



PARENT BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2022

Upcoming Events

Feb 3	Swimming Carnival
Feb 8	School Photo Day
	P & C Meeting
Feb 25	Macarthur Zone Swimming Carnival

See back page for more details



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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.

Of course, the new year begins under a cloud of uncertainty with community conditions related to the Omicron variant of Covid. We absolutely understand that there will be a mixed range of feelings from our students and parents about returning to school. I hope by now that you have been able to read my parent updates and feel informed about the way the Department and the school is responding.

I would like to thank all of our families for their support in the process we have undertaken as we distributed Rapid Antigen Test kits. Our bus bay drive through service was a resounding success and we were able to distribute the kits for 90% of our students on Friday, 28 January. By now, each child should have received 4 kits which is enough for the first two weeks and we expect to receive more in the coming weeks. I will certainly advise families when these are available.

Changed School Day

In 2022 we are commencing our new school bell times and day structure. This was heavily consulted on in 2021 and led on from our evaluation of previous school structures. The main reason for the change was to promote increased student engagement as a large proportion of our students found it hard to concentrate for the full 75 minutes of our lessons. This feeling was echoed by the staff in their observations of students' cognitive uptake, especially in the last part of lessons. As a result, the school has adopted a 5-period day model, in place of the previous 4-period day. Some of the other major aspects of our revised day include:

- The school day commences at 8.50am for all year groups.
- The school day ends at 3pm, with variations for Year 11 and 12.
- The school day features 5 periods per day, each of now run for 60 minutes.
- There are 2 breaks per day, totalling 60 minutes.
- Sport still takes place on Wednesdays.

- The school's "early finish day" is now Thursday, when the school day ends at 2pm. This is in place of the arrangements in 2021 where Wednesday was the previous day on which the school finished early. In 2022, Wednesday concludes at 3pm, the same as all other days.

In all of the consultation we have had with parents, one of the most commonly asked questions related to the school buses. In our consultation with Busabout and Interline buses, the two main companies that service our school, we noted that there was no problem in the mornings. The problem does exist in the afternoon however as Busabout's services continue to be in use for other schools at 3pm and we are told that the first bus will not arrive to Elderslie High School until 3.30pm. I would like to reassure parents that we exercised a wide range of avenues to resolve the issue which were not as successful as we'd have liked. One point worth noting is that only 30% of our students use school buses with the vast majority either walking or being picked up by parents. For those that do need buses, we continue to supervise all students until the last bus has departed – this will never change. It is also possible to catch community bus transport from Harrington St or other parts of the local community. It is highly regrettable that we could not reach a better solution but we have done the best we can and we are confident that the gains to be made in daily student engagement are certainly advantageous despite this issue.

Communicating with the School

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 Official Instagram 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.

For parents of our new Year 7 students, I want to reassure you that 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 or Head Teacher Administration.
- 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	Mr Warwick Goodsell	Mr Dale White
8	Mrs Donna Castillo	Ms Natalie Martin
9	Ms Gillian Sproule	Mrs Joanne Amos
10	Ms Maxine Malcolm	Mr Dale White
11	Ms Victoria Jeffries	Ms Natalie Martin
12	Mrs Maggie Buist	Mrs Joanne Amos

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 Mrs Rebecca Ferris, our Head Teacher Science who had taken maternity leave and is returning in a part time capacity.

At the end of the 2021, we farewelled Mrs Jaclyn Thompson, our Head Teacher Wellbeing who was appointed to a school much closer to home. As a result, Mr Scott Atterton starts the year for us as Relieving Head Teacher Wellbeing.

The school has also been given permission to go to panel to recruit new Head Teachers for both the Technological & Applied Studies faculty and also for Human Society & Its Environment. These panels will take place in Term 1 along with panel for the Head Teacher Wellbeing role.

In terms of new permanent staff, we welcome Ms Jules Cifuentes-Post who will be working alongside Mrs Carmen Thorne as a School Counsellor. We are delighted to secure more hours for our school in this pivotal area in 2022 so that our students are well supported.

