



# PARENT BULLETIN

## MARCH 2022

### Upcoming Events

March 8	P & C Meeting
March 18	Talent Quest Rehearsals & Performance
March 22	Year 7 Vaccinations (Dose 1)
March 24	EHS Athletics Carnival
April 1	Camden Show Performance

*See back page for more details*



### Inside This Issue

Principal's Report	1-3
Deputy Principals' Report	3-4
Student Healthcare Information	4
NSW Vaccination Program	4
Junior Leadership Update	4-7
Careers Report	7
Mathematics Faculty	7
Library	7
Agriculture News	8
Sport Update	8
CAPA Update	9
A note from the Office	10
Proposed Calendar	11

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It's hard to believe we are already at the middle point of Term 1. It has been wonderful to see students settling into learning as I move about the school. Already, students are responding to the new school day structure and the shorter periods, which is promoting improved concentration in our students.

#### COVID Update

##### a) COVID Changes

As you would know, we have had a bumper start to the new year as we started under heavy COVID restrictions including continuation of cohorting, mask wearing and RAT testing. Students should have had three rounds of RAT tests delivered to them by now, with the last batch containing a final 8 tests for each child. As we move forward into eased community restrictions, the intention is that students test when they are symptomatic or if they are exposed to a classmate who may be COVID positive. The most recent tests provided should therefore be enough to last each student until the end of Term 1.

School staff welcome the removal of the mandate on mask wearing and cohorting. While we will absolutely support any child who wishes to wear the mask, this is no longer a requirement. Cohorting will conclude from the commencement of Week 7 when the Elderslie High School timetable has been adjusted to reflect new classrooms. This will present a whole range of new issues for Year 7 who had only just learned where all their bubble classrooms were and will now be exposed to the rest of the campus.

##### b) Sports Uniform Changes Post COVID

One aspect we will be retaining as we move forward is the opportunity for students to continue wearing their sports uniform for the whole day when a practical PE lesson is timetabled. In the past, students were always asked to get changed into sports uniform in each lesson but we are finding that with the shorter periods, that too much precious practical time would be lost. We therefore ask that sports uniform is worn on Wednesdays, our normal sports day as well as any other day when a practical PE lesson is scheduled. This arrangement will support students in maximising their lesson time and also support students in not having so much to carry to school. We do ask however, that should students have a practical Science or TAS lesson that day, that they have brought their leather shoes in to school. This is essential

for the safety element of these lessons and students will not be able to participate without this footwear.

### c) Student Isolations

Thank you to all our wonderful families who have let us know when their child is required to isolate either due to being COVID positive or because they have a family member in their household who is positive. We appreciate this advice. For students who are not sick, attendance is marked as flexible whereas for those who are unwell, it is marked as sick leave. In every case, we encourage students to complete work at home if they are well enough and this could include:

- Mathletics (online Maths activities)
- Stile (online Science activities)
- Set Assessment Tasks
- Any work available on Google Classroom
- Learning From Home resources available to parents via the Department's website. Here is the link:

[Parents and carers \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers)

If your child is ill though, please allow them to rest and recuperate so they are able to resume their schoolwork as soon as possible. Should your child have an assessment task during a period of isolation, please contact us so that we can support you, especially if they are in Years 10-12.

### d) Staff Absenteeism

Just as the community has had high rates of sickness due to COVID, we have also had a number of staff required to isolate. This has meant that we have had frequent staff absences and at times, we have already had to use the full raft of our creative solutions to solve this problem so that the school could remain open. We have done our absolute best in this situation and so far, have been able to cover most of our absenteeism. We thank our families for their patience as we deal with these issues, which are also prevalent in all other schools at this unprecedented time.

### Food Lab Renovation

After months of waiting, our newly renovated kitchens are ready and the staff have been moving back into them in readiness for the first practical lessons. I have included some photographs for your interest.





**Parent & Citizens Meetings**

Our first P&C meeting for the year will be on Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm in the library. This will be the first on site for P&C meeting for quite some time and will be an opportunity for us to visit the new kitchens and hear a presentation from the Secondary Studies faculty. We are very excited to welcome all parents back to the school site and encourage as many new parents as possible to come and meet us and find out what is going on at EHS.

