.15pm. There will also be a more formal presentation commencing at 7pm. This will feature a range of speakers from the staff who will provide information about various aspects of school life. We encourage parents of Year 6 children to come along. In addition, if you have a child in Year 5 and would like to do a little early research about the school ahead of time, we encourage you to attend.

Assessment Information
We have held important meetings for all year groups regarding assessment. At these meetings, students were shown a PowerPoint about Elderslie High School’s assessment policy and provided with a copy of the Assessment Guidelines. Please ask your child for this important document and place it in a safe place within your home. Individual class assessment schedules which detail the dates due for each subject your child studies are handed out within the classroom at a separate time. If you have any questions about assessment tasks, your child’s class teacher is usually the best person to ask.
Alternately, the Head Teacher may be contacted – please see the front of your child’s diary for a list of all Head Teachers at Elderslie High School. All assessment guidelines documents are also available on the School’s Website.

**Student Leadership**

Students and staff are in the process of developing a Student Leadership Matrix. This document will map out the possible leadership opportunities students at Elderslie High School can access from Year 7 to Year 12. The school has a long standing tradition of developing outstanding young leaders and we look forward to collaborating to devise improvements to the current structure.

One leadership opportunity that I was delighted to observe recently was the High Resolve Program. As reported last month, all Year 8 students have just completed the first module of this global citizenship course but what was especially exciting to watch was the wonderful Year 10 students that led the younger students with the Program manager’s guidance. I was very impressed with their communication skills, their teamwork and also with their assertiveness. I wonder if we might have a few budding teachers amongst this group!

**Traffic Around the School**

We have had a number of complaints from patients at the Schwarz Family Medical Centre which is located on Hilder St just opposite the school. The concern is that parents as well as students that drive to school drive through the Medical Centre carpark when leaving to go from school or when picking up children. The parking spaces within the Medical Centre are allocated solely to the patients and as many of them are ill or disabled, they often require easy access. We ask our community to support our neighbours at the Medical Centre and stay away from their carpark. If you are visiting the school, street parking is available on Hilder St instead.

### SPORTS NEWS

**Elderslie High School Swimming Age Champions 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Boys Name</th>
<th>Girls Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Vanya KAMENJAS</td>
<td>Ella WOOLDRIDGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Alexander MAXWELL</td>
<td>Aleksandria ILIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Deni HOXHA</td>
<td>Julia STOKER</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nicholas DAWSON</td>
<td>Rhiannon NASKO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Daniel TAIBA</td>
<td>Brittany STOKER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mitchell DAWSON</td>
<td>Jessica LIARDO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 Elderslie High School Swimming carnival was another great success with over 580 students attending the day at Camden Pool. The carnival atmosphere was again one of fun and enjoyment with a record number of students competing throughout the day and ‘DJ’ playing music to entertain the students. Records broken on the day were:

Vanya Kamenjas in the 12 years 100m Butterfly, 100m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke & 50m Freestyle.

Brittany Stoker in the 16 years 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle & 50m Backstroke.

Jessica Liardo in the 17 years 100m Butterfly & 50m Backstroke

Taylah Nasko in the 16 years 100m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke & 50m Freestyle.

Excellent swimming by all these participants.

We wish all the swimmers representing Elderslie High School at the Macarthur Zone Swimming Championships on Tuesday 4th of March at CAMDEN POOL. The best of luck as we defend our Macarthur Zone Champion school crown.

**Cross Country News**

The EHS Cross Country is fast approaching. It will be held on the 9th of April, (week 11, Term 1), at the Bicentennial Equestrian Park in Camden. All students are expected to attend the event as part of their Fitness unit of work they participate in during Term 1. It is an excellent track and all students are expected to attend and participate.

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**ANNUAL UPDATE OF STUDENT/FAMILY DETAILS INCLUDING STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION**

Shortly a form will be mailed to all families for each student. Please complete any changes to the forms and return to the Student Admin Office.

If there are no changes we still require the forms to be returned.

