PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
A change to how Elderslie High School looks to our community!

On Tuesday 24 February 2015 the Honourable Adrian Piccoli, Member for Murrumbidgee, Minister for Education; Mr Chris Patterson Member for Camden; and Mrs Christine Tasker Acting Director Public Schools NSW (Macarthur); visited EHS so that Minister Piccoli could make an announcement to our school community.

In the presence of the school leadership team (captains, prefects, SRC), Mr Hovey P&C President and Mrs Gail Lees P&C Vice President, Minister Piccoli announced that Elderslie High School would be receiving a “facelift” (in simple terms) to the front of our school to improve our connection to the community. This funding directed to more efficient utilisation of existing facilities will ensure NSW can continue to provide high quality public education to the State’s students. This is a significant government investment in public education.

Compulsory School Attendance – important new information for parents

In the last Parent Bulletin Mr Tom Pastor, Home School Liaison Officer included some information about school attendance. In this edition I have included the two-page Parent Information sheet which provides details about school attendance. This information was also distributed at the last P&C meeting. The document contains information on a number of issues for parents including: What are my legal responsibilities? The importance of arriving on time, What if my child has to be away from school? Travel and what might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences? I would especially highlight the opening statement from the document:

“Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.”

Parental Involvement Critical
In Addressing Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones, Internet, Social Media and other technological devices

The relationship between schools and parents has always been critical in enhancing learning
outcomes for students. As part of my report in this edition I would like to focus on the use of mobile phones, Internet, social media, online games etc and how parents can help support the school in addressing issues I know are common in every school.

It cannot be disputed that the impact of social networking has had an impact on the wellbeing of students. This can be both positive and negative. It is also true that much of this occurs outside of school hours.

At school we implement a number of strategies to educate students about cybersafety and cyberbullying. These include our acceptable use policies related to mobile phones and Internet usage, workshops presented by the School Police Liaison Officer and other outside providers, and our Positive Behaviour Learning program.

Over the past few years the welfare team, year advisers, deputy principals and I have increasingly recognised that cyberbullying is happening outside of school hours rather than during school time. This is why we need your help. Even though the school does implement a number of strategies to educate students we are asking parents to also engage in discussion with their children and monitor their mobile phone and Internet usage. This can be done in a few ways – regularly checking the images and messages they are sending and/or receiving, monitoring the times of usage (many students inform us that they do not get to sleep until after midnight because they are engaging in social media or playing games), not using their mobile phone as an alarm (as sleep cycles may be interrupted) and having a time when all devices are switched off. These are just some ideas and I am sure that parents will come up with strategies that best suit their family. Please contact the school should you have any concerns.

We appreciate your cooperation as we all work together to keep our school a happy and safe learning environment.

**DEPUTY PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS**

Jennifer Lawrence (DP Years 7, 9 & 11)

**Year 7 Camp**

I was fortunate enough to visit Year 7 for one day while they were at Camp Yarramundi. There was certainly a lot of hype and excitement in the air as the students became acclimatised to the site and the wide range of activities contained there. I watched students participate in High Ropes, giant swing, canoeing and many other activities in groups that staff had carefully composed to promote intermingling of students from various primary schools. It was wonderful to see the solidification of many new friendships and solid memories that the students will cherish for years to come. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Atterton, Ms Donaldson, Ms Cavalieri, Mr Tan, Ms Golden, Ms Roberts, Mrs Hovey, Mr Nethercott, Mr Macadam and Mr Williams for their time and commitment. Many people would not realise that staff are paid no overtime for their attendance at these events but they do so anyway as they understand how valuable these events are for our students.

**Assessment Guidelines & Schedules**

All year groups have held important meetings 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 have been handed out within the classroom by subject teachers. The entire assessment booklet, containing both the assessment policy relevant to your child’s year group as well as individual subject requirements can also be downloaded from the school’s website. If you have any questions about assessment tasks, your child’s class teacher is usually the best person to ask. Alternatively, 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.

