



# PARENT BULLETIN

## FEBRUARY 2021

### Upcoming Events

February 8	CAPA Information Evening (via ZOOM)
February 9	School Photo Day
	P&C Meeting
February 15	School Photos Catch Up Day
February 24	Danceathon
February 26	Zone Swimming Carnival
March 2	Year 6 into 7 Information Evening (TBC)
March 3-5	Year 7 Camp

*See back page for more details*



### Inside This Issue

Principal's Report	1-3
Deputy Principals' Report	4-5
SRC Report	5-6
Sport Report	6-7
Careers Report	7
Anti-Racism Contact Officer	7
Library Report	7-8
Year 8 Year Adviser Report	8
Mathematics & Numeracy Report	8-9
UNSW Museum of Human Disease	9
School Photos	9
Scripture	9
Debate & Public Speaking Update	9-10
CAPA Update	10-11
Faces of EHS	11
Catching Up with Our Alumni	12
Proposed Calendar	13
STYMIE – Parent Information	14

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to the new school year! On behalf of our staff, I would like to extend a special welcome to our new students and their families. We hope you will enjoy your years with us at Elderslie High School as we embark on a journey together in which we focus not just on the academic pathway of each of our students but also of the development of the raft of other skills including social skills that young people need to have in the world beyond school.

For our new Year 7 students, our transition program in 2020 was not quite what we hoped it would be due to the restrictions that COVID placed upon us. We were pleased to finally be able to welcome you for Orientation Day in December and we hope that the experiences you had on that day will support your sense of familiarity as you take those first steps as high school students this year. To the parents of our new Year 7 students, I want to reassure you – we understand how anxious many of you are, especially if this is your first child to go to high school. You are watching your child go from being the eldest students in their primary schools to becoming the youngest, and in most cases, the smallest of the children which can certainly have a startling effect when you are doing the school drop off in the morning! Whatever you are worried about though, please know that we are only a phone call or an email away and we are most definitely here to help.

High schools are big places and we have a lot of staff so sometimes parents are unsure who they should ask for when they call. Here are some general suggestions on the best points of contact:

- Classroom issue in ONE subject – your child's class teacher or the Head Teacher of that subject. All Head Teachers names are listed in the front of the EHS Student diaries as well as on our website.
- Assessment tasks in ONE subject- your child's class teacher or the Head Teacher of that subject.
- Absences from school – Front office staff.
- Concerns across all subjects – your child's Year Adviser.
- Social concerns - your child's Year Adviser.
- Learning Support issues – Head Teacher Welfare or one of our Learning & Support Teachers.
- Significant academic issues or disciplinary issues – Deputy Principal for your child's year group.

Please note however, that our teaching staff are on class for a large proportion of the day so if you contact us and the person you wish to speak to is not available, they will indeed endeavour to contact you as soon as they are able.

For your further information, the following table provides a list of key welfare staff that you can contact:

Year Group	Year Adviser	Deputy Principal
7	Mrs Donna Castillo	Ms Natalie Martin
8	Ms Gillian Sproule	Mrs Joanne Amos
9	Ms Victoria Petinos	Mr Dale White
10	Ms Victoria Jeffries	Ms Natalie Martin
11	Mrs Maggie Buist	Mrs Joanne Amos
12	Ms Linda Le	Mr Dale White

### Staffing News

As always, the start of a new school year brings a number of staff changes. We welcome back long-term permanent staff including Ms Catherine Golden and Mrs Kim Castelli, both of whom had taken maternity leave and are returning in a part time capacity.

In terms of new permanent staff, we welcome Ms Marilyn Atherton to the TAS faculty in the role of classroom teacher.

At present we are also in the early stages of running new recruitment panels to appoint a new Head Teacher Welfare and a new Head Teacher Teaching & Learning. As parents might expect, I would have liked these roles to be filled from Day 1 however this was not possible due a range of issues. I am also anticipating the appointment of a new Head Teacher Administration.

In the interim, we have a number of wonderful classroom teachers taking the opportunity to relieve in executive roles this year. Each of them has been successful at merit selection panels and we are very grateful for their leadership in the roles they are about to fulfil. They are:

Ms Ashlee Roberts – Relieving Head Teacher Human Society & Its Environment (HSIE)

Mr Scott Atterton – Relieving Head Teacher Welfare

Ms Teresa Wilson – Relieving Head Teacher Administration

Additionally, we welcome a range of new temporary teacher who will be with us for contracts of varying lengths. They include:

Mr Chris Waters- Classroom Teacher, Mathematics

Ms Elke Birt - Classroom Teacher, Mathematics

Ms Vanessa Lam - Classroom Teacher, HSIE

Ms Geraldine Boreland – Classroom Teacher, HSIE

Mr Warwick Goodsell – Classroom Teacher, HSIE

Ms Kirsten Lardner - Classroom Teacher, PDHPE

Ms Kristy Chambers – Classroom Teacher, PDHPE

Ms Danielle Corradini - Classroom Teacher, PDHPE

### Student Successes

The HSC results of our class of 2020 were released on Friday, December 18 along with the ATAR results. We were delighted with the success of our students including the 21 Band 6 results earned by students of Elderslie High School students and the announcement that Lachlan Taylor made it onto the Top Achievers List as the 5<sup>th</sup> placed student in NSW in Business Studies. This is a remarkable achievement for Lachlan and is a huge endorsement of his incredible work ethic as well as the outstanding guidance given to him by his teacher, Ms Farrar. For the information of our parents, the Top Achievers List is a list of the top ten students in the state in each and every subject, irrespective of whether they attended a public, independent or Catholic school. Elderslie High School has a long and distinguished record of success with the Top Achievers List having now had SIX students reach this level in the last six years. Lachlan certainly should be congratulated on this result.