This information is critical to the amount of funding the school will receive in 2015.
Other Sporting News

Big congratulations to Gabrielle Plain for being selected to represent the Sydney South West Region in the SSW Open Girls Softball team. She will be joining other representatives to participate at the NSW CHS Carnival to be held in the last week of February.

Zone teams for other sports are still to be confirmed. Players who make those teams will be announced in the next bulletin.

Jessica Liardo (Year 11) and Natasha Burke (Year 8) competed in the NSW State Open Water Championships 5k event and the National Australian Open Water 5k event. They performed very well with Jessica placed in the top 10 of Australia and 1st in NSW and Natasha placed 16th in Australia and 3rd in NSW in their age groups. Very well done to both girls!!

Note to Parents/Carers: Elderslie High School has a long tradition of students achieving sporting prowess, either through school or outside activities. As you can imagine, keeping track of every talented students achievements is a large undertaking and invariable some achievements are not realised or recognised. If your son or daughter achieves any sporting accolades of note could you please inform the PDHPE department in writing or by email so that your child can be recognised and congratulated in future Parent Bulletins, and considered for sports awards at the end of the school year. Email: melissa.spero1@det.nsw.edu.au

MATHEMATICS

General Information

Every student in Years 7 to 11 will have received handouts from their teachers to be pasted in the front of their workbooks.

*Expectations: Lists the equipment required, appropriate classroom behaviour and correct setting out of all work. Both students and parents need to sign this handout.

*Scope and Sequence: Details the topics and approximate time line for each course.

*Assessment Guidelines: Details the assessment requirements, date for completion and the weighting of each task. Students are reminded to read their assessment guidelines carefully.

*Year 7 also have a bookmark record page which teachers will complete at the end of each topic.

Textbooks

Most classes are using textbooks as class sets in the classroom and they will not be sent home with the students. We are hoping that this eases the weight of school bags as well as the chance of books being damaged or lost. Teachers will be providing worksheets and allocating Mathletics tasks for students to complete at home to consolidate and practise the concepts related to each topic they study.

When the new Year 7 and 9 textbooks arrive, students in these year groups will be given an access code that will allow them to use an electronic version of the textbook via the NelsonNet website.

Mathletics

We are into our 4th year of using Mathletics and it is included as part of all Year 7 to 10 students informal assessment results, accounting for 15% of their overall marks each semester.

We still have a few students in Year 7, 8 and 9 who haven’t made their payment and a significant number of year 10 students who need to pay as well. (All Year 10 students were issued a reminder letter two weeks ago)

We would expect students complete 1 to 2 activities each night if they have no other Mathematics homework allocated. Teachers will be allocating set tasks for their classes to complete as well.

Students will be rewarded for their achievements in Mathletics with the school’s merit scheme, so they need to inform their class teachers when they reach the bronze, silver and gold certificates.

So far for Week 5 we have already had 9 certificates awarded and our top performing classes were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8C (Miss Bolton)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A (Mrs Amos)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7H (Ms Juske)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A (Mr Wallace)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10R (Mr Jabur)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are looking forward to some great interclass rivalry this year. In each parent bulletin we will publish our top 5 performing classes for the past few weeks.

Formal Assessments

Year 7 – Last week they were issued their maths project which is due in Week 7. Students are encouraged to read the options carefully as they need to do activities that add to at least 10 points. If they have any questions they should ask their teacher this week to ensure they aren’t leaving it to the last minute.

Year 11 They have their first assessment task in Week 7. It is an open book task, which means they can bring into the assessment their maths exercise book. We encourage students to highlight their notes and add post-it notes to help them quickly identify key concepts. Students can not bring in their textbook or any other study material. It must be work they have completed and any sheets need
tored. If in doubt, they need to ask their teacher before the assessment date.

