



PARENT BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024

Upcoming Events

February 19	CAPA Information Evening
February 20	School Photo Day
February 26	School Photo Catch Up Day
March 4	Year 6 into 7 Information Evening
March 5	Year 10 Vaccinations

See back page for more details



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to the start of the 2024 school year! It is wonderful to see all of our returning students and particularly exciting to meet all of our new Year 7 students and their families.

At this time of the year, it's a good idea to remember that the school works in partnership with each of our families to promote the development of your children. We do so much more than support the learning of students – we are also keen to support you to guide students in all aspects of their lives including social, emotional and psychological. Obviously the role of the family is at the forefront but we do encourage you to reach out to us if there is anything we can do to help in these areas of adolescent development. We will always do our best to access the services at our disposal. We ask that you get in touch as early as you can if there is an emerging problem or something you're worried about. If we know about it early, we have every chance of being able to intervene with the greatest success. As a principal, I also 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.

Communication Channels

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
- Elderslie High School Official Facebook page
- Elderslie High School Official Instagram page
- Elderslie High School website

Like all high schools, Elderslie High School has 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 Teacher's 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	Ms Natalie Martin
8	Mrs Melissa Bright	Mrs Joanne Amos
9	Ms Geraldine Borland	Mrs Elizabeth Siope
10	Mrs Maria Green	Ms Natalie Martin
11	Ms Maggie McEvoy	Mrs Joanne Amos
12	Ms Maxine Malcolm	Mrs Elizabeth Siope

Student Achievements

A huge congratulations to the Class of 2023 on their HSC results. Of particular note was Armon Mohebbati-Arany who was our Dux with an ATAR of 99.1 There were 99 results in the top 20% of the state which is very pleasing. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Jeremiah Armstrong, Anna Choudary, Amanda Condon, Chloe Hay, Ieuan King, Nick Lazzaro, Armon Mohebbati-Arany, James Steel, Kaiden Vandersteen and Feini Zhang who achieved results on NESAs Distinguished Achievers List.

Staffing Changes

There have been a few changes in our staffing with several new additions as follows:

- Mrs Amos is currently on leave for a few weeks and is replaced temporarily by Mr Miller as Relieving Deputy Principal. Ms McEvoy will fill his role as Head Teacher Human Society & Its Environment in the meantime.
- Ms Martin is also on leave until the end of the term and is replaced by Mr Sambuco as Relieving Deputy Principal until the end of Term 1. Mr Maher will fill his normal role of Head Teacher Mathematics in this period of time.
- We are delighted to announce the establishment of a new role for our school – the role of Deputy Principal, Inclusion & Support. Presently the role is being filled in an acting capacity by Mrs Natalie Robinson. The position will be filled permanently this term. In the interim, Mr Neil Grimes will fulfill the role of Head Teacher Support to replace Mrs Robinson.

•A warm welcome to our new permanent Head Teacher English, Ms Alyssa Phillips.

•Welcome back to Ms Koloska, Mrs Nath and Mr Goodsell who all resume duty after a period of leave.

•Welcome to the following new classroom teachers – Mrs Magnion (CAPA), Ms Maksimovic (PDHPE), Mr Graham (Japanese), Mr Gowing (Mathematics), Miss Burnes (HSIE), Mr Sharp (PDHPE), Ms Kracht (PDHPE), Ms Murphy (Support), Ms Mallitt (HSIE).

•We are also lucky to have long serving staff Ms Malcolm who will move into the role of Senior Learning Mentor and Ms Jeffries filling the role of Careers Adviser while Mrs Whitfield is on leave.

School Contributions and Student assistance

I would like to remind families that the school is able to help any family who needs financial assistance to support the purchase of uniform or the payment of voluntary contributions or subject contributions. Please send a confidential email or letter to me and I will endeavour to support your family as best I can. The best time to do this is at the start of the year or as we enter the cooler winter months rather than at the end of the year. All correspondence of this nature is handled discreetly and sensitively.

School Campus Improvements

As most parents would know, EHS was built in 1976 and as such, we are always looking for ways to improve the campus for students. I am delighted to say that the second stage of "The Grove" part of the playground is now complete. This renovation extends on stage one of The Grove and provides more seating, covered tables, and shade for our students. We have added more trees which will, over time, add even more protection in the hotter months. The ground cover has been completed with more astro-turf which makes a nice place for our students to sit with friends in breaks, a little bit like a picnic.

We have also changed our bell system so that we now have a PA system that allows for music to be played and announcements to be made much more effectively across the entire campus. Finally, we have added a new outdoor classroom to the back of the school behind the Science labs.

Behaviour at School

From the start of Term 1, the Department has launched a new Behaviour Code for students as well as substantially overhauled procedures for suspension and expulsion. Parents and students will notice a change in the expectations of all schools aligned to high standards. Our school is a place where all students should be given the opportunity to learn.

Where students display concerning behaviour that gets in the way of this happening for peers, they can expect to have this acted upon by school executive. I have included a copy of the new Student Behaviour Code in this edition of Parent Bulletin.

Parent Community Charter

Elderslie High School always aims to build the best and most productive partnerships we can with our families and parents. We are blessed to have such a wonderful community to serve. We thank all family members who abide by the Department's expectations outlined in the School Community Charter for acceptable parental activity. I have included another copy of this Charter in Parent Bulletin for your reference.