In further HSC news, we had some wonderful ATAR results with the Dux going to David Truong with an ATAR of 97.7 closely followed by a number of other outstanding ranks in the mid 90's from Lachlan Taylor, Nathan Ravello, Mahnoor Imran and Danielle Di Girolamo.

Of course, I am a great believer in HSC results only being one measure of student success. I am thrilled for every one of our students who secured a place at university or TAFE, or who have been successful in gaining employment and in so doing, striving for the success that we have always encouraged. We wish all our exiting class of 2020 all the very best in their future endeavours.

In another arena, I am delighted to announce that Poppy La Hay of Year 11 and Ben Kitchen of Year 9 were both announced as successful recipients of Go Scholarships from the Public Education Foundation. "Go Scholarships" are for Aboriginal students and are highly sought after and prestigious awards that will support Indigenous students over their high school lives. Poppy and Ben are both very worthy recipients and should be commended. I would also like to thank Ms Crossingham and all our staff from the Aboriginal Education Team that have made this possible.

### The Oak Grove Gets a Facelift

After years of planning, the part of our playground known as the Oak Grove has finally commenced its facelift. In what was always the most downtrodden part of the playground, we have used the holiday period to complete a significant chunk of the renovating including the removal of the old She-Oak trees which were in very poor condition along with new drainage, renovation of the existing solar shelters, new seating, landscaping and synthetic turfing to the surface. The result is a very much needed improvement in our students' playground which I am delighted to deliver for them. At the time of writing, the finished product is still not quite complete and final touches will take place in the first couple

of weeks or so of the new term after which the students can start using the area. I would like to thank all the students, staff and P&C members for their consultation and input into this design. I would also like to acknowledge the Federal funding grant of \$15,000 we were able to utilise within this project. I have included some photos to date and will be sure to show you the final product in the next edition of the Parent Bulletin.



#### **COVID Update**

All public schools in NSW remain subject to the COVID guidelines published by the Department of Education which are, in turn, informed by NSW Health. As we return to school, here is a brief summary of information for parents.

- If your child is displaying even the mildest of flu-like symptoms, you are required to keep them home from school and take them for a COVID test. Evidence of the negative results must be sent to the school office **BEFORE** the child can resume school, meaning that they must self-isolate until the results are released.
- Parents are still encouraged to interact with the school via the telephone and email wherever possible but are now allowed to visit the uniform shop and attend appointments with key staff.
- Parents and Citizens Meetings can continue to take place in a face-to-face capacity as long as they are after hours.
- We are allowed to turn our bubblers back on however we still strongly encourage students to bring their own drink bottles to use at the refilling stations.
- The school will be using the NSW COVID Safe App and all visitors to the school, including all parents will be required to sign in through scanning the QR code in the front office and various places around the school. This will be in addition to the external visitors form that parents are currently asked to sign.
- Students, staff and visitors are currently not required to wear a mask at school but should they wish to, this will be permitted.
- Students are required however, to wear face masks on buses in accordance with the current NSW public health order when travelling to and from school. This will also extend to other occasions when students may use buses

such as for sport or excursions. All parents should supply masks for their children to wear on these occasions if they are over 12 years old.

#### **Communication Channels at EHS**

Elderslie High School has a number of official communication channels through which we inform our parents and community members about what is going on at the school. I am aware of course that there is an unofficial parent Facebook page which may well help parents to connect with each other but official school announcements, news, notes and updates are only communicated through our official channels which are:

- Email
- Skoolbag App
- Elderslie High School Official Facebook page
- Elderslie High School website
- Twitter

Some parents might wonder why we have so many platforms for our communication. The reason is because we find that through the use of multiple platforms that we are more likely to reach more parents. In addition, some platforms are for a different audience such as Twitter which, while followed by some parents and students, seems to be avidly followed by the education community which means we shine a spotlight on the activities of the school for the state's educators to see.

As parents, I ask that if you are unsure about a school practice or decision, that you contact us at the school, either by phone or email and ask us directly. This will ensure that you get the correct answer which we hope will clarify matters for you.

#### **Parent & Citizens Meetings**

A warm welcome is extended to all parents who would like to attend our Parents & Citizens Association meetings. P&C Meetings are an excellent way to stay in touch with what is going on at the school. We meet in the library twice per term on Tuesday evenings in Week 3 and 7 from 7pm. P&C Meetings are attended by the Principal, Deputy Principals and faculty representatives. Parents are addressed by students from our Student Representative Council about leadership endeavours within the school and a faculty presentation takes place on each occasion meaning that we certainly do a whole lot more than talk about fund raising. P&C members are always the first parents we call on to participate in recruiting new staff for the school so members get to have a real say in the staff that are in front of their children. Our first P&C meeting for the year will be on Tuesday, February 9.