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

Ms Elizabeth Davis - Classroom Teacher, English

Ms Jennifer Frith - Classroom Teacher, English

Mr Aziz Arshad – Classroom Teacher, Mathematics

Mr Derek Buchanan – Classroom Teacher, Mathematics

Mr Vinay Kumar - Classroom Teacher, Mathematics

Ms Julie-Anne Massimiani - Classroom Teacher, Creative & Performing Arts

Mr Luke Cockburn - Classroom Teacher, PDHPE

Mrs Amanda Luppino - Classroom Teacher, TAS

Ms Lauren Cordingley - Classroom Teacher, TAS

Mrs Shamita Prasad – Classroom Teacher, Support

Ms Samantha Heneghan – Learning Support Officer (Support Unit)

Mr Brody Dooner – Learning Support Officer (First Nations students)

HSC Results

The HSC results for our class of 2021 were released on Thursday, January 20 along with the ATAR results. We were very pleased with the success of our students including the 17 Band 6 results earned by students of Elderslie High School students. We had some wonderful ATAR results with the dux going to Cherise Holley with an ATAR of 97.2 closely followed Emily Szalajko with 96.0.

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, who has 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 2021 all the very best in their future endeavours.

Food Lab Renovation

We have been watching the progress of our food labs over the last few months as they have been renovated. One of these kitchens has been remodelled to industrial standard with commercial equipment whilst the other has been remodelled as a domestic space. The preparation space features a modern cool room and a café space has also been installed for the use of our Hospitality students. The two newly fitted out classrooms are almost ready for the faculty to move back into and we cannot wait to start classes in them as soon as we can. It will be a wonderful environment in which learning can occur. I look forward to sharing some photographs with you in the next edition of Parent Bulletin and on our social media pages.

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. In normal times, we meet in the library twice per term on Tuesday evenings in Week 3 and 7 from 7pm. However on this occasion, while we are not able to have parents on site, the first meeting of the year will be held via Zoom.

P&C Meetings are attended by the Principal, Deputy Principals and faculty representatives. Parents are addressed by student leaders about their 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 8. A zoom invitation will be sent to all parents closer to the date.

Kind regards,
Mrs Jenny Lawrence
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Natalie Martin (DP Years 7 & 10)

Year 8

Elderslie High School has introduced a number of changes that students and parents will be adjusting to this term. If your child is not adapting well to change, they can access support from Mrs Castillo or some of our Wellbeing staff. Parents can call Mrs Castillo to raise welfare concerns and Mrs Castillo can speak to your child or refer the matter to other staff who can help.

As a parent, it is important to support your child with their learning. A good strategy is to encourage your child to set goals and take responsibility for their learning. Show interest in the curriculum they are learning and help your child to develop good routines including daily organisation such as getting books, uniform and lunch ready on a daily basis. Students can wear their PDHPE uniform for the entire day

when they have PE lessons as we are unable to have more than one cohort in the change rooms at any one time.

Year 11

Year 11 students have until Friday 25th February to finalise any subject changes. Students wishing to change a subject will need to collect a 'Request to change class' form from Ms Martin, Mrs Siope or Miss Wilson. Parents need to approve the subject changes as any change to curriculum patterns can have an impact on the student's eligibility for an ATAR.

Many students may wish to leave school before finishing Year 11. Students can leave if they have 25 hours a week of work or enrolled hours at TAFE. Students will need to provide evidence in the form of a letter of employment or enrolment at TAFE in order to leave high school. Another suggestion is to ensure that your child has activated their NESA 'Students Online' account so they can access their E-Record and order a Record of School Achievement.

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills are essential foundations for learning, educational attainment, personal enrichment, social interaction and future employment. Students in Year 7 and 9 undertake NAPLAN testing to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum. As a school we use the data from NAPLAN tests to identify areas that need improvement and modify teaching programs to ensure that the skills gaps are addressed.