**TAS – HOME ECONOMICS REPORT**

**Year 7 and 8 Technology Mandatory**

Students are hard at work developing skills in the Kitchens and Textiles rooms this semester. Year 7 have all successfully completed their first of many Food Practical lessons putting into practice everything they have learnt so far about hygiene and safety. Year 7 Textiles students are developing design ideas and experimenting with construction techniques for their phone or iPod covers. They have all come up with some excellent ideas and are working well.

Year 8 Technology Mandatory students have taken the Online Food Shop and children’s game design briefs to the next level. Textiles students have been asked to create a children’s game using felt and a detailed folio of their journey. Many of the students have come up with unique ideas. Year 8 Mandatory food students are working on their website and developing on their practical food skills from last year. Below are some excellent examples of just how creative Elderslie High School students are, producing a variety of designer biscuits.

**Mock Trials Update**

A group of dedicated Year 10 and 11 students are taking on the world of Mock Trials this year. The team members are Mara Aplin, Tayler Buckley, Emily McCarthy, Emily Morgan and Brittany Stoker from Year 10. Samantha Burgin, Stella Kowalick, Andrew Loomes, Lachlan Macdonald, Brooke Murray, Alexander O’Flynn, Ashleigh Olliffe and Bridget Peters from Year 11. The students have been working hard during lunchtimes and after school to perfect their knowledge of the legal system, court processes and the case they are studying. Our First Round encounter will be in early March against Magdalene College. Good luck team!

Ms S Dennis

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

On Sunday, 23rd February, 2014 Erin Middleton from Year 12 represented Elderslie High School in the Narellan Lions Youth of the Year competition. She did an excellent job in all aspects of the competition, really moving the audience with her prepared speech dedicated to the plight of our drought ridden farmers. Well done, Erin!

**GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM**

At Elderslie High School there are many programs happening to enhance student learning in faculty areas. The Gifted and Talented Committee have been busy compiling a list of all of the opportunities for our Gifted and Talented students. This list can be obtained from the Front Office or on the school website.

The Gifted and Talented workshop program is designed to support what is already happening in classrooms and to offer students some extra opportunities. Students from Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 have been identified by staff for the program and a further fifteen students from Year 7 will join the program after the half yearly reporting period. The Year 8, 9 & 10 students will be completing a 2 period workshop late in Term 1. With more workshops planned for the rest of the year.

Congratulations to Chloe Williamson, Bridget Peters and Sean Lewis on successfully attending the Learning Lab Program at the University of Wollongong in the summer holidays. Any students interested in attending in the future can see Ms Dennis.

Fifteen of our talented Year 10 Science students will be participating in the Australian Brain Bee Challenge. The online quiz will be completed by our students during Brain Awareness Week. High achieving students will be given the opportunity to participate in the second phase of the program at the University of Western Sydney. Ten of our talented Science students will also be participating in the Transition Science Program. The students will be tutoring budding scientists from our Feeder Schools during sport in Weeks 3 and 8 of each term.

We will be participating in Mind Marathon and Tournament of the Minds later in the year. Details about these events will be available very soon. Stay tuned for more exciting things happening for the Gifted and Talented students at Elderslie High School.

**Gifted and Talented Team**

**CAPA Update**

Already it is the middle of Term One and CAPA students are working tirelessly to improve their skills, plan performance items and participate in as many experiences as they can during 2014.
Thank you to all of the parents who attended the Dance and Musical Information Evening on Tuesday, 11th February, 2014 in the School Hall, we hope you gained some valuable information.

The Dance-a-thon will be held on Tuesday, 25th March, 2014 from 3.25 pm – 7.00 pm in the School Hall. This is a compulsory fundraising event for all of our dancers and it is hoped that all of the students will have fabulous time raising money for the Dance program. Permission Notes are due to the box in the Studio by Friday, 21st March, 2014.

Ms Dennis and Ms Donaldson are proud to announce the 2014 members of Dance Ensemble and Dance Company. After a week of tough auditions and decisions the following students have been selected.