*Kind regards,*  
**Mrs Jenny Lawrence**  
**Principal**

## **FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS**

### **Ms Natalie Martin (DP Years 7 & 10)**

#### **Year 7**

Year 7 have been welcomed to Elderslie High School and they have started to settle into their new classes, getting to know their teachers and making new friends. There are 6 classes for Year 7. 2 classes are extension classes and the remaining four are mixed ability classes. There are no bottom classes in Year 7. Students in the extension classes were selected based on data we received from the primary schools and positions in these classes are subject to change after the first few assessments.

Year 7 remain together in their co-hort for roll call each morning so that we can provide extensive support for Year 7 at the beginning of each day. This structure also helps with communicating messages and teaching students our school wide behavioural expectations.

Year 7 have a camp in Week 6 of this term, which is another opportunity to get to know each other whilst engaging in the fun and challenging activities provided by the camp organisers. Year 7 have also participated in an Assessment Guidelines assembly which emphasises school assessment policy and the importance on completing assessment tasks. The assessment booklets can be accessed on our school website.

If you have any questions or concerns your initial point of contact with the school should be Mrs Castillo who is the Year 7 Adviser.

#### **Year 10**

Year 10 students have also participated in an Assessment Guidelines assembly which emphasises school assessment policy and the importance on completing assessment tasks. If students in Year 10 get behind on classwork and fail to submit their assessment tasks they may be at risk of not qualifying for their RoSA (Record of School Achievement). The assessment booklets can be accessed on our school website. Students who are not eligible for their RoSA may not be able to progress to Year 11 or may not be able to transition successfully to TAFE. In some cases, students may be required to repeat Year 10.

Students who wish to leave school at the end of Year 10 can meet with Mrs Whitfield, our Careers Adviser who will help students to do work experience, explore TAFE options, traineeships and apprenticeships. She can be located on the top floor of the school library and parents are welcome to call her to discuss post-school options for their child.

#### **Year 12 2020**

Our 2020 Year 12 students successfully completed their HSC examinations. They need to be congratulated for their resilience and ability to get through all of the challenges thrown at them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Collaborative Professionalism**

This year the three Deputy Principals will team teaching with 65% of teaching staff across 2021 as a strategy to contribute towards the achievement of one of the school directions, Enhancing Learning Culture by supporting teachers to promote student engagement. The support will be provided in the form of instructional coaching as a collaborative partnership using research informed teaching practices. Professional growth of teachers occurs through modelling practice, classroom observation and reflection, joint problem solving and conversations about teaching practice. Collaborative professionalism develops the student and the teacher by providing a positive learning environment where students can remain focused on learning whilst in class.

Collaborative professionalism aims to create a strong culture in which collaborative planning, reflection and peer coaching are embedded in everyday school life, so that teachers are supported, and support one another, to continuously develop their skills and knowledge.

#### **Ms Natalie Martin**

##### **Deputy Principal**

##### **Years 7 & 10**

### **Mrs Joanne Amos (DP Years 8 & 11)**

#### **Welcome Back to 2021**

Welcome to the beginning of the 2021 school year! I am very excited to be working this year with the students of Years 8 and 11. I am really looking forward to seeing our Year 8's hopefully enjoy a full year of face to face learning. I am also delighted to be working alongside some great Year Advisers who have responsibility for the year groups in my care including Miss Gillian Sproule (Year 8) and Mrs Margaret Buist (Year 11). We have lots of fantastic things planned for each year group to look forward to.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

The school assessment guidelines will be distributed to all students, with each faculty issuing their own assessment schedule and students viewing a presentation which outlines the importance of following the school's policy around attendance and completion of assessment tasks including illness, extensions and misadventure procedures. If any student is absent from the presentation, they will need to see their relevant deputy principal to collect and

sign for the documentation that was issued. A copy of all assessment guidelines will also be available on the school's website.

### **Attendance and Lateness**

The start of the new school year is the perfect time to establish good routines in the morning to ensure that students arrive to school on time. It is very important that students attend roll call on time to have their name marked off and to hear the Daily Notices. This gives them time to settle in and be aware of any variations to their day, as well as hear of events that may be of interest to them. Junior students are expected to be at school prior to the warning bell at 8:55am and Senior students should be at school before period 0 at 8:40am.

Students should only be absent from school if there is a valid reason and then when they return to school they need to provide a note to explain their absence. Parents can also explain absences by responding to the automated text message. If students arrive late to school they must report directly to the student office to receive a late note that they then present to the class teacher.

### **Stymie**

Our school adopted the Stymie platform in Term 4 last year as a way for all students to report any cases of bullying, whether they were impacted directly or were aware of it occurring to another student. In Week 2, all students viewed a PowerPoint explaining how to access the platform and issued an information sheet to attach to their diaries. For further information, please read the information sheet for parents provided in the bulletin.

**Mrs Joanne Amos**  
*Deputy Principal*  
**Years 8 & 11**

### **Dale White (DP Years 9 & 12)**

Welcome back to all students at Elderslie High especially students from Years 9 and 12.