Students in Years 10-12 undertake HSC Minimum Standards testing and must achieve a Level 3 or above to meet the minimum Literacy and Numeracy Standards and eligibility for an HSC. Each student has four opportunities a year to undertake the testing. We provide preparation and learning support for students who have not met HSC Minimum Standards. Year 10, 11 and 12 will be provided with one or two opportunities to undertake the testing in Semester 1 and Semester 2 this year.

Ms Natalie Martin
Deputy Principal
Years 8 & 11

Joanne Amos (DP Years 9 & 12)

Welcome Back to 2022

Welcome to the beginning of the 2022 school year! This year I will be working with the students of Years 9 and 12. I am really looking forward to seeing our Year 9's enjoy a full year of face-to-face learning, given the experiences of the last two years. It is also an exciting year for our Year 12's who I know are keen to experience and embrace the opportunities in their final year. Once again, I will be working alongside some Miss Gillian Sproule (Year 9) and Mrs Margaret Buist (Year 12). We have lots of fantastic things planned for each year group to look forward to.

Thrive Wellbeing Lessons

Improving student wellbeing is a continual focus of our school planning. We know that by enhancing students' wellbeing through evidence-based and school-wide practices students are better equipped to engage successfully in their learning.

With the change to our school bell times, we have been able to introduce a wellbeing lesson each week that will be known as the EHS THRIVE Program. The program aims to utilise the evidence-based practices of positive education and positive psychology to empower students with strategies to help them actively connect to their learning, understand their social and emotional needs and develop positive and respectful relationships with others.

The lessons will be taught by the Roll Call teacher and held each Monday afternoon during the first half of period 5 for 30 minutes and will be followed by the assembly. Each week students will focus on a theme of wellbeing so that over time they will have a toolbox of strategies that will help to provide them with ways of handling life's challenges.

The themes of the program for Term One include:

- Week 3** What is the EHS THRIVE Program
- Week 4** PBL Values at EHS
- Week 5** Positive Psychology and PERMAH
- Week 6** PBL: Responsibility
- Week 7** PBL: Respectful
- Week 8** Stymie: Say Something
- Week 9** Everyone Belongs
- Week 10** PBL: Reflective
- Week 11** Wellbeing Builder



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 next round of assessments 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 2022 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.

A major focus for my role with Year 12 is to ensure all of the administration requirements NESA is completed accurately. The vast majority of students made adjustments to their study pattern at the end of 2021, but if any other students wish to drop a subject they need to come and see me so that this can be finalised as soon as possible. Given that many students are now studying five courses, they will be required to attend Private Study when they do not have a formal class. During this time, they are expected to use their private study lesson productively and will have the opportunity to seek out and utilise the support of Ms Wilson, our Senior Learning Mentor, who can help with study organisation strategies, assessment support or goal planning. Elderslie High School has a long tradition of high academic achievement, and it is this provision of additional support and learning time that contributes to students being able to achieve their personal best.

Very shortly students meeting NESA's criteria will need to finalise the disability provision process for the HSC and this is coordinated by the Learning and Support faculty. Students were issued paperwork during Term 4 and it will need to be returned promptly.

The next three terms will go in a blur for Year 12 and I encourage them to make the most of every opportunity that comes their way.

Year 9

I have been very pleased with the great start to the Year 9 students have had. They are coming to school with a good attitude, wearing correct uniform and cooperating with their teachers. The big change for them is the elective subjects that are now part of their pattern of study. This year we have been able to introduce an 8th class for their CORE subjects so that the Year 9 word on which the classes are based is JOURNEYS. It has meant that for many subjects each class has smaller numbers than last year, which we hope will give Year 9 a more settled learning experience. Some CORE subjects run with 2 top classes and all of the other classes are mixed ability. English have introduced a literacy class to provide additional support for identified students and Maths have classes studying at the three levels of 5.3, 5.2 and 5.1 based on student ability.