*Kind regards,  
Mrs Jenny Lawrence  
Principal*

**FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS****Natalie Martin (DP Years 8 & 11)****Year 8**

I have been engaged in Collaborative Practice with three Year 8 teachers this term which has enabled me to get to know all the students within each class. Both students and teachers benefit from collaborative teaching as student learning outcomes improve because teachers observe each other, share ideas and improve their teaching practice. In the last two weeks I have been attending English, Geography and Visual Arts classes where students are reading a novel, learning about landscape features and creating a stained glass window artwork. I have observed that students have applied significant effort and completed their work to a very high standard. Students in all of these classes have indicated engagement with the lessons through their involvement in class discussions and the quality of their responses. Each lesson I have issued students with PBL awards to reward their effort and contribution to a positive learning environment within the classroom. My aim is to rotate in as many classes as I can to support student behaviour and learning whilst assisting teachers to improve their teaching practice.

**Year 11**

Students in Year 11 were able to change their courses until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of February. Changes are no longer being accepted as we are approaching the first assessment period and all course information needs to be finalised in NESA. Students will sign their Confirmation of Entries which is a document that outlines their course codes, personal details and indicates eligibility for the HSC and ATAR. All students are required to pass six subjects to complete the Year HSC Course before becoming eligible to go on to Year 12 in 2023. All students should have activated their NESA Students Online account where they can access their E-Report and request a ROSA if they are planning on leaving school throughout the year. To be eligible for an HSC all students are required to meet minimum standards in Literacy and Numeracy by completing an online test, Miss Wilson will be coordinating HSC Minimum Standards testing at regular intervals this year. She also provides extensive support for students who are experiencing difficulty.

Students are permitted to do work experience and Ms Whitfield, our Careers Advisor has been assisting students with this every week. Please contact her if your child is unsure about remaining at school and would like to explore work experience to determine their career pathway. Many students transition successfully to the work force after completing work experience.

Year 11 will be undertaking their first assessment period from 21<sup>st</sup> March through to 8<sup>th</sup> April. This will be a stressful time for them as they will have 6 assessment tasks to complete and the workload is higher than at other times of the term. Our Year Advisor, Mrs Jeffries and our School Counsellor can assist students who are having difficulty with managing stress levels. Parents can support their children by helping them to plan their time effectively and keeping a calendar of assessment due dates so that tasks can be completed consecutively.

*Ms Natalie Martin  
Deputy Principal  
Years 8 & 11*

**Dale White (DP Years 7 & 10)**

It has been a settled and focused start to high school for our new Year 7 and 10 students in the classroom. Meeting their teachers, learning new routines and concentrating well are pleasing scenes in lessons each day. The COVID cohorting bubble has been able to provide students with a smooth transition to a large high school as students spend the bulk of their day in the same classroom. As we venture out of the COVID restrictions in schools, our students will now travel to different rooms across the school just like a traditional high school setting. Please support your child be ensuring they use their diary often, monitor their homework, assessment tasks to be completed at home and regularly check in with what they are learning in the classroom.

An area of concern that has been noticed with our students is their mobile phone and online behaviour. It has recently come to my attention that a number of students are not behaving in a manner that truly reflects how they would behave in 'real life'. Can I please ask parents to evaluate the requirement for their child to have access to social media platforms like Snapchat, Instagram and Tik Tok. My experience with working with parents of teenagers for many many years has clearly shown me that they are increasingly becoming frustrated with their child's behaviour and the direct correlation with their inability to regulate their behaviours and actions when online. In many cases, this occurs very late at night when parents believe their children are sleeping and causes increasing frustrations for parents and children. I can't stress enough the need to keep all children safe and free from additional pressures in their lives and the negative impact that online social media causes. There are many applications (Apps) or features on devices that allow parents to limit the use of

social media and the like, during the school day, late at night or on the weekend that I cannot encourage enough use of. In many ways, they are the best safeguards a parent can use to support their children through these difficult teenage years.

**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 and Communities requires some information to be updated on an annual basis. Therefore, please ensure things such as your child's ASCIA plan are 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.