Hopefully all students had a safe and restful break and are now ready to get back into their learning. There is no better time to improve upon the routines students have in the morning to be prepared for the day than the start of the year and I encourage all students and parents to discuss and plan appropriate and successful strategies. Year 12 students have quickly resumed their lessons and refocusing on the next assessment tasks and their ongoing preparations for the HSC. As I mentioned to Year 12 on their first day, the exams will be here closer than they think and there is no better time than now to start good habits for study and preparation. Along with the emphasis for learning, behaviour and legacy for Year 12 students in

2021 I encourage them to enjoy their final year at school. Enjoy the company of their friends, make new friends and make this year a positive last year of schooling. There is no better time to start this by attending the school swimming carnival on Thursday 4/4/21. Year 12 can dress up, participate and be the best role models they can be.

Year 9 are settling in well to the start of the year, meeting their new teachers and new classes. It is an exciting time for Year 9 as they begin their chosen elective subjects. Students will have the opportunity to adjust their elective subjects in a couple of weeks if there is space available in a different course. Successful completion of Year 9 is paramount this year. If students are wishing to move towards an apprenticeship or traineeship in 2022 they must first successfully complete Year 9 to be eligible as a minimum standard. I encourage all students to focus on completing all tasks, staying focused in the classroom and trying their best on all occasions to allow them the best opportunity to succeed. If you have any questions or queries please give me a call at school on 46581110.

**Mr Dale White**  
*Deputy Principal*  
**Years 9 & 12**

### **SRC Update 2020**

What a whirlwind! Despite all the restrictions, and social distancing requirements, SRC students showcased their immense resilience and willingness to make 2020 as positive as possible. As we start 2021, we would like to thank our schooling community for all their support during last year. The contributions of students, parents and staff to support SRC driven initiatives assisted in raising over \$10,000 for various charities, including Beyond Blue, World Vision, The Leukemia Foundation, The Children's Medical Research Institute, Bowel Cancer Australia, Cancer Council Australia and our local fire brigade.

We would like to also like to thank all those who purchased toys for our Festive Toy Drive, with the SRC team delivering over 300 toys to Westmead Children's Hospital prior to Christmas. The overwhelming response from the community was incredibly heart warming, particularly with the difficulties by many families. We hope for your continued support, with a new team ready to organise and prepare a range of events and activities for this year.



We would like to congratulate the following students on their nominations and acceptance of their role in the **2021 SRC Team**.

**Year 8**

- Riley Andrews
- Alisa Nguyen
- Arianna King
- Angus McKenzie
- Oscar Lontos
- Adri Van Niekerk
- Jayden Tasker
- Bethanie Collins
- Kaliska Nenadic

**Year 9**

- Joshua Charlton
- Haley O'Brien
- Xavier Laundess
- Emma Evans
- Jeremy White
- Caterina Webber
- Caitlin Short
- Makayla Crick
- Wil Daley

**Year 10**

- Jeremiah Armstrong
- Edward De La Mare
- Ella Clarke
- James Steel
- Mickayla Safar
- Claire Stanley
- Anna Choudhary
- Savannah Nenadic

**Ms Mulligan**  
**SRC Co-Ordinator**

**SPORT REPORT**

Elderslie High School is well known for its talent and strength with students being victorious in a variety of sports. With COVID guidelines relaxing, 2021 will be no exception with numerous students predicted to excel in both team and individual sports throughout the year. We have retained the Clutha Cup for 22 years (most wins at zone carnivals).

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

We kicked off our sporting year with the EHS Annual Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to all of our attendees and participants on a fantastic day filled with fun, music and school spirit. The age champions of the carnival will be announced in the next Parent Bulletin.

We are looking forward to the Macarthur Zone Swimming Championship coming up on **Friday 26<sup>TH</sup> February**. Students who have qualified for this carnival will be informed and the relevant notes will go home shortly.

**2021 PASS CAMPS**

Students who have elected to study PASS in Year 9 and 10 will be provided with the opportunity to attend a camp to support outcomes studied in class.

Year 10 PASS will be offered a snow camp. Students stay at Berridale and then spend their days participating in ski lessons and individual practice. This camp is held in August.

Year 9 PASS have the chance to attend a surf camp at Erina in which students will have daily surf lessons. This will be held in December.

Participation in these camps is dependent upon student behaviour and participation in class activities.

**CHANGING FOR PE LESSONS**

With the release of the current COVID guidelines, students will need to continue to wear their PE uniform to school on days they have PE or Elective PASS. Unfortunately, the guidelines limit the use of the change room with multiple stages and this modification will ensure all students are dressed appropriately to participate.

Students need to ensure that they are prepared with leather shoes for any Science or TAS subjects they have that day, such as Food Technology, Wood Work.

The hygiene rules involving students changing in and out of sport uniform on PE days will be back in place once COVID guidelines have been relaxed and students will be expected to go back to the old way in the future. We will not be implementing this current relaxation of rules permanently.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

### **SCHOOL SPORT**

A reminder that online permission note and payment should already be completed for Wednesday Afternoon School Sport. Students should be wearing their PE uniform every Wednesday and bringing sun protection including hat and sunscreen. A water bottle is also necessary.