While we do our best to offer students their first choice of Elective subjects, some courses offered did not run and we also have maximum class numbers that result in students not

always receiving their first preference. I understand that some students are wanting to make changes to their electives, and I will do my best to accommodate these as much as I can. Students have been informed that they have until end of Week 5 (Friday, 25th February) to make any changes. After this date it will no longer be possible, as too much course work will have been missed. If your child wishes to change an elective, they are required to provide a note from home outlining the reasons for requesting the change. I will then meet with them to see if there is any availability in the elective classes. Please be aware that some subjects have limited spaces and not all requests will be possible.

Mrs Joanne Amos
Deputy Principal
Years 9 & 12

Dale White (DP Years 7 & 10)

Welcome back to all students at Elderslie High, especially students from Years 7 and 10.

Hopefully all students had a safe, COVID free 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 10 students have quickly resumed their lessons and I am proud to introduce Ms Maxine Malcolm who will step into the role of Year Advisor and Ms Alisha Grimston-Eason as the Assistant Year Advisor. Ms Malcolm can be found in the History Staffroom and Ms Grimston-Eason can be found in the CAPA staffroom. It has been an exciting time for a number of students over the break as they have been fortunate to secure an apprenticeship. The completion of Year 9 was a prerequisite to obtaining an apprenticeship and I wish these students good luck in the wonderful world of work ahead of them. If your child is considering an apprenticeship, please give me a call at school to obtain the correct paperwork so they can begin this opportunity as seamlessly as possible. For all other students, it's time to get back into learning in our classroom COVID safe learning bubbles within our enhanced safe environment. It is a great opportunity for a fresh start with possibly new teachers where the students get a great opportunity to create that first impression of themselves they may want.

Year 7 have a settled start to their High School lives. It's an amazing time seeing your child grow up so quickly. The students have started their classes and while school may look different to a traditional high school set up right now because of COVID and the enhanced safety requirements, they have adapted well. We are very excited to start our new 7 Tech Elect class which will include learning in our new custom built classroom integrating iPad use into the learning opportunities for students. We have a couple of spots still available for this opportunity and I encourage parents to contact me to find out more about this class and how we are preparing students for tomorrow's world.

Unfortunately, we have made the decision to reschedule our Year 7 camp due to the current COVID situation. We hope this gives parents peace of mind about keeping their child as safe as possible in these challenging times. The new dates for the camp will be Wednesday 20th July - Friday 22nd July. The venue will stay the same and further information will be supplied to students throughout Term 1.

I encourage all students and families to begin the routines necessary for success at high school each day and wish all our new Year 7 students the best of luck as we venture through the high school years together.

Mr Dale White
Deputy Principal
Years 7 & 10

Student Healthcare Information

Do we have the most updated health information for your child?

As schools commence for another year, it is a timely reminder to some students, their parents, and carers to ensure the school is fully informed and has the most up to date information pertaining to your child’s health needs.

If your child is required to take medication at school due to a health condition, mental health diagnosis or prescribed medical needs, please inform the school. While the main role of the school is to provide education, we want to work with you to keep your child healthy and safe at school.

The Department of Education requires some information to be updated on an annual basis. Therefore, please ensure such things as your child’s ASCIA plan is up to date, ensure that EpiPens are current and that the school has been provided with adequate supply of your child’s prescribed medication if applicable.

Over the next few weeks, you may receive a copy of your child’s Individual Health Care Plan to review and update. Please assist us by attending to this promptly and having it returned to the school’s office.

If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact the school.

Administration Hints & Tips: -

Please refer to your child’s Student Diary for the correct procedure on the following. Our school diaries are a great resource for our students with important information, bell times, staff directory etc. By following these procedures, it ensures the smooth running of our school and the safety of our students.

If Student is late for school- A note is to be provided by the parent explaining reason. Student to report to Student Office with note to obtain a late slip before class.