Parents & Citizens Association

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. The P&C meet twice per term on Tuesday evenings in Week 3 and 7 from 7pm. Most meetings are held in a face-to-face manner in the library, with occasional meetings being held via Zoom as needed.

P&C Meetings are attended by the Principal and Deputy Principals. Parents are addressed by faculty representatives 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 13th**.

*Kind regards,
Mrs Jenny Lawrence
Principal*

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS Natalie Martin (DP Years 7 & 10)

Year 7

Year 7 have settled into Year 7 and have started to familiarise themselves with the school campus and their teachers. Most students have been engaged in learning and made new friends in each of their classes. Our Tech Elect class has space to include more girls, so if your child is interested in learning through communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity using ipads please contact the school. It is not too late to join this innovative class.

Year 7 students will be sitting the NAPLAN tests between 6th and 18th March. More information will be emailed to parents closer to the date. Students will need to bring their own wired earphones for NAPLAN.

Year 10

All students in Year 10 have a Careers lesson one period per fortnight. These lessons aim to support students in their transition from Year 10 to post school pathways or to the HSC

and beyond. Every student will complete a transition plan so the school can work with your child to successfully support them to transition to their chosen pathway.

Year 10 and their parents were issued with a note explaining that the Formal is an invitational event held by the school requiring all students to follow the school code of conduct throughout the year to ensure their attendance at this prestigious event.

All students have also attended a presentation about our school Assessment Policy. They signed for a copy of the Assessment Guidelines which outlines the Department of Education requirements for assessment and the Record of School Achievement. All assessment guidelines are available on the school website.

ELEVATE Program

ELEVATE is being offered to identified and interested students in Year 12 to enable them to achieve their potential. Many students need to be better prepared to tackle the added expectations and requirements of the HSC courses of study and they are often overwhelmed by the workload. The first ELEVATE Day is being held in the school library on Thursday 15th February.

It is important that students realise the value of their Stage 6 course of study before it is too late. Lack of information or preparation can affect their motivation, application and attendance, which ultimately affects their performance and grades. With a few simple routines and a well organised, planned and motivated approach towards study, assessment and examinations, most students can reach higher levels of achievement in the HSC, as well as maintain improved mental health and reduced stress levels.

We have identified students who would benefit from participating in this program and to encourage attendance the school will provide morning tea and lunch. Interested students can speak to Miss Malcolm to be included in this event. An email was sent to students who were invited to participate in this event.

*Ms Natalie Martin
Deputy Principal
Years 7 & 10*

Adam Miller (Relieving DP Years 8 & 11)

Welcome to the beginning of the 2024 school year! For the start of this year, I will be working with the students of Years 8 and 11 while Mrs Amos is on leave. I am looking forward to working alongside some great Year Advisers and Assistant Year Advisers who have responsibility for the year groups in my care including Mrs Melissa Bright (Year 8) and Mrs Margaret McEvoy (Year 11).

Year 8 are now into their second year of high school and should be more settled and we trust they will take up all the opportunities offered to them at EHS. Later this year they will get the opportunity to choose their first elective subjects which will commence in Year 9.

For Year 11, we will be working with our students throughout the year as they set goals and make decisions about senior school and pursuing opportunities post-school. In the coming weeks, there will be presentations for Year 11 in regards to senior high school, their requirements and working towards their HSC. Students are reminded of the importance of following school 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 the assessment guidelines will also be available on the school's website.

The start of the new school year is the perfect time to establish good routines of a 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. All students are expected to be at school prior to the bell at 8:50am. Students should only be absent from school if there is a valid reason and this needs to be communicated to the school. The easiest way to do this is 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.

Mr Adam Miller
Relieving Deputy Principal
Years 8 & 11

Elizabeth Siope (Relieving DP, Years 9 & 12)

Welcome back to all students, both new and returning. It's a pleasure to see our school buzzing with energy once again as we dive into the new school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the significance of wearing the full school uniform. Our uniform represents more than just clothing; it embodies our school's values, identity, and sense of belonging. By adhering to the uniform policy, students demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, and the school community. I kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school each day dressed in the complete school uniform, ready to engage in learning and contribute positively to our environment.

Year 12 Students

As the upcoming assessment period is fast approaching, the following points will assist you in supporting your child:

- **Effective Time Management:** Encourage your child to create a study schedule that allocates sufficient time for each subject.
- **Utilise Available Resources:** Remind your child to make use of available resources, including textbooks, study guides, and online platforms provided by the school. Additionally, encourage them to seek clarification from teachers or seek additional support if needed.
- **Practice Past Papers:** Practicing past exam papers is an excellent way for students to familiarise themselves with the exam format, timing, and types of questions. This not only builds confidence but also enhances their understanding of key concepts and exam techniques.
- **Submit a draft assessment to their teacher for review.**

Year 9 Students

Our Year 9 students have seamlessly settled into their new academic year and are already exemplifying the core values of our school, Excellence, Honour and Service. We recognise the pivotal role that parents play in nurturing these qualities at home, and we are grateful for your continued support in reinforcing these values. Together, we are shaping responsible, reflective, and respectful individuals who contribute positively to our school environment.

As we progress through the term, I would like to inform you that Year 9 students will be undertaking the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) this term. More information regarding NAPLAN, including dates and preparation tips, will be communicated to you shortly.