Year 7- Group 1, are participating in swimming for the first five weeks and need to be prepared each Wednesday with swimmers and a towel. Goggles would be beneficial if possible.

**Ms Z. Crossingham**  
**Head Teacher – PDHPE**

### **CAREERS REPORT**

Students are reminded that the next White Card course will run on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March starting at 8.30am sharp. Numbers are capped at 20 and we cannot save spots. Students need to see me for a permission note and payment needs to be made online or through the front office. I will be running more White Card courses throughout the year for those who miss out on this one.

The University of Wollongong Year 12 Open/Discovery Day will be going ahead on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Students must have registered online to attend. Students are reminded to bring face masks to wear on the bus on the day.

TVET students are reminded of the importance of attending their TAFE classes every week. They must contact me via email if they are sick or unable to attend.

Any business hosting our students for Work Experience must show me their COVID 19 Business Safety Plan before I can issue any paperwork. Students are reminded that we have a process for Work Experience and this must be followed every time. Please remind your child to come and see me if they have any questions.

We have a terrific resource in our Careers website. You will find it here – [www.eldersliehighcareers.com](http://www.eldersliehighcareers.com)

You will find information on Post School Options, University Information and Courses, Apprenticeships, Defence Forces and useful links for helping your teen with Career Planning.

Students can register on the website and complete a variety of Career Planning activities. They are also able to write and store their resumes and cover letters and access these at any time.

I am looking forward to seeing your child in the Careers office soon.

**Mrs R. Whitfield**  
**Careers Adviser**

### **ANTI-RACISM CONTACT OFFICER**

In line with NSW DoE policy, all forms of racism are unacceptable at Elderslie High School. No student, employee, parent, caregiver or community member should experience racism, including direct or indirect harassment within the learning and working environments of the department.

A member of staff in all public schools must undergo training to become the school's ARCO (Anti-Racism Contact Officer). The ARCO's at Elderslie High are Miss Jan, who is in her fourth year in this role, as well as Ms Woo, who will be starting her second year in this role. Both staff members can be found in the Science staffroom.

The ARCO's role has four main aspects as follows: mediator role, procedural role, educational role and monitoring role. Most importantly, Elderslie High School staff will continue to promote acceptance of and respect for Australia's cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. Anti-racism education is taught in our classrooms directly and indirectly and we make every effort to ensure our school is free from discrimination.

As the Anti-Racism Contact Officers, we can support staff, students, and any member of the school community who wishes to raise a complaint of racism or just talk about their experiences of racism as a target or bystander.

**Miss Jan and Ms Woo, ARCO**

### **LIBRARY REPORT**

Welcome back everyone! I will be continuing to serve as your Teacher Librarian and look forward to working with you all to achieve your personal best as we enter the new school year.

Our library offers a range of exciting services. We can help with your assessment tasks and you can print them out using your Student ID or Login. Please ensure that you are organised since these assessment periods can get VERY busy! Bring your finished task on a USB or have it stored where it can be easily accessed on Google Drive, and if possible try to print the day before to avoid the crowds.

We also have a variety of fiction and non-fiction books for you to borrow and read during DEAR. Reading for 20 minutes a day has a number of proven benefits. It can:

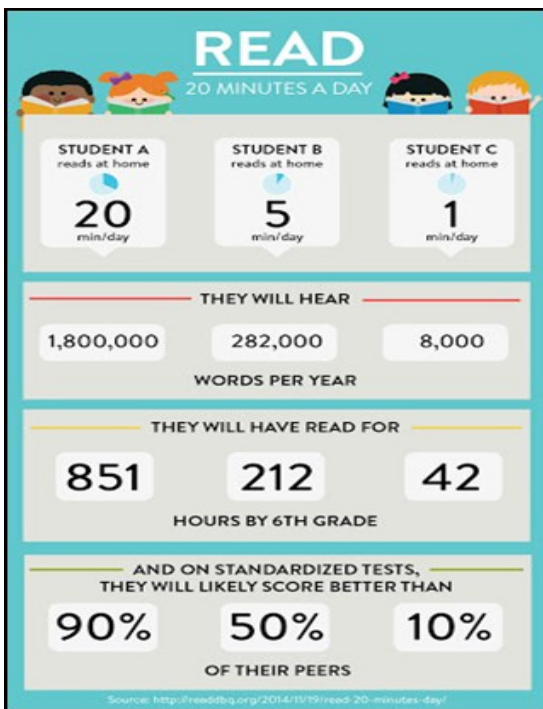
- Improve your vocabulary and communication skills
- Give you a different perspective on the world
- Improve your ability to empathise with others
- Reduce your stress and anxiety
- Inspire you to do wonderful things!
- 

So come on down and borrow a book! If you're not sure what you'd like, I'm more than happy to help you find something that will spark your interest.

We also have a variety of eBooks available. To access these, download the *ePlatform* app, search for Elderslie High School and log in using your student ID.

If you have any questions, need help with your assessments or have book recommendations, feel free to pop in for a chat!

**Miss D. Lysaught**



## YEAR 8 YEAR ADVISER REPORT

You survived Year 7 in 2020, well done! Here's a list of ways you can help your child settle in to Year 8.