**Planning for Senior Success**

Year 11 has settled in well to senior school. By the time this edition of the Parent Bulletin reaches you, they will have finished their first assessment period. The busy and intense nature of each of these assessment periods will create some strain for all students. To assist in the management of this stress, we strongly encourage plenty of forward planning. Students should plot all formal and informal assessment tasks issued on a calendar and within their school diaries so that they do not leave all their preparations to the last minute. Students should also approach their classroom teachers with drafts of their tasks if they wish to clarify any aspect of their work. This kind of planning and organisation are most certainly the attributes of the most successful senior students and we encourage all senior students to set positive routines at this early stage. The school will be holding a Stress Management workshop in the coming weeks to support all Year 11 students as they adjust to the expectations ahead.

Natalie Martin (DP Years 8, 10 & 12)

**6 into 7 Information Evening**

On 11 March we will be holding our annual 6 into 7 Information Evening. Mr Tan and Mrs Jeffries will be the Year Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser in 2016. All three of our partner primary schools have been asked to invite Stage 3 students to attend. The evening commences with tours of the school that will depart at 5.30pm, 5.40pm and 5.50pm. Parents and future students will be able to visit multiple faculties including many of the following; English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, History,
CAPA, PDHPE, TAS, LOTE and Agriculture. The school tours are followed by in information session in the hall where we will have presentations from our school Captains and a variety of staff members. Our P&C will also be running a BBQ on the night for families to purchase a drink and something to eat.

Year 10
Year 10 students will be able to qualify for a Record of School Achievement (RoSA) by the end of 2015 provided they have satisfactorily demonstrated learning against all of their learning outcomes. This requires students to attend school and complete classwork and all assessments. All students in Year 10 who are considering leaving school at the end of the year or early next year will be given the opportunity to complete an online numeracy and literacy test. The test results are made available on the students e-record which can be printed out and given to potential employers. All students in Year 10 will be given their Board of Studies number so that they can activate their student online account. It is essential that students are familiar with their DEC email account and password so they can access their own e-record.

Year 12
Year 12 will undertake their half yearly examinations from 2 to 6 March. Most of the examinations will be in the hall and all students have been issued with an examination timetable. If a student is sick and unable to sit an examination they will need to inform the school and fill in an Illness/Misadventure form upon their immediate return to school. Any student who misses an examination will require a doctor’s certificate and may be required to sit an alternative paper.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 6 March. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Careers News
Kate Murray and Heather Rouen are the current Careers Team and working hard to assist any student with their career paths. There are many students enrolled in VET, SBAT and TVET courses running at the moment. Make an appointment at the Careers office, upstairs at the library for help.

JOBJUMP
Elderslie High students and their parents have the opportunity to use a website for Careers www.jobjump.com.au. This website has many uses for students and their parents. We encourage you to try it and see.

Benefit for Students and their Parents
- Get updates emailed directly to you on your Career, such as Open Days or Special Events.
- Watch a video on the career of your choice.
- Check if you suit the career.
- Learn to develop your skills to give yourself the best chance to get into your chosen career.
- Investigate the HSC subjects you could study.
- Find the courses you need to study post school.
- Find current job advertisements for your Career.

Students will be able to receive updates on their favourite careers direct to their email address. In order to do this, students will be asked to register their email address.
Go to: www.Jobjump.com.au enter Elderslie high school, our password is hedgehog.

Parents are also able to register at home.

If students change their mind and no longer want to investigate a Career for which they have registered they can remove their interest.

Give it a go and find a new exciting career!

**UOW Discovery Day**
On Tuesday, 3 February, 50 Year 12 students attended the Discovery Day at the Wollongong Campus. Each student selected various topics/ course pathways to investigate during the day. Nutrition, Chemistry, Nursing, Teaching, Business, Politics and Law were popular choices.

Quotes from students included:
- Fantastic day,
- I am not as worried about my choices for next year now,
- They explained so much about the course,
- Great looking campus
- So many more opportunities than I thought.