Thank you for your support and partnership in nurturing the growth and development of our Year 9 students. Together, let's continue to empower them to achieve their fullest potential.

Mrs Elizabeth Siope
Relieving Deputy Principal
Years 9 & 12

Natalie Robinson (Relieving Deputy Principal – Inclusion and Support)

Welcome back to the new year! It is with immense enthusiasm that I write this article. The Support Unit is thrilled to announce its expansion to seven classes this year. We've already welcomed several new students and eagerly anticipate transitioning more throughout the year as our new classroom spaces become available.

As we broaden our scope to accommodate more students, we will also appoint three new Special Education Teachers and three new School Learning Support Officers into the

Support faculty. Alongside this expansion, we're appointing a Deputy Principal Inclusion and Support, a crucial leadership position dedicated to fostering inclusion and driving improvements in the learning, wellbeing, and independence of students with disabilities.

Currently, I have the privilege of serving as the relieving Deputy Principal Inclusion and Support, and I am enthusiastic about continuing to promote our school-wide culture of inclusion, fostering high expectations, and enhancing outcomes for students with additional needs.

Mrs Natalie Robinson

Relieving Deputy Principal - Inclusion and Support

School Photos

School photographs will be taken on Tuesday 20th February 2024. Parents have received an information note outlining the procedures for the day. 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 26th 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. No sport uniforms.

Photo package prices will range from \$33 to \$70.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr Atterton, PDHPE Faculty.

Learning Support/Welfare:

Welcome To High School

Embarking on the journey through high school is a significant milestone in every student's life. As parents, educators, and caregivers, it is crucial to recognise and address the welfare needs of students. Not only does the transition from primary school to high school bring academic challenges, but it also brings about profound social, emotional, and physical changes. The school aims to support students in navigating the challenges of high school, ensuring their wellbeing and success. Here are six important tips for parents and caregivers to ensure a successful transition to high school:

1. Academic Preparation:

Helping students succeed academically is paramount. Establish a conducive study environment at home, encourage effective time management, and foster a positive attitude towards learning. Open communication with teachers to understand the academic expectations and provide the necessary resources for students to excel.

Students should not be afraid to ask for help if they need it!

2. Emotional Wellbeing:

With the pressures of learning, social dynamics, and personal development, students may face stress, anxiety, or other emotional challenges. Encourage open communication at home, be attentive to signs of distress, and promote coping mechanisms such as mindfulness, meditation, or seeking professional support if needed.

3. Social Integration:

High school brings new social dynamics, and students may feel a sense of isolation or struggle to find their place. Facilitate opportunities for social interaction, encourage participation in clubs or extracurricular activities, and foster a supportive network of friends. Additionally, educate students about the importance of diversity and inclusion, promoting a culture of acceptance and understanding.

4. Physical Wellbeing:

A healthy body contributes to a healthy mind. Ensure students have access to nutritious meals, adequate sleep, and regular physical activity. Encourage a balanced lifestyle and teach the importance of self-care. If necessary, collaborate with school programs or community resources that support physical wellbeing.

5. Goal Setting and Future Planning:

Help students set realistic goals for their high school journey and beyond. Discuss their aspirations, interests, and potential career paths. Introduce them to resources that can aid in career exploration and academic planning. Having a clear vision of the future can motivate students and provide a sense of purpose.

6. Online Safety:

Ensuring online safety is crucial to protect students from potential risks such as cyberbullying, identity theft, and exposure to inappropriate content. Social media, gaming, and online abuse is a topic that is raised regularly. Because of this, the eSafety Commissioner has released free online webinars for parents and carers in preparation of 2024, and information regarding reporting abuse and how eSafety can help. The Parent and Carer Webinar Schedule is attached at the end of this newsletter for those interested in learning more.

Mrs Paula Garner

Relieving Head Teacher - Learning Support & Welfare

Administration Hints & Tips

Please refer to your child's Student Diary for the correct procedure for 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.

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 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. Permission over the phone for your child to leave early will not be accepted.

Sick Bay- If a student is sick, they should advise their teacher and come to the Student Office where staff will contact their parents should they need to go home. The person collecting the student must be an emergency contact on our system.

Payments- Payments can be made online, with access from the school website.

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

Vaccinations

From 2024, parents can provide consent online for their child's routine school vaccinations.

The following vaccines are offered free to students at school:

- in Year 7 - diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) and human papillomavirus (HPV)
- in Year 10 - meningococcal ACWY vaccine

Vaccination will only be provided at school if consent has been received. To provide consent for vaccination online, parents/carers will need:

- their Service NSW log-in details, or to create an account with Service NSW if they don't already have one
- Medicare details for parents/carers and their child

Benefits of online consent for parents/carers:

- SMS notifications when vaccinations are given
- easy updating of their child's details online
- faster upload of their child's vaccination records to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

For those who do not have access to online consent:

- Printed consent materials are also available and can be distributed to students where parents/carers cannot provide online consent, including for parents/carers or students who do not have a Medicare card or internet access. These can be collected from the Learning Support Faculty.

