PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
As this is the last Parent Bulletin for 2015 I would like to congratulate and thank the students, staff and parents for their ongoing support of our school and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Farewell and Thank You
As this is the final edition of our Parent Bulletin for 2015 I would like to farewell the following staff and thank them for their contribution to Public Education and our school. Mr Benzie has been successful in gaining a transfer to Bega High School commencing at the beginning of 2016, Mr Carroll and Mr Wallace retired during the year and both Mr Stewart and Mr Spurrier will be on long service leave pending their retirement next year.

I would also like to thank our bank of casual and temporary staff for assisting us in delivering courses and programs at Elderslie High School this year. Without their involvement we would not have been able to complete the year successfully.

A Christmas CAPA
It is a wonderful time of the year when you can hear Christmas carols resounding across the school. On 1st December Year 9 CAPA and students from other year groups presented a wonderful showcase of talent at this annual event. Thank you to all the staff who made sure this event was a success – the CAPA staff - Ms Dennis, Ms Hissey, Ms Prigg, and Ms Donaldson; P&C members and Admin staff.

I would also like to extend a very special thank you to all our parents and community members who have supported all our school CAPA events throughout the year. You have religiously attended each event and without this support the student’s talent would not be as appreciated.

Sporting Excellence
As mentioned in the last Bulletin Alley Hanagan and Mitchell Dawson received a CHS Blue on Friday 4 December 2015 for their respective sports of hockey and gymnastics. This is a highly prestigious honour and like their parents Ms Martin and I were very honoured to have attended the ceremony and see both of these outstanding ambassadors receive their awards. Congratulations!

Earlier in the week I attended the SSW Regional Blues ceremony where Alley Hanagan and Gabrielle Plain received awards for hockey and softball. I was thrilled when later in the program Gabrielle was also announced as the recipient of the SSW Regional President’s Award. The last time a student from Elderslie High School received this award was in 1992. Congratulations!

Upcoming Events

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2015 End of Year Procedures and Being Prepared for 2016

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 7 to 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 2016.

Years 7 to 10 school reports will be issued at their recognition assemblies to be held on Monday 14 December 2015. Included in the report package will be the 2016 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 2016

Any student who is not able to attend school on the first day of the 2016 school year must inform the Principal in writing by the end of term, clearly indicating the anticipated date of return and the reason.

Years 7, 11 and 12 return on Thursday 28 January 2016 (Year 12 & 11 students to wear normal school uniform, Years 7 to wear sports uniform).

Years 8, 9 and 10 return on Friday 29 January 2016.

School Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 5 February 2016, at Camden Pool.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I hope you can all join us on Tuesday 15 December 2015 for our Presentation Evening when we showcase our 2015 achievements.

From the Deputy Principal

Jennifer Lawrence (DP Years 7,9 &11)

Year 9 Students Striving for Success

Earlier in the year, we were approached by MTC Youth Frontiers with an opportunity for a group of our Year 9 students to be mentored by local volunteers in order to undertake a civic project. The projects were to be based on an area of student interest and took place over and above the students’ studies. Three of our students took up these projects.

I was delighted to see these students take advantage of the opportunity to be mentored. The students involved were Karni Woods, Zaidyn Melrose and Katelyn Gwilliam.

Karni’s project was about supporting students who were transitioning to high school to get themselves organised. She presented a workshop on Orientation Day to rotating groups of Year 6 students and integrated a fun drama exercise into this workshop to show the benefits of being organised.

Zaidyn organised a presentation to all of his year group from Hearing Australia about the role of music in the lives of the hearing impaired. This is a meaningful topic area for Zaidyn and he targeted improved understanding of societal diversity by staging such a presentation.

Katelyn has developed a concept for a fundraiser for a charity to support the provision of music to disabled children. She has not yet staged her event but plans to do so in the future.

Each of our three participating students benefitted enormously through their initiatives and strove for their personal best. Each of them should be commended for their efforts as the school is very proud of them!

Individual Student Successes

At the time of writing, I am looking forward to attending a ceremony at Western Sydney University, Parramatta Campus at which I will be able to celebrate the achievements of our most outstanding student of Year 11 in 2015, Mai O’Regan. Mai, along with her counterparts from other schools, will be acknowledged at a reception on 14 December. More about this in the next Parent Bulletin.

School Development Days

The staff will continue to be engaged in professional learning for a final two days following the conclusion of the students’ school year. On Thursday, 17 and Friday, 18 December, staff will spend time planning for next year. We have a broad and varied agenda for the two days including working with Department of Education staff to broaden our understanding of the needs of students on the Autism Spectrum. We will also delve further into the Department’s new Wellbeing Framework for students and work on the development of specific faculty based adjustments for other students with special needs.