If Student is leaving early- A note to be provided by parent/carer explaining the reason why and time student is to be collected. Student will need to have their note

approved by the Deputy Principal or the Sports Co-ordinator on a Wednesday. This needs to be done **BEFORE** Roll Call in the morning. Student can then be met at the front gate at the allocated time.

Sick Bay- If a student is feeling unwell, they should advise their teacher and come to the Student Office who will contact their parents should they need to go home.

Payments- Payments can be made online, access from the school website. 2022 Student Invoices will be sent out during Term1.

Student Absences- Advise the school, provide a note and/or medical certificate on return.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Mrs Susan Solah
School Administration Manager

School Photos

School photographs will be taken on Tuesday 8th February 2022. Parents will receive an information note outlining the procedures for the day. Students should also have received their individual order envelopes. 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 14th 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.

School Photo Day Schedule

PERIOD 1 (9-10am)		Year 12
PERIOD 2 (10-11am)	1 st Half 2 nd Half	Year 7 Year 10
<i>Morning Tea</i>		
PERIOD 3 (11.30-12.30pm)	1 st Half 2 nd Half	Year 11 Year 9
PERIOD 4 (12.30-1.30pm)		Year 8
<i>Lunch</i> (1.30-2pm)		Family Photos

First Nations Education

Demonstrating inclusive and respectful language

Using respectful and inclusive language and terminology is an essential component of reconciliation. The ways we speak about reconciliation is just as important as the ways we act language is itself active, and can impact on attitudes, understandings and relationships in a very real and active sense.

The use of the terminology, First Nations, respectfully encompass the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and identities.

At Elderslie High School we will be recognising and celebrating First Nations Peoples and their cultures by demonstrating inclusive language and including the traditional place name in our school address. This process will begin with the school website and staff emails. We will also work towards amending our school letter head and envelopes.

Elderslie High School
Dharawal Country
40-48 Hilder St Narellan, NSW 2567

Student Learning and Support Officer

Mr Dooner, SLSO, will be joining our First Nations Education Team in 2022. He will work with targeted First Nation students as well as assist with cultural programs in the school. We welcome Mr Dooner to the team and look forward to him assisting our students.

Roll Call

Our First nation cultural roll call, Yarning Circle will continue in 2022. This roll call focuses on cultural activities and also supports First Nation Students with classwork and assessment tasks. Those students already attending this roll call will continue to attend. However, those students wishing to join in Years 8-12 will need to see Ms Crossingham in the PE staffroom for a permission note. Students in Year 7 will attend an information session and will be provided with a note in coming weeks.

Google Classroom

In 2022 I will continue to utilise the Google Classroom, Yarning Circle, to provide information to First Nations families. The information ranges from school activities, community activities and also training and job opportunities. I will email invites to all students and parents, including all new students to the school, who are yet to join. I encourage both students and parents to join to keep informed with all opportunities provided.

First Nations Garden 2022

Each year the First Nation Education Team select a project to work on in the school. Last year the students designed school rugby league jerseys with local artist Michael Fardon. This year we will be working on designing a First Nations Garden for the school grounds. The students would love to have input from members of the First Nations community to work

with us in designing a culturally appropriate garden. If you could be of any assistance please contact, Ms Crossingham (zoe.crossingham@det.nsw.edu.au).

Ms Crossingham

First Nations Education Coordinator

Head Teacher PDHPE

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 at Elderslie High is Miss Jan, who is in her fifth year in this role, as well as Ms Woo, who will be starting her third 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

Mathematics Faculty

The faculty wish to welcome back students and families for what we hope will be a more normal school year. Despite the challenges we have faced, the Mathematics faculty have continued to uphold their high expectations for student success. Given our drive to improve all student learning, we have decided to focus closely on the homework habits of students. Senior students should be ensuring all classwork is complete and that they attempt further questions or past papers to enhance their learning. For Year 7-10 students, Mathematics will continue to form an integral and regular aspect of homework requirements for students. They will receive their login details very early this term. 3 x 30 minute sessions per week will ensure students consolidate and strengthen their knowledge and understanding of key mathematical skills. I ask all parents to please encourage and remind their children to engage in regular homework practice and to also ensure they are studying as best they can, particularly in the lead up to assessments and examinations.