Vaccination dates for Elderslie High School:

- Tuesday 5th March 2024 - Year 10
- Tuesday 4th June 2024 - Year 7
- Tuesday 20th August 2024 -Year 7, Year 8, Year 10 & Year 11 Catch ups

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). In addition, all teaching staff undertake training to increase their understanding of the nature and impact of racism and their responsibility to support the Anti-Racism Policy. The ARCO at Elderslie High is Ms Woo, who is in her fifth year in this role.

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 Officer 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. Students will find Ms Woo in the Science staffroom or can alert any staff member to racist matters.

EHS is a bully free zone. Always spread kindness.

Ms Woo
Anti Racism Contact Officer (ARCO)

Year 7

2024 has seen a fantastic start for Year 7 as they begin their big adventure in their education journey. Our focus has been to provide positive support in ensuring they begin each day and lesson by giving their best. Ms Santos (Assistant Year Advisor) and I have been in awe of the willingness of our newest students to give their best and to leave each lesson being proud of their efforts, and the way they have been supporting each other in their learning has demonstrated the empathy, compassion and presence that has been encouraged from them. Year 7 have begun the year with a focus on "Listening, Working Hard and Being Kind" and they have led by example.

As our students adjust to the change from primary school to secondary school, we encourage our parents and carers to reach out and support their students and to check-in with how they are adapting. While our students have shown exemplary behaviour in terms of uniform, being in the right place at the right time, and the respect towards staff, students, and themselves, we understand that many will experience the odd moment of uncertainty or insecurity. Ms Santos and I are always available to discuss the needs of each student in Year 7 and to ensure that every young person feels safe, secure, and ready to learn, and we encourage them to visit us at lunch or recess at the HSIE or English staffrooms. With sports carnivals, camps, and many other extracurriculars planned for the year, we can't wait for what 2024 has in store for Year 7!

Mr Goodsell & Ms Santos
Year 7 Year Advisers 2024

First Nations Education

Welcome to 2024. I will continue to work with our First Nations Students as the First Nations Education Coordinator. We have lots of things planned and it is going to be an exciting year. If students need to touch base with me, they can find me in the PDHPE Staffroom.

First Nations SLSO

Ms Wallace will continue as our First Nations School Learning Support Officer (SLSO). Ms Wallace supports students in class, with assessment tasks and will also assist with cultural activities. She brings a wealth of knowledge and passion for art and the environment. If your child requires support with any of the above, please contact myself or Ms Wallace.

National Apology Day

National Apology Day in Australia is observed on February 13th every year. It is a national day commemorating the first-ever national apology made by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008 to initialise the Australian federal government's rehabilitation, justice, and reconciliation agenda for the First Nations people, and the tens of thousands of children who were forcibly removed from their families during Australia's assimilation era.

National Apology Day provides an opportunity to seek healing and pursue reconciliation in Australia. It emphasises the need to close the gap of discrimination, unjust treatment, racism, and abuse of human rights in Australia towards First Nations citizens, families, and communities.

First Nations Roll Call

Our First Nations cultural roll call will continue in 2024. This roll call focuses on cultural activities and supports First Nations 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 be welcomed to the school with a yarn and some morning tea. All Year 7 students will receive a note to join at this morning tea. This note needs to be returned to Ms Crossingham in the PDHPE Staffroom or Ms Wallace in the Learning Support Staffroom if they wish to join.

GO Foundation Scholarship

The Go Foundation Scholarships are an excellent opportunity for First Nations Students to support their journey through high school. Students can apply in Year 8 and Year 10. Successful students receive a money prize which can be used for educational purposes over 2 years. The application process is quite challenging and involves obtaining referees and an interview.

This year, EHS has 10 new scholarship holders, to join the 7 2023 recipients, which is an excellent achievement.

Congratulations to the following students-

Year 9- Abbie Tydeman, Bailey Nichols, Harrison Davis, Olivia D'Amato

Year 11- Ella Russell, Ella Smith, Kimberley Smith, Lindsay Carr, Ryan Proud Spicer, Zelden Bell

The Go Foundation representatives will be visiting late February to meet students and explain how the scholarship works.

Ms Crossingham
First Nations Education
Head Teacher PDHPE

Mathematics Faculty

The Mathematics faculty were extremely impressed with our HSC results in 2023 and would like to congratulate all students on their wonderful results. We are delighted to share that we had our best results in a very long time, attaining 9 band 6 results and many more band 5s across the different mathematics courses. We are so proud of how hard all our Year 12 students worked and personally, I am very proud of the commitment and effort of the whole faculty in supporting our students. This has set a new benchmark for the faculty, and we are excited to take through the next cohort of Year 12 who we know can reach these lofty heights. Through hard work and dedication, they too can achieve top marks.

This positive news sets a tone for all our students in 2024 and as a faculty we will be reinforcing to all students the importance on engaging with their classwork here at school and the value of completing homework on a regular basis. Those students who achieved strong results all worked very hard right from their junior years, so we hope to help inspire our future top performers. I encourage all parents and carers to regularly engage in discussion with their child about their progress at school and remind those in junior years to complete their Mathematics tasks for homework. Senior students are encouraged to constantly revise and practice past papers where possible. The Mathematics faculty are looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Agriculture News

We are looking forward to a very exciting 2024 on the school farm with lots of activities already planned for Term 1.