As this is the last issue of the Parent Bulletin for 2015, may I take this opportunity to wish all our students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday. We look forward to an action-packed 2016 in which we strive to make our school the best that it can be.
Natalie Martin (DP Years 8, 10, & 12)

Year 12 Formal
Elderslie High School held the final event for Year 12 2015 on 18 November at the City Beach Function Centre in Wollongong. Students arrived earlier to meet their friends near the lighthouse for group photographs. Our young men and women looked completely different dressed up and out of school uniform.

We had a very pleasant evening with all of our captaincy team involved in delivering various speeches throughout the night. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Woo for her tireless efforts towards organising all of the Year 12 events throughout the year. She did an amazing job in ensuring Year 12 had a very memorable final year of school. Mrs Woo also contributed many hours into developing the Year Book which is currently available to be picked up from the front office.

Year 6 Orientation Day
On Thursday 3 December Elderslie High School hosted the Year 6 Orientation Day with representatives from many local primary schools. Our Year 10 prefects were assigned to groups as mentors for the day which will continue into 2016. The Year 6 students participated in various activities including numeracy and literacy testing, get to know you games and a sporting activity. Mrs Jan coordinated the BBQ which was well-received by the Year 6 students. The day was very successful and well organised by Mr Tan and Mrs Jeffries. Thank you to all of the Elderslie staff who coordinated multiple activities on the day.

Year 8
Very recently it has come to my attention that some students in Year 8 have started to display social aggression towards each other. This behaviour is difficult to pin point and monitor, an example of social aggression is when students initiate rumours ‘as a joke’. I would like to remind parents that if students initiate hurtful rumours about others they need to accept responsibility and consequences for their actions.

Often well-behaved children can display inappropriate behaviour at school amongst their peers. This occurs as they are developing their social skills and trying to fit in with peer groups. Students will often use their phones and social media platforms to communicate about other students which can also be problematic. Parents need to be vigilant and monitor and limit their child’s internet usage. If parents become aware of negative behaviours they should encourage their child to report this to Miss Kelly, Year 8 Year Adviser.

Merry Christmas
I would like to wish our community a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. I look forward to working with the Elderslie Community again in 2016.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

PBL
This term students have engaged in PBL lessons to emphasise the safe behaviour expected in various areas and circumstances in the school. These lessons were based on the following areas -- the canteen, the quad, oak grove, the COLA, bottom oval and school assemblies. The lessons highlight to students the importance of safe behaviour to themselves and others, which in turn reduces the amount of incidents in the above mentioned areas.

PBL Poster competition
As part of an initiative to reinforce the PBL dimensions that underpin the values of EHS, the PBL team gave students the opportunity to visually represent their perceptions about “Responsibility”, “Reflection” and “Respect” by creating persuasive posters. There was a great response from students and three posters stood out in terms of their visual and persuasive appeal, and their engagement with these values. The following students each won a Macarthur Square voucher.

1st place – Tamzin Paterson ($100 voucher)
2nd place – Lara Sultani ($50 voucher)
3rd place – Tayla Plumridge ($25 voucher)

The winning posters, as well as other entries deemed to have captured the essence of these principles, will be laminated and presented at locations throughout the school to inspire further student engagement with Respectful, Responsible and Reflective behaviour.

PBL AWARDS
PBL awards are given to students for their positive contributions during PBL lessons. These awards are then placed into a PBL box in the library. At the end of each term, one award for each year group is drawn out and the student is given the prize of movie vouchers to either Dumeresq Street cinema or United Cinema at Narellan.

PBL Refresher
Ms Ames and Mr Kafataris attended a refresher training day on PBL. During this day they gained further information and ideas to strengthen the effect of PBL within Elderslie High School.

PBL Meetings
Throughout the year, the PBL committee meets every 2 weeks to discuss ideas and ways to implement PBL within our school. These meetings have also been attended by the school Student Representative Council. These student’s thoughts and ideas have contributed to the development of lesson plans, in areas that they feel can be strengthened within their school. Student contribution to the PBL team, increases student ownership of behaviour which strengthens positive behaviour at Elderslie High School.
Heartbeat Excursion
On the 19 of November Ms. Jeffries, Leah Perrin, Anikka Pike and Tahlia Simpson went on an excursion to Westmead Hospital in Parramatta. A variety of schools attended this event such as Robert Townson, St. Patricks College, John Therry and Ambarvale. We attended this excursion to learn more about medical and health careers. During the day we had a variety of speakers who spoke about their journey through life and how they ended up where they are today, most of the speakers went through a lot until they eventually figured out what they were passionate about. There were also 3 workshops that we took part in, the first workshop was Environmental Health where we learnt about things such as germ prevention, the second workshop was Oral Health which taught us basic things about the mouth and tools that dentists use and what type of environment they work in and the final workshop, which was an all-time favourite, Simulation Lab which educated us about simple ways to save someone’s life and how to perform CPR.