## NSW School Vaccination Program

Each year, NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2022 the following vaccines will be offered by NSW Health:

YEAR	VACCINE	NUMBER OF DOSES
Year 7	Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine 2-doses at least 6 months apart	2-doses at least 6 months apart
	Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine	Single dose
Year 10	Meningococcal ACWY vaccine	Single dose

Parent Information Kits that include an information sheet, consent form and privacy statement, will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child's school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Please note that, to improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered catch-up vaccination for any missed doses, including:

- during Year 8 (for HPV and dTpa vaccination) and during Year 11 (for Meningococcal ACWY vaccination) for consent signed in 2021

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/).

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic either as a physical card or a text message sent to the mobile number recorded on the consent form. Details about vaccinations given at school will also be uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to support complete vaccination histories.

## Junior Leadership Update - Term 1

At Elderslie High School, our vision for students is to aim for *excellence*, whether that be inside or outside the classroom. This, aligned to our other school values of *honour* and *service*, is translated through our positions of leadership - that being in the Junior Leadership Team (formerly known as Student Representative Council), and our Senior Leadership Team (as guided by Ms E. Farrar). I take so much pride in being able to guide, support and inspire our Junior Leaders to achieve personal goals and ideas collaboratively, whilst providing a space for students to build relationships with others in different year groups.



**Mrs C. Mulligan – Junior Leadership Supervising Teacher**



I am pleased to announce that many students from the 2021 SRC team were accepted to be a part of our Senior Leadership Group (Claire Stanley, James Steel, Anna Choudhary, Savannah Nenadic, Connor Bell and Mickayla Safar), and I would like to personally thank all team members for their service to our school, particularly during the hardship of 2021 and lockdowns. I would like to extend my appreciation for all those familiar faces who continued to join my virtual meetings, 3 x a week, during that time as a way of keeping in contact. We achieved so much in our face-to-face time in Term 1 and Term 2, and I am so proud of what we were able to do during that time.

Congratulations to the following students (currently 9 x Year 8 Students, 8 x Year 9 Students and 9 x Year 10 students) who are a part of the 2022 Junior Leadership Team. The application numbers were outstanding, across all Junior years, and I would like to encourage those students who were amongst the finalists to continue to demonstrate *excellence* and re-apply again at the end of the year. With support from all Junior cohorts, staff and Year Advisors, the final team members are:

### Year 8



**Dennis P.**



**Charlotte W.**



**Ella M.**



**Payton S.**

### Year 8



**Rabi B.**



**Omer H.**



**Jackson P.**



**Lincoln P.**



**Lucy E.**

### Year 9



**Ella T.**



**Charlie D.**



**Year 9**



**Emma Y.**



**Ruby C.**

**Year 10**



**Dylan T.**



**Noah D.**



**James O.**



**Zelden B.**



**Cruz L.**



**Ella M**



**Alisa N.**



**Arianna K.**



**Caterina W.**



**Haley O.**

**Year 10**



**Joshua C.**



**Xavier L.**



**Jack V.**

Over the past 7 weeks, our Junior Leadership Team have been spending their morning meeting time reflecting upon changes they *want to make* and how this can be achieved. Such meetings have occurred separately (by stage cohorts), to abide by DoE guidelines, and under the supervision of myself and Ms Lysaught (2IC). As a team, we have focused on discussions on ideas of leadership - what it means and how it can be conveyed both inside and outside the classroom.

All students will participate in an incursion on Thursday, 3rd March run by Youth Leadership Academy Australia, in the hope of building our brainstorm of ideas for 2022. We have some fantastic ideas so far - driven by the need to help EHS *students* and *our environment* and providing ways to celebrate and encourage positivity. With the Covid-19 restrictions of 2020 and 2021, many of our major events were modified or cancelled, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that we can achieve bigger and better things this year! We are looking forward to sharing our plans soon.

**Mrs C. Mulligan**

## Careers

Thank you to the Year 9 students who registered their interest for the WSU Fast Forward Program. The coordinator of the program will be visiting the school in late March and introducing the registered students to the program.

We are running two White Card (Safety) courses for our Year 9 and 10 students in March. Thank you to those students who paid to attend and have returned their permission notes.

Year 12 students are invited to come and see me in Careers so we can discuss their post school options and put a plan in place.