**Dance Ensemble:** Ashleigh Abboud, Jamie Arru, Sofie Boyce, Charli Cardona, Jade Crater, Taylah Carter, Angelique Gain, Nancy Haggerty, Natalia Raco, Zayden Thompson and Tayla Valente from Year 7. Jayme-Lee Bell, Natalie Finlay and Bethany Kickert from Year 8. These students train on Wednesday Mornings from 8.00am to 8.55am.

**Dance Company:** Grace Brand, Ashleigh McMurdo, Ashlee Osborne, Gabriella Price, Isabelle Robinson, Casey Walsh, Kiera Ward from Year 9, Jordan Freeman, Emily McCarthy from Year 10, Brooke Murray from Year 11, Ashleigh Cooper, Madeleine Newcombe and Shannon Strickson from Year 12. These students train on Wednesday afternoons from 2.50pm to 4.15pm. Congratulations to the students selected and to all who auditioned.

The Creative and Performing Arts Polo Shirts and Singlets are now available in all sizes from the Studio. Students must pay at the student office and present their receipt to Ms Dennis or Ms Donaldson in the studio to collect their Polo Shirt/Singlet. Polo Shirts are $25.00 and Singlets are $15.00. All other CAPA Uniform will arrive in a couple of weeks.

Isabelle Robinson of Year 9 and Roberto Perez from Year 12 auditioned for the 2014 State Dance Ensemble/Company. Congratulations to both of the students on their selection, this is a remarkable achievement, well done Isabelle and Roberto!

Dance Transition Program is back for 2014. Our feeder primary schools are very excited about participating. The first rehearsal for this program will be on Monday, 10th March, 2014 from 3.25 pm – 5.00 pm in the School Hall. The following students will be participating from Elderslie High School; Kayla France, Lauren Grallelis, Zayden Thompson, Charlie Williams from Year 7, James Berle from Year 8. There are still five more places to fill in this ensemble.

Congratulations to all of the students who attended ONSTAGE and CALLBACK. You represented Elderslie High School admirably.

Four Year 9 Drama students; Monique Drieman, Tammy Hearder, Patrick Lee and Ava Whatman, auditioned for the State Junior Drama Ensemble for 2014. The students represented Elderslie High School at these auditions and had a great time extending their drama skills. Tammy and Patrick received a Callback and we wish them all the best in the final audition next week.

On Wednesday, 26th February, 2014 the Year 12 Drama class presented their practice Group Performance tasks based on ‘The Violence that lies beneath...’ to an audience of parents and friends. Well done, Year 12!

Year 11 CAPA Evening is coming up at the end of term 1 on Monday, 7th April, 2014 in the School Hall from 6.45 pm. Tickets will be on sale at the Student Office from Week 8. Please come along and support our talented Year 11 CAPA students.

Once again, Elderslie High School is offering the students in Year 7 the opportunity to participate in the Junior Drama Ensemble. This group meets on Tuesday morning from 8.00 am to 8.55 am. Classes have already started, so you need to hurry if you would still like to be involved. You just need to see Ms Dennis in the Studio for a permission note.

The Year 10 Drama students attended a performance of Twelfth Night on Wednesday, 5th March, 2014 at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta. The students gained a much clearer understanding of Shakespeare’s work and Elizabethan Drama.

The Stage / Hall Crew have reformed for 2014. The operation of this venue is a very challenging task and 20 students with talent in this area have signed up to be part of this crew. Their roles will include lighting set-up and operation, sound operation, front of house, stage managing and much more. If there are any students who have not signed up for this crew there is still time. You just need to see Ms Dennis in The Studio ASAP.

NIDA Sound Workshops are on Friday, 28th March, 2014 in the School Hall. The VET Entertainment students and Stage Crew have the opportunity to participate. Permission note and payment are due to the Student Office by Monday, 24th March, 2014.

**CAPA Faculty**
TALENT QUEST 2014
The Elderslie High School Talent Quest is back for 2014! The Heats are now complete and our finalists have been decided. The Final of the Talent Quest is on Friday, 14th March, 2014 in the School Hall from 6.45 pm. If you are interested in attending tickets are on sale in the Student Office, $5.00 for all or at the door on the evening. The evening will also be featuring performances from some of our past students. This is a night not to be missed!!