Matthew Sambuco

Head Teacher Mathematics

Agriculture News

We are looking forward to a very exciting 2022 on the school farm with lots of activities planned for Term 1.

After the installation of our wicking bed vegetable gardens last year, we came back to some flourishing summer crops including corn, strawberries, watermelon and, of course, our giant pumpkin which we are growing for the Easter Show. We look forward to using these very successful, water saving beds with our new Year 7 classes this year.

Year 7 students will be receiving their young chicks during Week 5. They will care for and monitor the growth of these birds at school throughout the rest of the term. Some of these will be available for students to purchase at the end of the term.

Show preparations began last year with the breeding of some new pure-bred poultry to boost our team for both Camden Show and Sydney Royal. Our team of layers and our meat birds have just arrived and students will monitor their growth and production over the next couple of months leading up to Sydney Royal Show. Both of these competitions also involve the students preparing not only the birds but also a presentation discussing the rearing process. As well as preparing our team of birds, several students will be developing their knowledge of, and skills in handling their chosen breed so they are ready to compete in the Poultry Showmanship Competition at the Royal.

Our Alpaca Team are busy training for Showmanship and Stockmanship competitions at both Camden Show and Sydney Royal where they will lead the animals through a series of obstacles representing various situations that may occur on a farm, as well as being questioned about their knowledge of husbandry procedures relating to these animals.

Many students will also be involved in preparing our display on Cotton Production for Camden Show. It will be exciting to be back there again after the show being cancelled for the last two years so fingers crossed for 2022.

Many of you will be aware that our Animal Nurseries at Cobbitty Markets are a popular event for our students to assist with. As soon as COVID restrictions allow us to resume this activity, we will let the students know.

Our other livestock are all thriving with so much grass to eat after all of the summer rain we have had this year, not to mention the delicious meal of roses that the goats devoured while I had them at home! Peppa Junior has spent the holidays at a pig farm and we look forward to her having a litter of piglets before the end of the term.

Ms Atkinson and Ms Trudgett
Agriculture Teachers

Library Matters

Welcome back everyone! 2022 is shaping up to be a very interesting year! Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we can't open the library fully during breaks, but we have arranged for each year to have one break each week where they can access the library to:

- Print assessments
- Quickly borrow resources
- Return resources to the front desk.

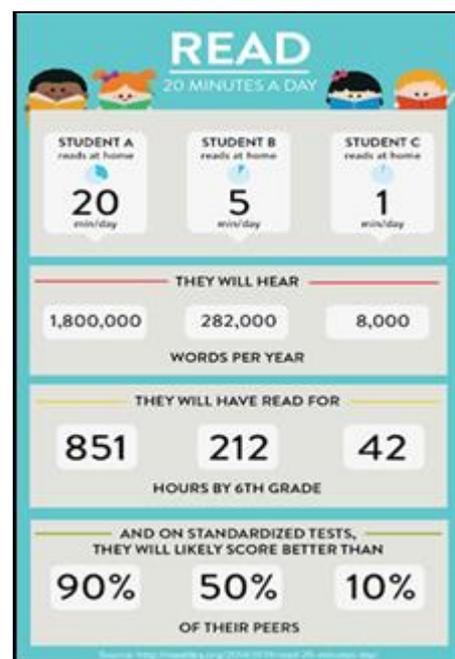
Please check the poster on the library doors to see when your year group can enter the library.

If you are intending to print your assessments, please ensure you're bringing your Student ID Card with you to hasten the process. Please be organised since your 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 early to avoid the crowds.