We currently have eggs in the incubator, that will be hatching at the beginning of Week 4, ready for our Year 7 Chicken Care Unit. Small groups of students will be allocated a chick to care for and monitor at school throughout Term 1. This is always a popular activity with the students as they learn how to care for a young animal. Some of these layer chicks will be available for sale at the end of the term. Year 7 students will also begin setting up their vegetable gardens this semester and will start by producing lettuce and tomatoes.

Show preparations began last year with the breeding of some new pure breed poultry to boost our team for both Camden Show and Sydney Royal. Students will be monitoring the food consumption and egg production for our "Layer Team" so they can complete the project component of the Layer Competition at Sydney Royal. As well as presenting 26 of our birds for judging, 8 of our students will also be judged on their chicken expertise in the Poultry Youth Showmanship competition where they will be assessed on their knowledge of their selected breed and their handling skills. Some of our older students will also be competing in the Poultry Young Judges Competition.

In January, 4 of our students attended an Alpaca Camp run by the Australian Alpaca Association where they further developed their knowledge and skills in working with and showing alpacas. We are looking forward to these students passing on some of their expertise to others at school who

wish to become involved in showing our alpacas. The Alpaca Team will be showing alpacas at both Camden Show and Sydney Royal. We have our own alpacas but supplement the team with some show animals provided by our mentor stud, Storybook Alpacas. The Alpaca Team and the animals go through an intensive training period ready to compete in both the Paraders and Stockmanship competitions at Camden Show and Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Members of the Cattle Show Team will be competing in the Young Judges Competition at Castle Hill Show in March. Our own cattle will be arriving at school early in Term 2.

As well as presenting livestock at Camden Show, we will have our display about Soil in the High Schools' Agriculture Tent. A large number of students will be working on this display throughout the show, answering questions and helping children with related craft activities. Please come and say hello if you are at the show.

M Atkinson

Library Matters

Welcome back, everyone! I look forward to working with you all as we move into 2024. Our school library is a wonderful place full of great resources to help you find success at Elderslie High. We're open every morning tea and lunch for students to:

- Complete and print assessments
- Use, borrow and return resources such as books, magazines, games, and laptops.
- Relax in comfort with your friends or make some new ones.
- Access the Technology Support Officer and the Wellbeing/Learning Support Faculty
- Take part in our social events, such as the Dungeons and Dragons Club

At Elderslie High School we also have an online library. If you'd like to browse the thousands of free eBooks and Audiobooks we have waiting to be borrowed, you can login using your school email at <https://eldersliehs.eplatform.co/>.

This year I greatly look forward to working with the Year 7 and 8 students in the Wide Reading Program. During these fortnightly lessons we give students access to high interest, self-selected texts and allow students time to explore, share, and value their reading in a socially supported positive learning environment. Through this program we aimed to create independent, lifelong readers who are set up for personal and academic success.

Recent research from the Australia Reads organisation reveals:

- Reading is four times more influential on intellectual progress in teens than having a parent with a degree.

- The top barriers to teens reading were the difficulty of choosing a good book (61%), followed by lack of free time (56%).
- Exposure to larger home libraries in adolescence has a positive direct effect on adult literacy, numeracy, and information and communications technology skills.
- 68% of young people said that BookTok had inspired them to read a book that they would have never considered otherwise.
- A 20% reduction in mortality was observed for those who read books (30 mins a day), compared to those who did not read books.
- Adults who read books, magazines, and newspapers almost every day had a substantially lower risk of being diagnosed with depression. They also scored lower on the loneliness scale.
- 43% of readers said reading helps them get a better night's sleep.
- 95% of people who are blind or partially sighted read at least once a week to alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- Reading for just 30 minutes a week means you're 57% more likely to have a greater awareness of other cultures.

Simple actions like talking about what you're reading or reading with your child can therefore have a significant positive impact on their academic success and personal wellbeing.

D Lysaught
Teacher Librarian

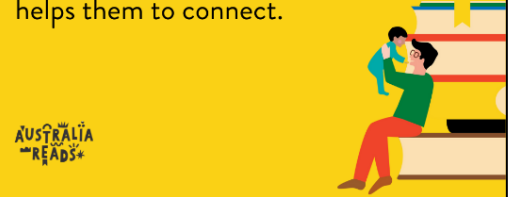
Share special time with a book

86% of children said they **loved being read books aloud** at home or liked it a lot – the main reason being because it is a **special time with parents**.



Bond at bedtime with a book

Three in four (74%) Australian parents believe that **reading to their child provides them with an important bonding experience** and helps them to connect.



Sleep deeper with a book

43% of readers said reading helps them get a **better night's sleep**.



Boost your mood with a book

Those who read 30 mins a week were 18% more likely to **report an increase in self-esteem and greater life satisfaction**.



Sport

Tenika Williams - National Softball

Tenika Williams represented NSW in Canberra during late January in a National Softball Competition. Tenika was in the U14's NSW SkyTeam and she played her heart out all week. On day one, the NSW team defeated QLD 12-4 and defeated WA 9-8. She was great at bat, pitched amazingly and took the winning catch on first base in the finals. Tenika and her team won the National Championship.



Caleb Tu - Zone Volleyball

Caleb Tu in Year 11 made the Opens Boys Zone Volleyball Team. Congratulations Caleb!

Isabella Trevena - National Softball

Isabella Trevena was selected as part of the Under 18's NSW Girls Softball team to compete in the National Championships. She was also the NSW team captain and she led them to victory! The Australian team is to be announced soon. Goodluck Isabella!