Year 12 students are reminded to inform the front office of any changes to their address etc. UAC will be sending them information and their details need to be up to date.

Could all students interested in Work Experience be reminded that there is a process in place and this process needs to be followed. Students cannot attend Work Experience without the appropriate signed, completed and submitted forms. Please come and see me in Careers if you have any questions.

The University of Wollongong's Discovery Day was unfortunately postponed. As soon as I have a new date, I will post it on the Year 12 Google classroom. Numbers will be limited.

Please have a look at our school Careers website. You will find it at [www.eldersliehighcareers.com](http://www.eldersliehighcareers.com). There you will find lots of information relating to career

exploration and relevant links to universities, TAFE, the Australian Defence Force and much more.

I hope to see your child in the Careers office soon.

**R Whitfield**  
**Careers Adviser**

## Mathematics Faculty

As we get settled into the school routine, this is a great opportunity to ensure that your child is regularly completing their homework. For Maths, students in Years 7 – 10 should be completing Mathletics for 30 minutes, 3 times per week. I have instructed my staff to do a mid-term check of student progress and contact will be made home for any student who has failed to complete a satisfactory amount of tasks. We strongly believe in the benefits of regular homework and revision and we are striving for excellence with our students, so your support at home is vital. Senior students should be ensuring they are completing all set tasks and revising on a regular basis. This will help prepare them for their best effort in school-based assessments and the HSC examinations at the end of Year 12.

**Mr Sambuco**  
**Head Teacher - Mathematics**

## Library

In a stroke of excellent luck, the library will be back open in time for the start of the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge! This year, students in Years 7-10 can complete the challenge by reading 20 books between 28th February and 19th August 2022. Books you have read since September 2021 now also count towards the challenge. White merits will be awarded for every five books you read and at the end of the challenge you'll be eligible for a special certificate from the Premier or, if you're a long-term participant, a medal! But even more important are the benefits that wide reading has on your literacy skills, general knowledge, and emotional development. Reading for just a few minutes a day can make a huge difference in so many ways!

If you're interested in participating in this year's challenge, please join the Google Classroom using the code: j6y4yu7

There's thousands of fiction and non-fiction books to choose from. In coming weeks we'll be setting up displays in the library. In the meantime, you can find books to read on the updated challenge booklist: <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>

Many of the challenge books are already in our school library, or you can read them as ebooks or audiobooks via our online library: <https://eldersliehs.eplatform.co/>

If you have any questions, please see Miss Lysaught in the library.



## Agriculture News

It's an exciting time at the Ag Plot with lots happening with all of our livestock and gardens. Year 7 students have just received their young chickens. These will be cared for and monitored by the students for the rest of Term 1. As well as working with them in class, students are able to come up to the Ag Plot during some of their lunch breaks and it is always a great way for students to bond and form friendships with like-minded people.

Our garden beds are flourishing. Year 7 students have planted tomatoes and lettuce while students in years 9 – 12 are using a range of vegetables to run various trials. The Support Classes are about to begin harvesting the watermelons that were planted last year and have planted sweet peas.

Preparations are in full swing for the poultry and alpaca competitions we will be entering at both Camden and Sydney Royal Shows. Each year Coolawarra Alpaca Stud lend us a team of animals that our students break in and train for the Showmanship and Stockmanship competitions. If you are coming to Camden Show don't forget to drop in and see our display on cotton production.

This year we will be entering the Merino Wether Challenge to be judged at Dubbo in August. We will be provided with 6 sheep that the students will raise for the competition and we look forward to their arrival in March.

See you at the show!

**M Atkinson and S Trudgett**  
**Agriculture Teachers**

## Sport Update

Congratulations to all the following age champions from the Swimming Carnival! The school community wishes you all the best in the Zone Swimming Carnival on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Students Name	Age group
Charli Smith	12 years
Issac Saleh	
Tahlia Balmer	13 years
Cooper Wade	
Ella Johnson	
Harry Affleck	
Alexis Weeden	14 years
Luka Krsmanovic	
Isabella Trevena	15-16 years
Noah Amos	
Kaitlin Furchtman	17 years +
Kobi Elguindy	

## Athletics Carnival

The EHS Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (Week 9). Consent form and payment will be available in the coming weeks. Parents are reminded to check their emails for this important information. Consent forms will need to be submitted in the coming weeks.