**Upcoming Events**
- There will be visits from universities during Term 2 for Years 10 and 12 to discuss subject choices and pathways. Macarthur Careers Expo will be held during June and students from Years 10, 11 and 12 will be offered places to attend.
- Regular emails from employers and colleges will be sent to the DEC email address of students.
- Work Experience possibilities throughout the year.
- Get involved with your life choices visit the Careers Team.

*Heather Rouen and Kate Murray*
*Careers Team*

**YEAR 7 CAMP**
On Monday 16 February, 161 very eager and energetic Year 7 students embarked on a three day trip to the YMCA Camp Yarrumundi.

The hot and humid weather did not interrupt the action-packed program that was planned by the camp leaders. The students were faced with many fun-filled challenges which included; rock climbing, high ropes, cave maze, giant swing, alpine rescue, initiative games, flying fox and kayaking.

The outdoor educational setting provided a unique opportunity for students to display skills which are not always possible in the normal school setting. Be it the physical challenge of camp activities, the challenge of working with others, planning, leadership, problem solving, communication or overcoming fears, every student walked away having grown personally and fostered new friendships.

Special thanks to the teachers who attended; Miss Donaldson, Miss Cavaleri, Mr Nethercott, Miss Golden, Mr Macadam, Mr Tan, Mr Williams, Miss Roberts and Mrs Hovey. These teachers volunteered their time and helped to make the camp a huge success and rewarding experience for the students.

*Mr Atterton*
*Year 7 Advisor*

The following are some students’ accounts of the Year 7 Camp.
- At Yarrumundi we enjoyed 3 days of good food and fun camp activities. We participated in loads of different activities. I believe that apart from having fun, we learnt some excellent team building skills.
- Overall, I had fun and I’m sure everyone else who attended had an enjoyable experience also. I would highly recommend the camp to anyone who wants to have a good time. Breanna Craig (7O)
- Year 7 camp was great! One of the first activities I did was kayaking which was awesome except for the mud. On the second day our group’s activities were rock climbing, high ropes, cave maze and the flying fox which were all fun.
- On the last day we were standing on a rectangle see-saw with 19 people on it all at once. However, the worst thing was we had to hold it still for five seconds without talking. How was I supposed to do that! Out of every activity my favourite would have to be the giant swing. As all this happened I made new friends. Montana Freeman (7O)
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. We have, once again, started with cherry tomatoes (let’s hope they will be as successful as they were last year) and a range of lettuces. We have also planted some capsicum so are hoping to be able to make pizza as well as our famous tomato soup this year.

Year 7 students have received their chicks 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.

Year 8 students are looking at organic vegetable production and the concept of permaculture. They did a fantastic job of weeding the very overgrown Mandala garden and a few lucky students found some Boysenberries ready to eat. The berry vines are thriving and we hope to have a bumper harvest later in the year.

Year 9 are looking at Egg Production and watching the development of some chicken eggs in our incubator. Some of the class are also preparing the report on our Layers which needs to accompany our entry in this section of the Easter Show.

Year 10 are studying Beef Production and students who attend our Easter Show excursion will be able to see the wide range of different beef breeds that we have been looking at in class. They are also beginning to think about their individual research projects that they will be carrying out later in the year.

Year 11 Agriculture students are about to begin their Farm Case Study. This will give them the opportunity to collect data and analyse some soil samples in situ as well.

Year 12 Agriculture students have just completed their unit on plant production and, after their Half Yearly Examinations, will be looking at Animal Production.

Our first Animal Nursery for the year is on Saturday 7 March at Cobbitty Markets. We have had a lot of interest from some of the Year 7 students and I’m sure the older volunteers will make them feel welcome and guide them through the routine on the day.

We are now busy preparing for display in the Paddock to Plate Tent at Camden Show. This year we are featuring Milk Production. We always like to see our Elderslie families at the show so please drop in and say hello – our tent is not far from the wood chopping arena. We will also be entering a small team of poultry in the Schools’ Competition.

Our Brown Swiss Cow, Jenny, has been away on a commercial dairy and will be returning to school so Ms Axam and students from the Brown Swiss Club can prepare her for Camden Show where she will be judged on the Friday.