Caitlyn Brazier - Aus Cycling National Series

Caitlyn Brazier competed in the first round of the Aus Cycling National Series. Across two days, Caitlyn competed at the Gold Coast and achieved 1st in round one and 2nd in round two. Congratulations Caitlyn and good luck in the next round.

Izabel Williams - West Tigers

Izabel Williams was selected for the Junior West Tigers Development Squad which is part of the Lisa Fiaola Cup. There are 13 players selected to start play each week and Izabel has been selected to start play two weeks in a row! Their most recent game on the weekend was a win against the Sharks. Good luck Izabel in your following game.



William Finianos - West Tigers

William Finianos was selected for the Junior West Tigers Development Squad which is part of the Andrew Johns Cup. They walked away with a win in round one. Goodluck Will for the rest of the season!

Archer Soire - U15's Zone Touch Football

Archer Soire in Year 8 made the Under 15's Boys Zone Touch Football Team. Congratulations Archer!

Casey Lloyd - Opens Zone Basketball

Casey Lloyd in Year 11 made the Open Girls Zone Basketball Team. Congratulations Casey!

EHS School Houses – 2024



KOOKABURRA
[A-C]



LYREBIRD
[D-H]



MERINO
[I-M]



BLUETONGUE
[N-R]



RAZORBACK
[S-Z]

Get excited, students of Elderslie High School! The second year of School Houses are up and running and we are calling on ALL students to seek to push for their personal best in all areas of learning, extra-curricular and activities around the school to earn House Points.

2023 was a HUGE success! With the introduction of the **Five Teams**, with the names selected by students and staff, we are proud of the achievements by all of our community to get involved in pushing this competition amongst staff and students.

We would like to thank and show our appreciation to the following students for their involvement in a range of activities and discussions - providing the Staff Committee with valuable feedback and insights into how they would like 2024 to run. The 2023 Captains were as following:

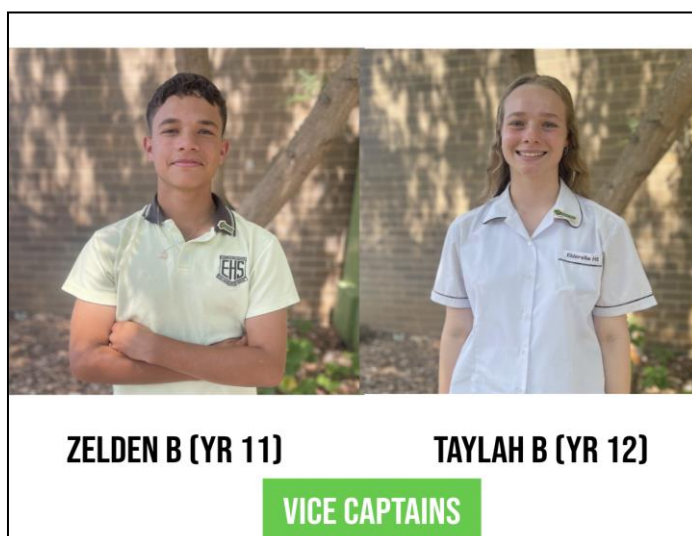
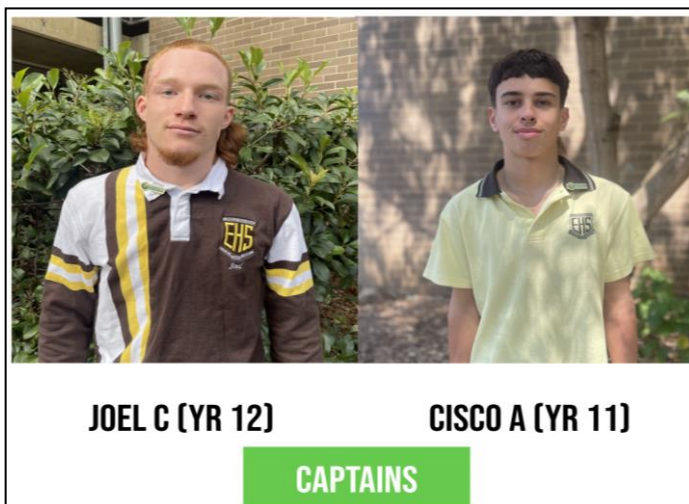
- Kookaburra (Surnames A-C): Joel C, Carlee B, Tyliah B and Ashley C
- Lyrebird (Surnames D-H): Noah D, Kathy G, An-Huy H and Ryan H
- Merino (Surnames I-M), Sinna L, Dylan L, Armon M-H and Nathasha M
- Bluetongue (Surnames N-R) Aaron P, Keira R-M, Kurt P and Dennis P
- Razorback (Surnames S-Z) Dylan T, Elle T, Mickayla S and Izabel W

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to the **Lyrebird House** who took home the WINNING Trophy by less than 30 points! As a result, our 2024 newly voted Captains provided a delicious BBQ lunch for all students within that house in the last week of school.

As we enter 2024, EHS School Houses will be BIGGER and BETTER. There are many things planned this year, including the design and implementation of break-time activities run by Captains, War-Cry competitions, as well as further leadership roles both inside and outside the classroom.