## Special Hockey News

Kye and Brayden Sutherland have just been named in NSW hockey teams.

Kye Sutherland has been named in the 18 Blues NSW Team to go to Cairns in April. Brayden Sutherland has been named in the 15 Lions NSW Team to go to Newcastle at the same time. Congratulations boys and good luck in the upcoming games!







## **MAMMA MIA is coming to Elderslie High School this year!**

This year Elderslie High School will see the return of a Musical Performance. Come along and join in all of the fun as Elderslie High School presents **MAMMA MIA**. The storytelling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. Featuring some of Elderslie High School's best young talent, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers. **MAMMA MIA** is a performance not to be missed! A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

Auditions for all roles and the chorus are now finalised and rehearsals have started. Everyone is very excited and nervous about the upcoming event. So, stay tuned for regular updates on our progress. **MAMMA MIA** will be presented to the school in early Term 3 in our School Hall. Dates to be confirmed very soon.

So, stay tuned for regular updates on our progress.

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 2022.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we were unable to have our **CAPA Information Evening**, so we are trying to send information to parents and students about programs and events through as many mediums as we can.

The **Vocal Ensemble** will resume during Rollcall time. All students who would like to audition for the Vocal Ensemble please see Ms Prigg. Hurry! The Vocal Ensemble fills up quickly.

Musicians are needed for the **Orchestra** for all students who enjoy playing ANY instrument. Please see Mr Webb if you are interested.

Now that some of the COVID restrictions are lifting, Ms Grimston-Eason, Mrs Carusi and Ms Dennis will be holding auditions for the **Dance Ensembles** in coming weeks. Please stay tuned for more information.

The Year 11 and 12 CAPA students will be able to enjoy the **HSC Showcases** in a virtual way this year. **ONSTAGE**, **ENCORE**, **CALLBACK** and **ART EXPRESS**, will be viewed in class groups by the end of Term 1. This is a great opportunity for our senior students to view some exemplary performances and works.

**Year 11 CAPA Evening** is coming up at the end of Term 1 on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in the School Hall. More information about this event will be available soon.

Over coming weeks, the CAPA Faculty will be asking students to sign up for the **Year 7 Drama Ensemble** and the **Visual Arts Club**. If there is enough student interest, both groups will resume in coming weeks. Permission notes will be made available to all students who have shown an interest in participating in these groups in 2022.

The **Event Management Team** will be reforming in coming weeks. The operation of the school's events is a very challenging task and 25 students with talent in this area have signed up to be part of this team. 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 Dennis or Mr Webb in the CAPA Staffroom ASAP.

The **Elderslie High School Talent Quest** is back for 2022! The Heats are now complete, and our finalists have been decided. The Final of the Talent Quest is on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 from 9 am – 3 pm. The performances will be filmed and access to the final show will be given to parents a week after the filming. More information will be made available in coming weeks.

**CAPA Faculty**

### **Elderslie High School Public Speaking Competition, 2022**

The **Elderslie High Public Speaking Competition** is back for 2022! The Final of the competition is on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Information about how this event will be coordinated this year will be available soon. Who will be awarded the title of the overall school winner 2022?

**CAPA Faculty**



# LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY??

**If your child needs to leave school prior to the end of the school day, the following procedure is to be followed:**

**A note must be written by the parent stating the child's name, year group, reason for leaving early, time leaving and name of the person collecting the child.**

**This note then needs to be brought to the student office BEFORE 8.55am to be approved by a Deputy Principal.**

**The person collecting the child must press the buzzer at the school's front gate at the agreed time and announce their arrival and who they are collecting.**

*Thank you for your co-operation!*

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

Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7	Mar 7	Mar 8 P & C Meeting 7pm	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11
8	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18 Talent Quest Rehearsals & Performance
9	Mar 21	Mar 22 Year 7 Vaccinations Dose 1	Mar 23	Mar 24 EHS Athletics Carnival	Mar 25
10	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	Apr 1 Camden Show Performance
11	Apr 4	Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8

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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 Meeting for 2022 will be:

*Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7pm in the Library.*