After Camden Show we’ll be back to school to prepare our team of poultry for Sydney Royal. 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. It is always interesting to compare the growth rates of these birds with the Year 7 layer chicks. Four of our Year 9 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, 2 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 week before this, so students will be able to check out our results. (Please don’t forget that payment for this excursion needs to be made to the student office by Monday, 9 March).

All Agriculture students should, by now, have received their Bulb Fundraising forms. This year we are hoping to raise enough money to purchase some Anglo Nubian dairy goats. We ask that all order forms and money be returned to the student office by Tuesday 10 March which will allow us to distribute bulbs before the end of Term 1.

Megan Atkinson Agriculture Teacher

HISTORY

Rome, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Paris & the Western Front
A Study Tour for Elderslie High School – 2015

Tour dates: April 1 – 16, 2015
An amazing opportunity awaits twenty four senior Ancient and Modern History students from EHS over the next month.

These students (seven from Yr 11 and seventeen from Yr 12), accompanied by Ms Lysaught, Mr Raeburn and Ms White, will be experiencing aspects of the senior history courses for themselves by actually travelling to Europe and visiting breathtaking sites and cities.

The tour includes the following amazing experiences -:

• the Bay of Naples, Rome, Paris, Ypres (Belgium), Somme (Northern France).
- A full day in Pompeii with specialist archaeologist as guide (Estelle Lazer)
- A visit to Herculaneum and the National Archaeological Museum in Naples
- A tour of the city of Rome: the Forum, Colosseum, Capitoline Hill and museums, Vatican Museums, St Peter’s Basilica and a chance to explore the piazzas and fountains of the historic city centre by foot.
- 3 days exploring Western Front WWI battlefields in Belgium and France
- Participation in a memorial service at the Menin Gate, Ypres
- Three days exploring Paris, taking a panoramic city tour, climbing the Eiffel Tower, visiting the Louvre galleries, strolling the Left Bank and visiting the vast palace and gardens of Versailles.

The students will be privileged to learn from recognised Australian experts at key sites. These include Dr Estelle Lazer who is an Australian archaeologist with an international reputation for her work on the human skeletal remains at Pompeii. She teaches at both the University of Sydney and the University of NSW, and also battlefield historians who will accompany the tour as we explore the WW1 trench systems of the Western Front.

The trip is organised through Academy Travel. It will be a brilliant opportunity for students to learn first-hand about crucial HSC topics in senior history, as well as experience the thrill of travelling to amazing destinations.

**History Extension 2015**

History Extension is an exciting course offered at Elderslie High School which aims to extend our students and further develop their passion for history. Oscar Wilde once said, “Any fool can make history, but it takes a genius to write it.” In History Extension our very own geniuses examine the ways history has been written and rewritten over time and the reasons why these portrayals change. We currently have six students undertaking this challenging course, and they are almost half-way through writing their History Extension Major Works: a 2500 word essay examining an area of interest to show how and why the history of that topic has been constructed. These students and their areas of interest are:

- Breanna Humphries – William Wallace
- Elizabeth Kell – Anne Boleyn
- Brooke Murray – Messalina, Empress of Rome
- Alexander O’Flynn – Bloody Sunday
- Ashleigh Olliffe – The Titanic
- Holly Stothard – Alexander the Great

**History Essay**

The NSW History Teachers Association offers History Extension students in NSW schools the opportunity to submit their Extension major essays to be read by a panel of judges that select the best essays in the state. Ani Hoxha submitted her essay into the special category of ‘Generation to Generation’ – sponsored by the Sydney Jewish Museum, an essay that is related to Holocaust studies and / or the related area of genocide studies. Ani was successful in winning first prize for her brilliant essay titled:

“Holocaust Revisionism and Obfuscation: The notion of Double Genocide and the Lithuanian Government’s Instrumentalisation of Timothy Snyder’s Bloodlands”.

Ani put an enormous amount of work into researching this essay, and she will be publicly presented with her award and a cheque for $300 on March 24th. Well done Ani!