Students can earn House Points in a variety of ways - including outstanding participation in class and learning spaces, excelling and representing the school in Sport, CAPA, Agriculture, Lunchtime Clubs or through Gifted Programs. Students can earn 10 individual House Points through acts of School Excellence - whether this be through academic results, or outstanding School Representation.

We would like to formally welcome and congratulate the following students in recognition of their acceptance within their new roles.





WIL D (YR 12)



WILL F (YR 11)

CAPTAINS



AARON P (YR 11)



KIMBERLEY R (YR 12)

CAPTAINS



ALEX H (YR 12)



KATHY G (YR 12)

VICE CAPTAINS



JAMES O (YR 11)



EMMANUEL P (YR 12)

VICE CAPTAINS



BLAKE L (YR 10)



LANA L (YR 12)

CAPTAINS



ENE S (YR 11)



OLIVIA S (YR 11)

CAPTAINS



DYLAN L (YR 12)



DIANA M (YR 11)

VICE CAPTAINS



DYLAN T (YR 12)



NIKA S (YR 12)

VICE CAPTAINS

We are extremely proud of these students, and the leadership qualities they have already demonstrated. I am sure that the Swimming Carnival will prove just how dedicated they all are to prove how worthy their team is to earn that Trophy!

CAPA Update

The CAPA Information Evening is on Monday, 19th February 2024 from 6.00 – 7.00 pm in the Library. It is a must for parents with students involved in the School Musical, Event Management Team, Dance ensembles, Drama Ensemble, Visual Arts Club, Music Ensemble (Vocal and Instrumental) at Elderslie High School. We hope you will gain all of the information you require about the year ahead.

Students interested in joining the Event Management Team, Dance ensembles, Drama ensemble, Visual Arts Club, Vocal Ensemble or Orchestra need to sign up by Wednesday 14th February 2024 by using the link posted on their Year Group Google Classrooms. After that date, parents of interested students will be emailed a permission note to complete and return. All ensembles will commence the week beginning the 19th February.

During 2023 the Vocal Ensemble and Orchestra came together in a new Music Ensemble Rollcall. The Vocal Ensemble will also meet on Thursday mornings from 8.15 am - 8.45 am in Music Room 1. The Orchestra will also meet on Thursday mornings from 8.15 am - 8.45 am in Music Room 2. Classes will start on Thursday, 22nd February 2024.

This year, students in Year 7 - 10 have the opportunity to participate in the Drama Ensemble. This group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 8.00 am to 8.45 am in the Studio. Classes will start on Wednesday, 21st February 2024.



During 2024, students in Year 7 - 12 have the opportunity to participate in the **Dance Ensemble**. This group will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 3.00 pm to 4.15 pm in the Studio. Classes will start on Wednesday, 21st February 2024. Students in Year 7 - 12 also have the opportunity to participate in the **Ballroom Dance Ensemble**. This group will meet on either Thursday or Friday mornings from 8.00 am - 8.45 am in the Studio. The day of the week will be negotiated with the students who nominate to be part of this ensemble. The Dance Show Team will return in 2024, with details to be released about this ensemble in coming weeks.



This year, students in Year 7 - 12 have the opportunity to join the **Visual Arts Club** on Wednesday afternoons from 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm in Art Room 1. We will be experimenting with some fun art making skills and students will have individual help to work on their artworks. Classes will start on Wednesday, 21st February 2024.

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, prop and costume management and much more.



Our **CAPA Calendar for 2024** arrived at the end of last year. The Calendar is \$20.00 and on sale from the Student Office. Students who participated in CAPA Ensembles and events are featured in the calendar, so it is a great memory of the year.



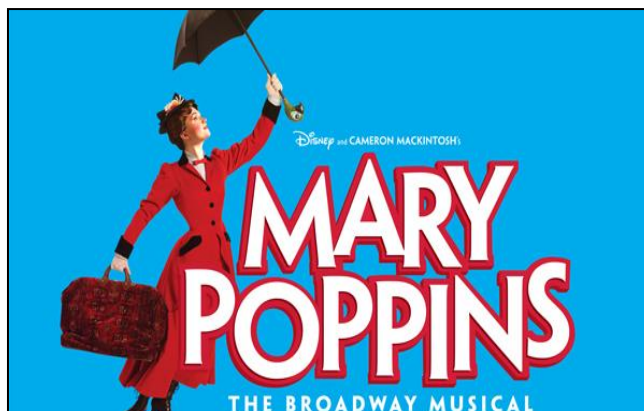
The Year 10, 11 and 12 Dance and Drama students will be viewing **ONSTAGE and CALLBACK** (the best of the HSC Drama and Dance Performances and Projects from 2023). The students will gain a much clearer understanding of the expected level of performance required for the HSC CAPA courses. Permission notes have been emailed home to parents and need to be returned as soon as possible.

All Drama and Dance students are offered the opportunity to audition for the **State Dance and State Drama Companies and Ensembles** for 2024. 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.



So during 2024, come along and enjoy the performances of our talented CAPA students.

Creative and Performing Arts Faculty



Mary Poppins is coming to Elderslie High School this year!

This year Elderslie High School will present our nineteenth musical performance. Come along and join in all of the fun as Elderslie High School presents **MARY POPPINS, The Broadway Musical**. Everyone's favourite practically perfect nanny takes to the stage in this supercalifragilisticexpialidocious musical adventure.