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers is coming to Elderslie High School

This year Elderslie High School will see the return of a Musical Performance. We will be presenting Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Come along and join in all of the fun as Elderslie High School sings, dances and embraces Camden’s rural beginnings in 2014. If you enjoy Musicals then you will really love, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Rehearsals are in full swing and the cast are really looking forward to the challenge of staging such a musical favourite.

Just a reminder to the cast and orchestra that they have their first extended Rehearsal on Tuesday, 18th March, 2014 from 3.25 pm – 8.30 pm in the School Hall. The first All Day Rehearsal is on Thursday, 11th April, 2014 from 9.25 pm – 3.25 pm in the School hall.

If there are any members of the School Community who would be happy to make a donation towards the School Musical your business name will be advertised in the Program for the evening. Please contact the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty, as any help would be much appreciated.

So stay tuned for regular updates on our progress. Seven Brides for Seven Brothers will be presented to the school community on the 26th June – 28th June, 2014 at the School Hall.

Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

DUKE of ED
The D of E program is again up and running at full speed with expeditions having been completed and more approaching quickly.

GOLD NEWS
Gold sailing participants completed their practice expedition during week 2 this Term, with the Test expedition being held during Week 9 term 1 (Tues 25/3 until Fri 28/3).

Gold kayaking participants completed their practice expedition during week3 this Term, with the Test expedition being held during Week 10 term1 (Tues 2/4 until Fri 5/4). The bigger job at hand is completing all the other aspect of the award.

It is important that regular participation in all the area’s of the award is completed and logged into the ORB!

SILVER NEWS
Silver sailing expeditions commence in week 6 & 7 of Term 1. Test Expeditions will be in week 1, Term 2 and late in Term 3.

Silver Kayaking expeditions commenced in week 5 of Term 1, with the Test expedition scheduled for late in Term 3.

Participants from last year must also complete their awards online so that they can be forwarded to the Award office and processed. Awards cannot be presented unless this happens. Ideally, all aspects of the bronze award should be completed before starting the Silver program. New students are welcome to join the award at Silver level.

It is important that regular participation in all the area’s of the award is completed and logged into the ORB!

BRONZE NEWS
Welcome to interested Bronze D of E participants in Year 9. Meetings will be commenced to fully brief any students who wish to participate. New bronze participants will commence their award soon but not participate in expeditions until later in the year. Permission notes need to be returned to Mr Marshall or Ms George ASAP and Registration money paid to the Student Office. More information is coming, so stay tuned to the daily notices.

Information regarding the Award is available on the school website as well as the D of E website. (Google “Duke of Edinburgh’s Award”).

Unfortunately, the new “continuation” fee that was introduced by the Award has increased. Participants are now required to pay $115 or $125 to progress from one level to the next. This money needs to be payed to the Student Office before participants will be accepted online for their next level can be started.
Elderslie High School will again try to organise the annual ski trip in late August for D of E participants. More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. If there are any questions or inquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Paul Marshall  
D of E Coordinator

AGRICULTURE NEWS  
It has been another busy start to the year in the Agriculture Faculty. All students have been establishing their vegetable gardens that they will tend throughout the year and plants have had an excellent start with all of this rain.

Year 7 students will have received their chicks this week which they will care for at school and record their growth rate for the rest of the term. This is always a popular activity and a great way to introduce students to the basic needs of livestock. Students who wish to purchase their chicken will be able to do so at the end of term.