- **Mobile Phones:** If you need to contact (call or text) your child, please do so at break times - lunch is 12:15-12:50. This will help students to learn proper phone etiquette. If it is urgent, contact the school office and they will get the message to your child.

- **Diary:** EHS supplies every student with a diary. Check the diary weekly, make sure homework and assessments are being written in. Encourage your child to get out their diary every night to prepare for the next day.
- **School supplies:** Check weekly that they have a calculator, pens and tissues – these items seem to disappear!
- **Homework:** Learning requires more than just sitting in the classroom. Your child has Athletics and Stile to do every week, and should be reading a book. They should also be revising frequently – one way is to create summary sheets for every topic in every subject that they study (if they are not sure where to start, remind them about the Maths summary sheets from last year, they are a good format to use).
- **Social Media:** Monitor what your child is accessing online, make sure they are accountable. A few arguments now are better than dealing with the consequences later. Set a curfew – we see a lot of tired students who have been online far past bedtime.
- **Assessment tasks:** Assessment Guidelines will be handed out shortly and are available on the school website. The booklet includes a calendar of due dates – add these to your calendar. Encourage students to start tasks early and seek help from their teacher and Learning Support. Assessments contribute to your child's report as well as develop their learning and understanding.
- **Communication:** I use Google Classroom to communicate to the entire year group. If you would like to receive Guardian Updates of these communications, please email the school, attention to Miss Sproule, so that I can add you to these updates. Students would benefit from using the Google Calendar app on their phone. It links to the Google Classroom app and will keep them informed of school events.

*Kind Regards,  
Ms Gillian Sproule  
Year 8 Year Adviser*

## MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

Moving into 2021 provides an exciting opportunity for the students. While 2020 was most certainly challenging, it also provided a chance to review our practices and refocus our priorities. As such, our school has been able to trial a numeracy program called 'Boost' which was run fortnightly to our Year 8 students in Semester 2 of last year. This program provides students with targeted learning opportunities that will ultimately drive student performance and translate into improved results. We believe the program has great potential and will be running it again this year to all Year 8 students and we are excited to see our students performing to their potential as they progress through school.



In the Mathematics faculty, we have had some staff movements with long time member Mr Townsend and Miss Xu moving on in 2021. This has meant we are fortunate enough to recruit the highly experienced and capable Mr Waters and Ms Birt. They will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that will enable our faculty to continue to deliver a strong mathematics program to our students.

Students and families are reminded to ensure that they are prepared each lesson, meaning they **MUST** have their calculator. If they do not currently have one for any reason, it is imperative they purchase one (which they can do from our Student Office or from a retailer such as Officeworks) as their learning will be greatly impeded if they do not have one. Mathematics will continue to be our online program of choice for our junior students and forms the basis for their homework requirements. It is advised that students spend 2 – 3 half hour sessions a week completing their relevant tasks on Mathematics. Students should also be striving to perform to their best on any assessment and need to engage in sound study when preparing for those as well.

I look forward to seeing some fantastic results in 2021.

**Mr M. Sambuco**  
**Head Teacher – Mathematics**

## **UNSW MUSEUM OF HUMAN DISEASE**

After an early 7:15am start at Macarthur Station, the year 12 Biology classes, Ms Woo and I wore our COVID-safe masks and hopped on a train and bus to go to the UNSW Museum of Human Disease in December last year. Students learned about infectious and non-infectious diseases as part of HSC Module 7 and 8, and discovered a newfound respect for those individuals that choose to donate their body to science. The real-life specimens provided invaluable insight into the ravaging conditions the human body can face, from cancers and cirrhosis, to confronting specimens like the teratoma (for the curious: Google it, but this does come with a content warning!). It was great to take the students to the university where I spent four years obtaining my degree, and students could relate their experience to their own goals for the future.

**Miss Jan**



## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School photographs will be taken on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Parents will receive an information note outlining the procedures for the day shortly. Students will also be receiving individual order envelopes closer to the day. Please ensure that each student returns their own envelope on Photo Day even if payment is made in the eldest child's envelope. All students will have their photograph taken, whether they are purchasing or not and will also need to return their envelope. Please enclose exact money as we are not able to give change. If your child is absent on the day, the photographers will be returning to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February for any students who missed out. All students are reminded that full summer school uniform must be worn, following the school uniform policy on jewellery and facial piercings. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms Crossingham in the PDHPE Faculty.

## **SCRIPTURE – YEAR 7 & 8**

Please return the permission note for Scripture if you would like your child to participate in Religious Instruction.

**Kind Regards,**  
**Mr Wayne Douglas**  
**Religion Co-Ordinator**

## **DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING UPDATE**

Debating and Public Speaking are back at Elderslie High School for 2021. Preliminary meetings will be taking place in the next few weeks for students interested in participating in any of these activities. Competitions will be under way later this term. Due to COVID Guidelines, many of the events will take place as Zoom Meetings and on Google Teams. So, if there are any students who are interested in participating in any of these activities in 2021 please see Ms Dennis in the Studio for more information.