By Tahlia, Leah and Anikka (Year 9)

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

The Year 10, 11 and 12 Drama students are looking forward to attending OnStage, 2015 on Monday, 8 February, 2016 at the Seymour Theatre Centre. Permission notes and payment are due to the Student Office early in 2016.

Callback showcases the best of HSC Dance and gives students the opportunity to participate in a composition workshop to develop their composition skills as well as view top HSC works from across the state. Year 10, 11 and 12 Dance students will be attending Callback on Thursday, 11 February 2016. Permission notes and payment are due to the Student Office early in 2016.

Encore showcases the best of HSC Music performances from the 2015 HSC. This showcase gives students the opportunity to view top HSC works from across the state. Year 10, 11 and 12 Music students will be attending Encore on Monday, 22 February 2016. Permission notes and payment are due to the Student Office early in 2016.

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 purchase from the Student Office. 

Congratulations to all of the vocal ensemble students, plus Grace West and Isabelle Robinson who performed as part of the Schools Spectacular at the Qantas Credit Union Arena on the 27 and 28 November, 2015. Well done to all!

Thank you to all of the students who assisted with the Stocktaking of the CAPA classrooms 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 2015.

Just a reminder to all dance students that auditions for the Ballroom Dance Ensemble, Dance Company, Dance Ensemble and Dance Transition Ensemble will be held at the beginning of Week 2 in Term 1, 2016.

The students will need to listen to Daily Notices to stay up to date with organisation for the auditions. The CAPA Information Evening will be on Tuesday, 9 February, 2016 from 6.00 pm in the School Hall. Put that from Year 10 who attended the auditions for the for talented Dance students to work with specialist choreographers and participate in a range of performance opportunities throughout the year with with organisation for the auditions. The CAPA Information Evening will be on Tuesday, 9 February, 2016 from 6.00 pm in the School Hall. Put that date in your diary!
Congratulations to Mara Aplin from Year 11 and Tammy Hearer from Year 10 who attended the auditions for the State Senior Drama Ensembles. Congratulations to Mara and Tammy for gaining a CALLBACK.

Congratulations to Hannah Trethewy from Year 10 on her success in competing at the Junior State Debating Championships. The Regional team narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-final.

Applications for the NSW Public Schools Junior and Senior Dance Ensembles and the NSW Public Schools State Ensemble are now open. This is an exciting opportunity for talented Dance students to work with specialist choreographers and participate in a range of performance opportunities throughout the year with students from across NSW. Students with high level dance technique are encouraged to audition. Don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity! Please speak to Ms Donaldson or Ms Grimston-Eason for further information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elderslie High School Event Management Team for their hard work during 2015. 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!

We would also like to announce that the school musical for 2016 will be Footloose. So during 2016, come along and enjoy the performances of our talented CAPA students.

CAPA Faculty

PRESENTATION EVENING 2015

The annual Presentation Evening is on Tuesday, 15 December 2015 at Camden Civic Centre from 7.15 pm. This is shaping up to be a wonderful evening with over 200 students receiving awards for leadership, academic, agricultural, cultural and sporting achievements at School, Regional and State level during 2015. 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 Monday, 14 December, 2015. The Dance Company, Ballroom Dance Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, Orchestra and Isaac Lewis will all be performing on the evening. Permission Notes should be returned to the box in the Studio by Monday, 14 December, 2015. Please come along and celebrate the achievements of the wonderful students from Elderslie High School.

Ms S Dennis

SPORTS NEWS

Sydney South West Regional Blues

On the 30 November Alley Hanagan (Year 12) and Gabrielle Plain (Year 11) represented Elderslie High School at the prestigious Sydney South West Regional Blues Awards night. At this awards night, one student out of many that are nominated, receives an award for each of the range of sports that are played within the region. The Elderslie School community would like to congratulate Alley, who received an SSW Blues Award for Hockey and Gabrielle, who received an SSW Blues Award for Softball.

On the night there are only two Sydney South West Regional Blues Presidents award offered. One is to a primary school student and the other to a secondary student. We are very proud to announce that Gabrielle Plain was the recipient of the President’s award for 2015. Congratulations to Alley and Gabrielle for being recognised for their outstanding achievements in regional sport!

Sydney South West Open Women’s and Men’s Cricket Team

Congratulations to Tiarne McDonald, Hannah Trethewy and Nathan Baker for being selected to play in Sydney South West Open Cricket teams.