Our first Animal Nursery for the year was at the end of the first week of term at the Just Food Festival on the Camden Town Farm. Thanks to Gabrielle Berryman, Liam Callaghan, Teressa Cavasin, Theveen Chinnathumby, Olivia De La Mare, Hannah Jenkins, Jaide Gayle-Weiling and Tayla Plumridge who attended on the Saturday night with such short notice. Our first Cobbitty Markets Nursery for the year was last Saturday. It was wonderful to have so many enthusiastic helpers and great to have a large number of Year 7 students join us. Thanks to Michael Stapleton, Anikka Pike, Teressa Cavasin, Hannah Jenkins, Olivia De La Mare, Theveen Chinnathumby, Liam Callaghan, Zaiden Melrose, Indyanna Verter, Matthew Guthrie, Thomas Melluish, Mitchell Smith, Georgia Chivers, Luke Amjah, Jasmine Underwood, Lachlan Wilson, Gemma Edwards, Alecia Kiggins, Zayden Thompson, Leah Colless and Christopher Gowan.

We are now busy preparing for our display in the Paddock to Plate Tent at Camden Show. This year we are featuring Egg Production. We will also be entering a small team of poultry in the Schools’ Competition. Once the hard work of preparing and setting up the display is done, some of our older students will compete in the Young Farmers Challenge, The Iron Man Race and the Wheelie Bin Relay on Saturday Night. So please cheer loudly for the Elderslie Teams if you are watching any of these events.

At the end of last year the Animal Nursery purchased a Brown Swiss Heifer, “Jenny” who is due to calve mid year. Ms Axam and students from the Brown Swiss Club have begun preparing her for Camden Show where she will be judged on the Friday. We will then all be eagerly awaiting the birth of her calf which, for a few months while it is small enough, will make an appearance at our Animal Nurseries.

Mr Buckley and some of the older students will be preparing beef cattle to be judged on the Saturday.

After Camden Show we’ll be back to school to prepare our team of poultry for the Sydney Royal Show. As well as our pure breed birds, we will be entering a team of commercial layers and pairs of meat birds. The chickens for each of these 2 commercial classes were provided by the RAS and will be specifically reared and monitored by the students for this competition. As we won the Meat Bird Pairs competition last year (competing against 65 schools from around the state) we were invited to attend the media launch of this event last week. Four year 8 students, Olivia De La Mare, Liam Callaghan, Theveen Chinnathumby and Hannah Jenkins went into Homebush to collect the birds and had their photo published in the Sydney Morning Herald the next day. There was also a short video clip on the SMH online site where Olivia spoke about the event. It will be interesting to compare the growth rates of these birds with the year 7 layer chicks. Two of our Year 8 students will be entering the Poultry Showmanship Competition where they need to demonstrate their knowledge of a chosen breed of poultry as they present it to the judge. We will also be entering decorated pumpkins in the horticulture section.

Many of our Agriculture students will be visiting the Easter Show with us on Friday, 11th April where they will spend the day seeing a range of different breeds of livestock as well as other agricultural displays and end products. Our entries will be judged the day before this so students will be able to check out our results.

All Agriculture students should, by now, have received their Bulb Fundraising forms. This year we are hoping to raise enough money to purchase a miniature donkey. We ask that all order forms and money be returned to the student office by Thursday 20th March which will allow us to distribute bulbs before the end of Term 1.

Megan Atkinson, Agriculture Teacher

Olivia, Hannah, Theveen and Liam being photographed by the Sydney Morning Herald photographer at the Meat Bird Competition Launch
**ROrTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM – 2015**

Applications are now being sought by participating Rotary clubs. We are looking for motivated students from Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 for the January 2015 departure. Further information about the program for the students and their families can be found on the Rotary Youth Exchange website: [www.rotaryyouthexchange.com.au](http://www.rotaryyouthexchange.com.au)

The initial Application Form can be found on the website. The closing date for applications is March 15 2014. Students are requested to send a copy of the completed initial application form to both the sponsoring club and my email address, which is ian@thegilkes.com

**Chaplain Profile**

My name is Tanya Middleton, I have been the School Chaplain at Elderslie High School since Term Four 2013. Being a Chaplain is about caring for and supporting students as individuals, and helping to provide a safe environment for them both at home and in their community.