_M Malcolm_
SCIENCE NEWS

Preliminary BIOLOGY YEAR 11 FIELD TRIP
On Thursday 12 February, 50 students were keen to get mud on their brand new gumboots. The field trip to Minnamurra River and mangrove estuary was led by Ms Woo, Ms Jan and Mr Stuart DeLandre from the Illawarra Environmental Education Centre. Students were taught how to be field biologists, collecting physical data on plant and animal populations and their surroundings. They discovered that each hole in the ground was occupied by a crab that would take down a fallen mangrove leaf to shred and recycle nutrients back into the ecosystem.

After completing booklets students were allowed to don a pair of waders. This activity was welcomed as the day was getting hotter! Students netted the river in plastic waders, catching small fish. A lot of fun was experienced using suction pump plungers. Students sucked up mud and extruded creatures along the riverbank. Other students fished for the first time!

It was an excellent day, with great weather and exemplary behaviour demonstrated by our students.

DEC Student Volunteering Awards for Years 9 and 10

General Information
The DEC Student Volunteering Awards programme 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 DEC Certificates (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond and Black Opal respectively) for completing 20, 40, 60, 80 or over 150 hours of volunteering.

Results
In 2014 our students achieved 3 Black Opal Awards, 5 Diamond Awards, 10 Gold Awards, 12 Silver Awards and 14 Bronze Awards. Two students logged in volunteer hours over 200 hours over the two years.

This is representative of many of our Peer Mentors, SRC Leadership Team, Duke of Edinburgh Award students, Peer Reading Tutors, exam reader /writers, Stage Crew, Referees and Animal Nursery helpers, who are volunteering regularly Volunteering can be undertaken anywhere, anytime, just give your time for free and make a difference.

Now is the time to log onto the site and begin or continue to enter your hours to be eligible for certificates later this 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 required assistance see Mrs Rouen, Mr Kafataris or Miss Zammit for help enrolling.

Mrs Rouen, Mr Kafataris and Miss Zammit

TAS – Home Economics

YEAR 8 CHILD STUDIES
Year 8 Child Studies has been enjoying retracing their family tree. They have been investigating with their parents their family history, and discovering many amazing stories.

This term we have also been participating in a class baby photo guessing competition and studying genetic inheritance and how it determines an individual’s characteristics.

Our next project is to design and decorate a Time Capsule to capture all their life long memories and information for future generations about their life up to today. This will help students identify early childhood experiences and the impact these have on a child’s wellbeing.
CAPA

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 and Emily Morgan from Year 11 and Hannah Trethewy, Deni Hoxha, Ashleigh McMurdo, Lillian Martin, Joshua Lenard, Lillian Ralston and Gillian Kowalick from Year 10. 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 Camden High School. Good luck team!

Ms S Dennis

South Pacific is coming to Elderslie High School
This year Elderslie High School will see the return of a Musical Performance. We will be presenting South Pacific. Come along and join in all of the fun as Elderslie High School sings, dances and embraces an island paradise during World War II. If you enjoy Musicals then you will really love South Pacific. 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, 10 March, 2015 from 3.25 pm – 8.30 pm in the School Hall. The first All Day Rehearsal is on Thursday, 2 April, 2015 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. South Pacific will be presented to the school community on the 25 June – 27 June, 2015 at the School Hall.

Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

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 2015.

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the CAPA Information Evening on Tuesday, 10 March, 2015 in the School Hall, we hope you gained some valuable information.

The Dance-a-thon was a great success, with the Elderslie High School students teaming up with students from Mawarra and Elderslie Public School to dance the afternoon away under the direction of our alumni of Dance. Sponsorship money is now due to the Student Office.

Musicians are needed for the Orchestra for all students who are playing Brass or ANY instrument. Please see Ms Hissey or Ms Dennis if you are interested.

Ms Dennis, Ms Donaldson and Ms Grimston-Eason are proud to announce the 2015 members of Dance Ensemble, Dance Transition Ensemble and Dance Company. After a week of tough auditions and decisions the following students have been selected.