Pan Pacific School Games

Vanya Kamenjas, Brittany Stoker and Aleksandria Ilic recently competed at the Pan Pacific School Games. The students came home with a variety of places in their respective age groups.

Vanya -- 1st in 50m Butterfly and 50m Medley relay, 2nd in 4 x 100m Medley relay and 3rd in 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

Brittany -- 5th in 100m Backstroke

Aleksandria -- 6th in 4 x 50m Freestyle relay, 8th in 4 x 100m Freestyle relay and 8th in 200m Individual medley.

Congratulations to these students for their effort and achievement.

NSW CHS SSW Water Polo

Alessandro De Nuntiis & Daniel Taiba were selected to represent in the NSW CHS SSW water polo team. They attended a tournament Taree 1/12/15 to 4/12/15 the team placed 7th in the competition.

Elderslie High School

Educating all students to achieve their personal best

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Other Sporting News
East Coast Team Roping Association
Brianna and Chloe Doyle competed at the ECTRA (East Coast Team Roping Association) in the Ladies Breakaway Finals. Both girls made it through to the top 10 and Brianna won the event catching 6 from 6. Congratulations to the both of you.

Bring Your Own Device
Many students are now starting to participate in the BYOD program by bringing their own device to school to use as a learning tool in the classroom.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents who intend to allow their child to participate in the program in 2016 that in order to have an effective BYOD program within the school it is necessary that all BYOD devices conform to minimum specifications. This is to enable all students, regardless of the device type they have purchased, to be able to work collaboratively in a class situation. The list of minimum specifications was published in the August 2015 Parent Bulletin and is also available on the school website.

Each year students and parents will be required to sign the Student Agreement Form and submit this to the TSO who keeps a register of the students participating and the device they bring. This is essential due to the constantly changing technology available. A copy of the 2016 Student Agreement Form is included in this parent bulletin.

We would encourage all parents who intend to allow their child to participate in the program in 2016 to refer to the BYOD policy, the BYOD Requirements List and the Student Agreement Form. Each of these documents is available on the school website.


Student Agreement form is on next page.
Elderslie High School

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Student Agreement Form 2016

Students who wish to take advantage of the BYOD policy must read this agreement in the company of their parent/carer. This page is to be signed and returned to Mr Quinlan in the library. By signing at the bottom of this page students agree to the following behaviours:

• I agree that my use of the Department’s internet will be primarily for learning.
• I agree to only ever use my own portal/internet log-in details and never share those with others.
• I agree to not hack or bypass any hardware and software security implemented by the Department or my school.
• I agree to not use my BYOD to knowingly search for, link to, access or send anything that is:
  - offensive
  - pornographic
  - threatening
  - abusive
  - defamatory
  - considered bullying behaviour
• I agree to report inappropriate behaviour and material to my teacher.
• I agree to stay safe by not giving out my personal information to strangers.
• I understand that my activity on the internet is recorded and these records may be used in investigations, court proceedings or for other legal reasons.
• I know that I am solely responsible for my device and acknowledge that the school is not responsible for any damage to, or theft of, my device.
• I agree that use of my device during school activities is at the direction of the teacher.
• I agree to back up all data securely. All electronic data and resources used for school coursework must be stored on another device or electronic medium accessible on demand.
• I agree to bring my device to school fully charged and not bring to school peripheral device equipment such as chargers.
• I agree to connect my device to the designated wireless network only and not connect my device to other wired, wireless or cellular networks whilst at school.
• I have reviewed the BYOD Device Requirements document and have ensured that my device meets the minimum outlined specifications.
• I have read and understand the technical requirements to connect my device to the school wireless network.
• I acknowledge that the school cannot be liable for any damage to, or theft of my device.

Date: ___/___/____

Student Name _________________________ in the presence of: _________________________

Parent/Carer Name _________________________ in the presence of: _________________________

Parent/Carer Signature _________________________ Device can be used from: ___/___/____

Device type/make (e.g., Acer laptop, iPad, MacBook, Galaxy Note 10.1 2014, Microsoft Surface) and serial number:

Type: ___________________________________ Serial number: _____________________

Mr Quinlan: _________________________ Device can be used from: ___/___/____

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PROPOSED CALENDAR – More detailed

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Calendar events can be found on our school website

Did you know that you can make Payments to your child’s school online?
We have launched a new online payment portal linked to your school’s website to make it easier for you to pay for school related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

What expenses can be paid online?
- School General Contributions
- Subject Contributions/Course Costs
- Excursions
- Sales to Students
- Other

Log onto School site at: www.elderslie-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Click on “Make a Payment” and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard.

P & C MEETINGS 2016
ALL parents of students and interested members of the Elderslie community are invited to these meetings.
The P&C would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2016.
Our first Meeting for 2016 will be 16 February.