We also will still allow limited borrowing of our physical books, or you can borrow from our online library. If you'd like to browse the thousands of free eBooks and Audiobooks we have waiting for you to borrow, you can login using your school email at <https://eldersliehs.eplatform.co/>. 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!

D Lysaught
Librarian



Sport Report

Wednesday Sport

Sport commences on Wednesday 9th February. All Year 9 and 10 students will be sent an invoice to pay for their delegated sport. There are roughly 50 students who have not selected their sport. Online sport selections are now closed, students not in a sport will need to see Ms Jeffries to choose a sport ready for next week.

Sports are limited, due to sport selections opening on the 10th December 2021.

The consent and payment link for sport will be emailed to the financially responsible person this week. Consent and payment (if needed) will need to be made for students to participate in their chosen sport.

For future reference, sport selections will be in Week 8 of each term, so payments and consent are ready for the following term.

Year 7 Sport

All students should come to school prepared with hats, sunscreen and a full water bottle.

Year 7 are divided into 3 groups for sport, this will be on their timetable as:

7SPT 1 or 7SPT 2 or 7SPT 3. The last number is their sport group.

	Week 3-6 (4 Wks)	Week 7-11 (5 Wks)
7SPT 1	Swimming -- BUS	Walking -- BUS
7SPT 2	T-Ball – SCHOOL	Swimming - BUS
7SPT 3	Walking - - BUS	T-Ball – SCHOOL

SWIMMING

Students will need to wear their swimming costume under their sport uniform if possible and change at the end of swimming. This will reduce the use of the changerooms.

Year 8 Sport

All students should come to school prepared with hats, sunscreen and a full water bottle.

	Week 3-6 (4 Wks)	Week 7-11 (5 Wks)
8SPT 1	Tennis -- BUS	Mount Annan Leisure Centre--- BUS
8SPT 2	Volleyball -- SCHOOL	Tennis -- BUS
8SPT 3	Mount Annan Leisure Centre --- BUS	Volleyball -- SCHOOL

Further Information

Due to the recent outbreak of the Omicron strain of Covid – 19, NSW Health Public Health orders require that students who are participating in extracurricular activities will need additional parent or carer’s consent for student participation in extra-curricular, out of school hours or off-site activities (including School Sport Representative pathway activities). Some EHS sport activities are held off site. We strongly encourage that students attending sport to have a Rapid Antigen Test prior to attending school Wednesday mornings.

During sport extra steps to prevent infection will be taken including the following:

1. Students grouped in year groups where possible.
2. Students are to wear masks on buses and indoors while not participating.
3. Staff will ensure students remain in their year groups.
4. Hand sanitizer will be offered to students before and after sport.
5. Physical distancing will be encouraged.
6. Year 7 students who are participating in swimming are encouraged to wear their swimming costumes under their sport uniform to school and change after the activity. This will limit the time spent in the changerooms.

For any enquiries, please send your child to see Ms Jeffries in the PDHPE staffroom or send an email to the school email address elderslie-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Swimming Carnival

The school swimming carnival was a huge success and went swimmingly. Big congratulations to all the students that participated and competed during the day! Thank you also to the teachers, particularly Mr Marshall for his meticulous organisation of the day.

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

Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	Jan 31	Feb 1 Years 7, 11 & 12 return	Feb 2 Years 8, 9 & 10 return	Feb 3 Swimming Carnival	Feb 4
3	Feb 7	Feb 8 School Photos P & C Meeting 7pm (Zoom)	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11
4	Feb 14 School Photo Catch Up Day	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18
5	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25 Macarthur Zone Swimming Carnival
6	Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4
7	Mar 7	Mar 8 P & C Meeting 7pm	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11

Elderslie High School
40-48 Hilder Street
Narellan NSW 2567

Phone: (02) 4658 1110
Fax: (02) 4658 0219

elderslie-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.elderslie-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

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P & C MEETINGS 2022

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

Our next meeting for 2022 will be:

**Tuesday, 8th February 2022 at 7pm
(Via Zoom)**