I facilitate a number of different programs throughout the school such as;

- The Rock and Water Program - The Rock and Water Program aims to apply a physical / social approach to assist boys in their development to adulthood, by increasing their self-realisation, self-confidence, self-respect, boundary awareness, self-awareness and intuition.

- The PRAISE Program - A program designed to increase self-esteem, self-awareness and self-respect and self-confidence within girls.

- Breakfast Club - Breakfast Club is open every Tuesday morning from 7:45am - 8:45am in Food Lab One.

- Social Skills Group - The Social Skills Program aims to develop self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. Lunchtime Games Group -

- Games Group is held every second Tuesday in the library.

- Mentoring - I am available to meet with students and other members of the school community to provide mentoring and support regarding relationships, life choices, values and spiritual issues, following written permission from a parent or guardian. I can be contacted by the school phone number, or in person. All students are welcome to make an appointment during the school term.

I am passionate about working with kids, encouraging them, and seeing them learn, grow and flourish in life. Working from my own personal experience and study, I look forward to continuing to come alongside students, staff, and the wider school community, in nurturing a safe and encouraging environment and support system at Elderslie High School.

**CIFA Japan Trip 2014**

The annual student exchange between high school students from Camden and Narellan areas and students from Kashiwa City in Japan is planned for the October holidays 2014.

If you are interested in finding out more details about this exciting opportunity see the contact person in your school.

You will be able to experience sightseeing. Japanese food, Tokyo Disneyland, school and family life in Japan, sport, cultural life and much more. There will be an information Evening for the trip in the library at Camden High School on 24th March 2014 at 7.30pm. Hope to see you there!  

*F Tan*

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**STUDENT COURSE CHARGES AND RESOURCE COSTS**

2014 Course charges and resource costs have now been finalised. Statement of Accounts have recently been mailed home. Payment of the account is due by the end of Term 1, 11 April 2014. If you have difficulty in paying the whole amount, partial payments can be made.

Thank you to the families who have already made payments.

Payments can be made at the Student Office between 8.30am and 3.15pm. The following payment options are available: cash, cheque, EFTPOS/credit card, also for your convenience payments can be accepted over the phone using your credit card.
FREE Parent/Teen Session
A free 90 minute presentation for teen guys 14-18 years and their parents, carers, educators and health professionals. Covering gender identity, facts and statistics for this age group, communication, CHOICES and mental health first aid.

WHEN: Monday 17 March 2014
TIME: 6.00-7.30pm
FREE - Limited places.
VENUE: Narellan Library
Cnr Queen and Elyard Street
Narellan, NSW 2567
BOOKING DETAILS:
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
Narellan Library 4645 5039

Limited copies of 'The other side of blue' will be for sale on the night - $15.
"Boys to Men", a session from Who's the Man!, covers topics including gender identity challenging stereotypes, important statistics amongst teen male population, communication strategies, mateship, range of choices and mental health first aid. Information and videos used will include adult themes, partial nudity, incidental coarse language and mature content.
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<td>3A</td>
<td>10 March Yr 5 &amp; 6 Parents Information Evening Tours from 5.30pm Info session from 7pm</td>
<td>11 March P &amp; C Meeting 7pm in the Library</td>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>14 March EHS Talent Quest 7pm</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>17 March SSW Swimming Carnival – C/town Swimming Centre</td>
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<td>5A</td>
<td>24 March</td>
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<td>26 March</td>
<td>27 March Vaccinations All Yr 7 &amp; 9 Boys</td>
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<td>6B</td>
<td>31 March</td>
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<td>4 April Camden Show April 4 to 6</td>
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<td>7 April Yr 11 CAPA Evening 7pm</td>
<td>8 April P &amp; C Meeting 7pm in the Library Yrs 7,11 &amp; 12 Parent Teacher Night Yr 7 – Term 1 Showcase</td>
<td>9 April EHS Cross Country Carnival – Camden Equestrian Park</td>
<td>10 April</td>
<td>11 April Last day Term2</td>
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School Holidays start 14 April – Students return Tuesday 29 April 2014

Elderslie High School
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