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. **MARY POPPINS, The Musical** will be presented from the 23rd - 25th May 2024.

So, stay tuned for regular updates on our progress.

Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

**Education**

Behaviour code for students

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments for everyone across a range of settings. We teach and model the inclusive and safe behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected, to the best of their ability, to:

- show respect to other students, their teachers and school staff and community members • follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- strive for the highest standards in learning
- act in a courteous and respectful way that makes all members of the school community feel valued, included and supported
- resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- meet the school's agreed uniform policy or dress code
- attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- respect all property
- be safe and not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or tobacco into our schools
- not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

Schools take action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning

All students have a right to:

- safety at school
- access and fully participate in their learning
- be treated with respect by other students, teachers and school staff
- express their views, set goals and self-advocate.

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments and apply an appropriate action when students are not meeting these expectations. The department is responsible for the provision of a policy framework and resources such as legal issues bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context, the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.



Education

Behaviour code for students: Student actions

Promoting the inclusion, learning, wellbeing, and safety of all students in NSW public schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches across a range of settings to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

To meet the expectations set out above, students in NSW public schools, to the best of their ability, should adhere to the following principles.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity.
- Communicate and behave courteously.
- Act and work cooperatively with other students, teachers, and school staff.
- Develop positive and respectful relationships.
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others.
- Respect the learning needs of other students.
- Dress appropriately by wearing the agreed school uniform or dress code.
- Take care with school property and the property of staff and other students.

Safety

- Model and follow school and class rules and expectations around behaviour and conduct.
- Negotiate and resolve conflict.
- Be aware of and take responsibility for how their behaviour and actions impact others.
- Care for self and others.
- Be safe and help others to make safe choices that do not hurt themselves or others.

Engagement

- Arrive at school and class on time.
- Be prepared for every lesson.
- Actively participate in learning.
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning.



School Community Charter

 **Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.



Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:

- to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.

We treat each other with respect

We prioritise the wellbeing of all students and staff

Unsafe behaviour is not acceptable in our schools

We work together with the school



We create
collaborative
learning
environments

We
all play
a part

We work
in partnership
to promote
student
learning

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



**Collaborative.
Respectful.
Communication.**

School Community Charter

education.nsw.gov.au - English 2



Parent and carer webinar schedule 2024

eSafety's free webinars provide parents and carers with the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe, positive online experiences.

Term 1

Safer Internet Day (6 February)

eSafety 101: How eSafety can help

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and secondary school.

Understanding how to support your child with online gaming

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and early secondary school.

Understanding parental controls to safeguard your child

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary school.

Online safety and social media: TikTok, YouTube and Instagram

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and early secondary school.

Term 2

National Families Week (May)

eSafety 101: How eSafety can help

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and secondary school.

Wellbeing and digital technologies

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

Consent and online boundaries: How to support your primary-aged child

Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary school.

Setting your child up for success online

Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary school.

Term 3

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (August)

National Child Protection Week (September)

- **Understanding how to support your child with online gaming**
Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and early secondary school.
- **Consent and online boundaries: How to support your primary-aged child**
Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary school.
- **An introduction to online safety and emerging technologies**
Suitable for parents and carers of children and parents in primary and secondary school.

Term 4

Mental Health Month (October)

- **Navigating online friendships: Transitioning to secondary school**
Suitable for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.
- **eSafety 101: How eSafety can help**
Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and secondary school.



Subscribe to [eSafetyNews](#) for dates and registration details or visit esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars.



ELDERSLIE HIGH SCHOOL
'Excellence, Honour, Service'

YEAR 7 2025



INFORMATION EVENING



It is now that time of the year when Year 6 parents are making decisions about the transition to high school.

Come along to our Information Evening to learn more about our outstanding educational programs and extra-curricular activities.

These include:

- * Academic Achievements
- * Creative & Performing Arts Opportunities
- * Sports Program
- * Scholarship Program
- * Vocational Education
- * Agricultural Programs



When: Monday, 4th March 2024

Time: 5.00pm for tours of the school

Tours are scheduled for 5.15, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50 & 6pm.
7.00pm for information session

Where: School Hall



4658 1110



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

Is your child in year 7 or year 10?



Provide your consent for routine school vaccinations online.

At the beginning of the school year, your child's school will share the link to complete the online consent form.

Benefits of providing online consent:

- easily update your child's details
- get SMS notifications when vaccinations are given
- faster upload of vaccination records to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

To provide online consent, you will need:

- the link provided by the school
- your Service NSW log-in details
- medicare details for you and your child

Scan the QR code to give your consent now.



For more information on vaccination visit:
health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination

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

Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16
4	February 19 CAPA Information Evening 6pm-7pm	February 20 School Photo Day	February 21	February 22	February 23
5	February 26 School Photo Catch Up Day	February 27	February 28	February 29	March 1 Zone Swimming Carnival
6	March 4 Year 6 into 7 Information Evening	March 5 Year 10 Vaccinations	March 6	March 7	March 8
7	March 11	March 12	March 13	March 14	March 15

Elderslie High School
40-48 Hilder Street
Narellan NSW 2567

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Fax: (02) 4658 0219

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

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

Excellence. Honour. Service.



P & C MEETINGS 2024

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

Our next meeting for 2024 will be:
Tuesday, 13th February 2024
7pm in the School Library