Dance Ensemble: Dakoda Alvaro, Lani Baker, Savannah Corcoran, Ella Day-Johnson, Kimbery Deitz, Montana Freeman, Kayla Jancovich, Cassandra McMurdo and Jessica Selems from Year 7; Ashleigh Abboud, Jamie Arru, Jade Carter, Taylah Carter, Amelia Dimarco, Leah Francis and Elleirah Moon from Year 8. These students train on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 – 4.00 pm.

Dance Company: Jamie-Lee Jeans from Year 8, Jayne Lee Bell, Lilibeth Dell, Natalie Finlay and Bethany Kickert from Year; Grace Brand, Ashleigh McMurdo, Ashlee Osborne, Gabriella Price, Isabelle Robinson and Casey Walsh from Year 10, Jordan Freeman and Amelia Ryan from Year 11; Brooke Murray from Year 12. These students train on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Congratulations to the students selected and to all who auditioned.

Dance Transition Program is back for 2015. Our feeder primary schools are very excited about participating. The first rehearsal for this program was on Monday, 2 March, 2015 from 3.25 pm – 5.00 pm in the School Hall. The following students will be participating from Elderslie High School; Savannah Corcoran, Breanna Craig, Ella day-Johnson and Cassandra McMurdo from Year 7, Elleirah Moon and Jamie-Lee Jeans from Year 8. There are still three more places to fill in this ensemble.

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 Uniforms will arrive in a couple of weeks.

Isabelle Robinson and Grace West of Year 10 auditioned for the 2015 State Dance Ensemble/Company. Congratulations to both of the students on their selection, this is a remarkable achievement, well done Isabelle and Grace! Congratulations to Mara Aplin for her selection to the State Senior Drama Ensemble for 2015.

Congratulations to all of the students who attended ONSTAGE and CALLBACK. You represented Elderslie High School admirably.
On Wednesday, 25 February, 2015 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 Tuesday, 31 March, 2015 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 Stage / Hall Crew have reformed for 2015. The operation of this venue is a very challenging task and 22 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.

**CAPA Faculty**

**Talent Quest, 2015**

The Elderslie High School Talent Quest is back for 2015! The Heats are now complete and our finalists have been decided. The Final of the Talent Quest is on Friday, 13 March, 2015 in the School Hall from 6.45 pm. If you are interested in attending tickets are on sale in the Student Office, $6.00 for all or at the door on the evening. The evening will also be featuring performances from some of our performing arts alumni. This is a night not to be missed!!

**CAPA Faculty**

**Gifted and 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 participated in a Workshop day on Thursday, 5 March, 2015. All of the students had a fantastic day! There are three more workshop days planned for the rest of the year.

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. Four of our talented Science students will also be participating in the Transition Science Program. The students will be tutoring budding scientists from our Partner Schools during sport in Weeks 3 and 8 of each term.

Eight of our talented Year 8 students will be participating in the Da Vinci Decathlon at Mount Annan Christian College on Thursday, 12 March, 2014. The students will participate in ten challenges on the day. Good luck to all!

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**

**SPORTS NEWS**

**Elderslie High School Swimming Age Champions 2015**

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<td>Rikki Boys</td>
<td>Breana Craig</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Vanya Kamenjas, Jackson Furtchman</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Alexander Maxwell</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dylan Thorpe</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Nicholas Dawson</td>
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<td>Alexander O’Flynn, Mitchell Dawson</td>
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The 2014 Elderslie High School Swimming carnival was another great success regardless of weather conditions. The carnival atmosphere was again one of fun and excitement with many students competing in races and novelty events. A ‘DJ’ played music to entertain the students throughout the day.