**Ms S. Dennis**

## **A MUSICAL REVUE is coming to Elderslie High School**

Our annual Musical has become a tradition at Elderslie High School. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions and guidelines we were unable to present our Musical for 2020, **SCHOOL OF ROCK**. It would have been our sixteenth musical.

It is with even more regret, the CAPA Faculty have made the difficult decision to cancel Musical for 2021. There are several reasons why we have made this decision, they are:

- Our preparations for Musical usually commence at the start of Term 4 the year before. Due to the restrictions on group singing we are unable to commence our rehearsals and we are unsure when this restriction will be lifted.
- COVID guidelines from NSW Health and the Department of Education are still subject to change, making it difficult to plan large events.
- Current COVID guidelines still recommend students work in stage groups and we are unsure when this restriction may be lifted.
- For students to participate in Musical they must be studying a CAPA subject or be a member of one of our CAPA Ensembles. We are currently in a rebuilding phase due to the reduction in the number of students selecting Dance and Drama as an Elective in Stage 5 and 6. In 2021 we plan to build the skills and experiences of our current students so that they can perform in the 2022 School Musical.

**The CAPA Faculty will still be offering Musical during sport time each week in 2021.** This will provide the students with the opportunity to develop their drama and dance skills. Hopefully, we will be able to develop their singing skills later in 2021, if the restrictions on group singing are relaxed in this area. **The CAPA Faculty hope to showcase the students' skills in a Musical Revue, featuring excerpts from famous Musicals.** We will keep everyone up to date on the details through Facebook and the EHS Website.

The CAPA Faculty hopes to begin auditions and rehearsals for Musical 2022 in Term 3 of 2021. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Elderslie High School Musical.

### ***Creative and Performing Arts Faculty***

## **CAPA UPDATE**

Just a reminder that the **CAPA Information Zoom Meeting** is on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 from 6.00 – 7.00 pm. It is a must for parents with children involved in the School Musical, Event Management Team, Dance ensembles, Drama ensemble, Visual Arts Club, Vocal Ensemble or Orchestra at Elderslie High School. We hope you will gain all of the information you require about the year ahead. The Zoom Meeting link will be emailed to all parents late in Week 2.

**Auditions for the Dance Ensemble and Ballroom Dance Ensemble** were held during Week Two of Term One. A number of students auditioned for the ensembles with students selected for the ensembles commencing rehearsals during Week 4. Please return permission notes to the Studio or CAPA Staffroom ASAP.

The **Vocal Ensemble** has begun during Rollcall time. All students who would like to audition for the Vocal

Ensemble please see Ms Prigg in the CAPA Staffroom. Hurry! The Vocal Ensemble fills up quickly. A Senior Vocal Ensemble may also be running during a lunch time, depending on expressions of interest. We will be adhering to all Department of Education guidelines on singing throughout the year.

If you can play an instrument, then the **Elderslie High School Orchestra** needs YOU! Please see Mr Webb in the CAPA Staffroom if you are interested.

Once again, Elderslie High School is offering the students in Year 7 the opportunity to participate in the **Junior Drama Ensemble**. This group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 8.00 am to 8.55 am. Classes will start on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021. You just need to see Ms Dennis in the Studio for a permission note.



Once again, Elderslie High School is offering the students in Year 7 – 12 the opportunity to become a member of the **Event Management Team, as well as take on a student leadership role within the school community.** The operation of the Hall is now a very challenging task and the CAPA Faculty needs dedicated students to assist in running major events. 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 team, there is still time. You just need to see Ms Gulley or Ms Dennis for a contract. As an aside to this group, the CAPA Faculty are looking for students who have a passion for props, sets and costumes to form part of our **Production Team** for 2021. Dedicated students need to see Ms Dennis in the Studio or CAPA Staffroom to express their interest.

The Year 10, 11 and 12 Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts students will be viewing **ONSTAGE, CALLBACK, ENCORE or ART EXPRESS** (the best of the HSC Drama, Dance, Music and Visual Arts Performances and Projects from 2020). The students will gain a much clearer understanding of the expected level of performance required for the HSC CAPA courses. Due to COVID guidelines, these events will be a virtual experience in 2021. Stay tuned for more information.

All Drama and Dance students are offered the opportunity to audition for the **State Dance and State Drama Companies and Ensembles** for 2021. All interested students must see Ms Dennis or Ms Grimston-Eason to organise an application form and audition date. Please visit The Arts Unit website for more information.

This year, Ms Gulley and Miss Reece will be continuing with the **Visual Arts Club** on Wednesday's from 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm in Art Rooms 1 and 2. We will be experimenting with some fun art making skills and you will have individual help to work on your artworks. We are opening the club to Stages 4 and 5. So come and see what we have planned! Starts Week 4, Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

So, during 2021, come along and enjoy the performances of our talented CAPA students.

#### **CAPA Faculty**

### **TALENT QUEST, 2021**

The **Elderslie High School Talent Quest** is back for 2021! All students are invited to enter the Quest. You can enter in a variety of categories. Entry Forms are available from CAPA Teachers and the box in the Studio. Entry Forms must be returned to the Studio by Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Heats will be scheduled for lunchtimes during Week 5. The **Talent Quest** is on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021. More information will be released soon about how the school community will view the Talent Quest. At this stage it will be a virtual experience. If you are interested in entering, all you need to do is pick up your entry form from the Studio TODAY!