Records broken on the day were:

**Vanya Kamenjas** in the 13 years 50m Freestyle 28:43s, 100m Butterfly 1:10:32, 50m Backstroke 32:67, 100m Freestyle 1:05:28,

**Brittany Stoker** in the 17 years 50m Freestyle 28:22s, 100m Butterfly 1:08:88, 50m Backstroke 32:67, 100m Backstroke 1:09:38, 200m Freestyle 2:20:54,

Congratulations to these students in setting new school records in these events.
The below students represented EHS proudly on the 3 March at Camden Pool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rikki Boys</th>
<th>Jared Presland</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Keighran</td>
<td>Dylan Thorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenden Troy</td>
<td>Troy Chauvin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brianna Smith</td>
<td>Breanna Craig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ahlana Sklenar</td>
<td>Casey Middledor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayley Pendergast</td>
<td>Caitlin Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Dawson</td>
<td>Breanna Welbourn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson Furchtman</td>
<td>Joel Wheeler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximas Sopha</td>
<td>Meg Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klarissa Van Der Saag</td>
<td>Georgia Eggert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Campbell</td>
<td>Erin Holman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aleksandra Ilic</td>
<td>Ella Wooldridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Maxwell</td>
<td>Anneliese Munro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deni Hoxha</td>
<td>Alessandro De Nuntius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monique Munro</td>
<td>Vanya Kamjenas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha Burke</td>
<td>Benjamin Furchtman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan McNeil</td>
<td>Rhiannon Nasko</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily McCarthy</td>
<td>Jaime-Lee Pendergast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittany Stoker</td>
<td>Daniel Taiba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karlee Franek</td>
<td>Taylah Nasko</td>
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**Cross Country News**
The EHS Cross Country is fast approaching. It will be held on Wednesday 1 April (WK 10) at the Bicentennial Equestrian Park in Camden. This is an excellent track for leading into zone. All students are expected to attend the event as part of their Fitness unit of work they participate in during Term 1.

**Other Sporting News**

**Sydney South West Open Girls Softball Team**
Congratulations to Emily Fickel and Gabrielle Plain for their selection into the SSW Open Softball team.

**CHS Cricket**
Congratulations to Hannah Trethewy for being selected for the CHS 1st cricket side and Yardley Polsen for being selected for the CHS 2nds side. The sides will be playing at Bathurst on the 16-17 March.
Good luck in Bathurst!

**Sydney South West Open Girls Cricket Team**
Tiarne McDonald, Tara Brendish, Hannah Trethewy and Yardley Polsen have been selected to represent on the SSW Open Girls Cricket team. This is terrific news.

**Athletics**
Ella Wooldridge has made achievements that are to be admired. Starting on the 24 January at the NSW Country Championships (Newcastle), Ella won the U14 500m and came 2nd in the U14 800mtrs.
On the 31 January she won the 12 year old age category at the Hills Triathlon Penrith. February 6 she also competed at Homebush in the NSW Junior Championships in the 3km race, her PB was 11.37 and she ran 10.55 and has made Nationals. Ella needed to run under 11 minutes for 3km to make Nationals and she did a blistering 42 second PB.

A few months ago Ella was successful in gaining a scholarship with the Sydney Southwest Academy of Sport for Triathlon.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ABOVE LADIES ON THESE AWESOME ACHIEVEMENTS**

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.

Emails can be sent to Ms Jeffries elderslie-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:
- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:
- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conference

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court — Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team:
T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 9244 5129
www.dlec.nsw.gov.au
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NSW Department of Education and Communities
### PROPOSED CALENDAR – More detailed Calendar

*events can be found on our school website*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A</td>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>13 March</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7</td>
<td>Talent Quest</td>
<td>Talent Quest</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Library 7pm</td>
<td>Night 5.30-9.00pm</td>
<td>School Hall 7pm</td>
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<td>8B</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>20 March</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SSW Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Camden Show</td>
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<td>9A</td>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>27 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>10B</td>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>2 April</td>
<td>3 April</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 11 CAPA Evening</td>
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<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
<td>Agriculture Easter Show Excursion</td>
<td>1st Day</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>History Europe Trip Departure</td>
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<td>School Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>21 April</td>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>24 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
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<td>Years 7,11,12 Parent Teacher Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>30 April</td>
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<td>3A</td>
<td>4 May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
<td>School Library 7pm</td>
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Elderslie High School
40-48 Hilder Street
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elderslie-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.elderslie-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Excellence Honour Service

**EHS - Proud to be a public school**