#### **CAPA Faculty**

### **FACES OF EHS**

#### **“Tell us about your cultural background”**

My Dad is from Jordan, a country in the Middle East, and my Mum is from Greece. The quality of hospitality is a big part of both cultures. My family loves to share their love of food, music and dancing and open their home to people of different backgrounds.

#### **Leah Mizyed, Year 9**



#### **“Why did you enjoy attending EHS?”**

Elderslie High School has helped me become self-confident, respectful and aware of the importance of studying and it has helped me become who I am today. School embraces the different cultures within our community, helping children become aware and respectful of others beliefs. Teachers carry out constant reflections with the students to remind them to be respectful, responsible and reflective in the same way, they work with great effort to teach them to engage this action.

#### **Esteban Paredes, Year 12, 2020**



#### **What are you passionate about and why?**

One of my main passions is agriculture and the care for animals. Throughout my schooling life at Elderslie High, I have been involved in the agricultural program the school offers. My involvement with agriculture has grown throughout the years, as I've spent time learning, looking after and showing alpacas. I have been given great opportunities to be able to attend various camps and workshops focusing on the husbandry aspects of alpacas. I have also competed in many shows focusing on the categories of stockmanship, showmanship and fleece judging, including the Royal Easter Show. I have a strong interest and love for helping and learning about animals and I hope that I can continue to work with them for years to come.

#### **Mikayla Craig, Year 11**



## Catching Up with Our Alumni

### Sporting Alumni Mural

At Elderslie High School we love to celebrate the achievements of not only our present students but also our graduates. Check out our amazing new Sporting Alumni Mural in the School Hall. The Mural celebrates seven of our sporting Alumni who have reached great heights in the sporting arena. They include: Cameron Crick, Hannah Trethewey, Nathanael Stewart, Gabbie Plain, Emily Hurtz, Warick Beynon and Elizabeth Ralston. You can see the original design and the final artwork in the photos below.



**PROPOSED CALENDAR – More detailed Calendar events can be found on our school website**

Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3A	<b>February 8</b> 6pm CAPA Information Evening via ZOOM	<b>February 9</b> School Photo Day P&C Meeting	<b>February 10</b>	<b>February 11</b>	<b>February 12</b>
4B	<b>February 15</b> Catch Up Day for School Photos (absent students)	<b>February 16</b>	<b>February 17</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<b>February 19</b>
5A	<b>February 22</b>	<b>February 23</b>	<b>February 24</b> Danceathon	<b>February 25</b>	<b>February 26</b> Zone Swimming Carnival
6B	<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 2</b> Year 6 into Year 7 Information Evening (TBC)	<b>March 3</b> Year 7 Camp	<b>March 4</b> Year 7 Camp	<b>March 5</b> Year 7 Camp

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Excellence. Honour. Service.



**P & C MEETINGS 2021**

**ALL** parents of students and interested members of the Elderslie community are invited to attend these meetings.

Our next meeting will be:

***Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021***



## STYMIE – Parent Information

**Stymie helps combat the bystander effect by enabling students to report incidents of bullying and harm, safely and anonymously.**

- The bystander effect occurs when the presence of others discourages an individual from intervening in an emergency situation.
- Social influence affects how bystanders behave, and students are less likely to stand up to bullying behaviours in public when the number of onlookers is high.
- This bystander effect is also caused by a diffusion of responsibility—the belief that someone else will help.

Taking into account that our kids are very socially invested, many of them don't feel as though they can speak up and often, they just don't know how. Rather than trying to work against this peer pressure, our solution recognises the nuanced nature of their social currency, by providing security and anonymity to the by standing community.

### **Benefits for your child**

- **Fostering a safe environment** - Students make notifications about cyberbullying, bullying, illegal activity, depression, anxiety and self-harm. Reducing harm on all levels in schools makes for a safer learning space.
- **Enabling early intervention** - The anonymous nature of Stymie means that students often make notifications early in the bullying cycle, enabling early intervention by the relevant contact at school.
- **Alleviating anxiety and stress** - Encouraging bystanders to make notifications through Stymie can help reduce levels of anxiety associated with concealing stressful information.
- **Encouraging pro-social behaviour** - Promoting a culture of care is important in all communities. Empowering students as the agents of change, means they have an opportunity to put their empathy into action.
- **Providing a solution** - Stymie may point your child in the right direction if they have experienced or witnessed bullying or harm; a definitive course of action that may enable a life-changing conversation.
- **Reducing distractions** - Experiencing or witnessing bullying and harm hinders your child's ability to learn. Being emotionally stressed, disengages their brain and takes them out of their learning. Making your school feel safer, means that your child can focus on their learning and on just 'being a kid'.

### **Stymie at Elderslie High School**

Any child at Elderslie High School can make a notification about someone they believe is being bullied or harmed. This notification is automatically forwarded to the school, and managed by the appropriate members of staff.

Everyone will benefit from the added safety that Stymie can provide—students, parents, educators and the wider community.

[www.stymie.com.au](http://www.stymie.com.au)