In this issue read about:

- Monday 8 Feb—Swimming Carnival
- Wed 10 Feb—Meet the Teacher sessions
- 2016 Class Teachers & our New Teachers

From the Principal

Welcome to EPS in 2016

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to an exciting 2016 school year. I extend a very special welcome to all of our new families and I look forward to meeting you all soon. I trust you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break and that your child/children’s start to school has been as smooth as possible.

I would like to compliment you on ensuring your children were dressed in full school uniform for their first day back. They looked like a sea of purple, turquoise and black at our first school assembly. I enjoyed chatting to many of the children on the playground last week and listening to their recounts of holiday adventures.

Today was the very first day for our 65 brand new Kindergarten students. I was impressed by how mature they all were as they waved their parents goodbye. It’s hard to believe these little learners will complete Year 12 in the year 2028. I am sure the world will be a very different place as we help them commence their journey of lifelong learning.

Kindergarten Best Start Assessment

All kindergarten students completed the Best Start assessments last week. The information collected from these assessments allow staff to plan learning programs to match each child’s learning needs. Students are placed on a learning continuum according to their initial skills and their progress is then tracked throughout their primary years.

Our 21st Class

You may have noticed work has commenced on the site where our 21st demountable classroom will be positioned. The demountable was due to be completed over the holiday period but unfortunately it has been delayed by a few weeks due to circumstances beyond our control. Miss Schroeder and 3/4S are eagerly awaiting their classroom’s arrival and are currently in our demountable library building.

Classes for 2016

Staff spent considerable time looking at each child’s needs before deciding on their class placements for 2016. As mentioned we now have 21 classes comprising 18 mainstream and 3 support classes. With the exception of three of our Kindergarten classes all of our other classes are composite classes. This means they are made up of students across two or more grades. Teachers differentiate lessons and use grouping as a strategy to cater for the individual needs of all learners in their classes. Composite classes are not new to Elderslie and have been in place since the school opened seven years ago. Students benefit by being in composite classes as they engage with students of different ages which is important in the development of social skills. Students in composite classes at EPS will cover the learning prescribed for their stage in the NSW Syllabus documents for the Australian Curriculum. All syllabus documents are written in stages and indicate the learning outcomes students should achieve over a two year period.
This year all of our classes have been named after endangered Australian Animals. Our Student Leaders came up with this suggestion when I asked them their thoughts on a theme for class names in the last weeks of 2015. Please read the class names and their teachers attached further on in the newsletter.

Changes and Upgrades

There are a few other changes that are taking place around our school in the coming weeks; an upgrade to the telephone system and front gate, a drop down screen and new audio in the hall and an interactive touch screen computer for the technology classroom. All of these changes were on Mr Mason’s and the school’s wishlist to further enhance our school.

Communication Channels

Open communication between home and school is vital and strengthens our productive partnerships. If you have any concerns or thoughts you would like to share with your child’s teacher, then please do not hesitate to call our school office and leave a message for the teacher to call you. You may like to discuss the matter over the telephone or a mutually agreeable time can be scheduled. If after speaking to the teacher you need further clarification, then please call the office to speak to one of our Leadership Team members. We are always willing to address any questions or concerns you may have. We also welcome any thoughts or suggestions in regards to making our school even better!

Early Stage 1-Mrs Kelly Spratt (Relieving Assistant Principal)
Stage 1- Ms Siobhan Haran (Assistant Principal)
Stage 2- Mr Mark Peters (Assistant Principal)
Stage 3-Mrs Kate Caruana (Assistant Principal)
Support Unit Mrs Tiffany Badewitz (Assistant Principal)

A Parent Skills and Expertise sheet will be sent home in the next week and we encourage you to complete the form with any areas you may have experience, skills or talents in that you would be willing to share with us. Throughout the year, classes will embark on units of learning and parents are welcome as guest speakers or volunteers. An example may be a parent works as a nurse and the stage unit is ‘Who are the Helpers in our Community’? We would then invite parents up to share their experience as a nurse, firefighter, shopkeeper, town planner, policeman etc. We look forward to receiving as many return sheets as possible to help us compile a database of parents as productive partners.

P&C

We are fortunate to have a very active P&C group at EPS and Michelle Halloran (President) always welcomes parents comments and thoughts and we look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at our first meeting of the year in the staff room at 7pm on Thursday 18th February.

Who is Who?

As a regular feature of our Elderslie Express we will be introducing staff members to you with a brief profile. We hope this helps you put a face to a name and we hope this will assist you in getting to know more of our staff at EPS. In this edition I would like to introduce three of our new staff members for 2016.

Jennifer Schroeder

Jen was appointed to our school through the Merit Selection process in Term 4 last year. Jen will coordinate sport and teach 3/4S Sydney Dragonflies. Her interests include netball and the gym. Before moving to EPS, Miss Schroeder taught at Prestons Public School for nine years. A very warm welcome Jen!

Nicole Comerford

Nicole transferred to our school as Teacher Librarian for 2 days per week. Nicole will be teaching classes on Mondays and Tuesdays. Nicole will continue to work one day a week at Rossmore Public School where she has worked for the past 15 years. Her interests include spending time with her family jet skiing. She has some very exciting plans for our school library and Book Week. A very warm welcome Nicole!

Alex Naidoo

We were fortunate to reach the numbers needed to increase the size of our school and Alex was appointed to EPS as a Targeted Graduate. Alex is teaching 1/2Numbats this year. Alex’s interests include; cars, working on his own car and travelling.

A very warm welcome Alex!
**A Day Full of Learning!**

On the 27th January our staff came back to work for a day of learning at our first Staff Development Day of the year. We completed NSW Department of Education compliance training in Child Protection and the Code of Conduct. The new Geography Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum was introduced and led by Mrs Spratt. Teachers reflected on why they became teachers and the elements of successful learning along with the important roles that teachers and students play in ensuring all learning is successful.

Stage teams of teachers collaboratively planned exciting learning engagements for their students.

**Reading Eggs and Mathletics**

This year we have decided to introduce ‘Reading Eggs’ - an online differentiated reading program that engages students in learning to read. We are also reintroducing the very successful online Mathematics program ‘Mathletics’. These two programs complement daily teaching programs by reinforcing skills taught and learned.

We strongly encourage all parents to support us in the implementation of these programs.

Students will be given a log in and can access the programs both at school and at home.

We have secured a discounted rate of $22 for the two programs for the whole year.

I have had the opportunity to implement both of these programs at my previous schools and witness the enjoyment and progress made by the students.

Parents found the programs very helpful as it alleviated the need to sit beside your child whilst they completed homework set by the teacher. Children developed regular routines and went onto the computer or iPads to access the programs without any objections.

Class teachers at EPS will oversee their class and match levels to each learner. Teachers will also guide the student’s through the process of how to log in and commence.

If you’d like to know more about the programs then please come along to **Meet the Teacher’s Afternoon Sessions** planned for Tuesday 10th February for a demonstration. A permission slip will be sent home for you to complete and you can either send it to school in a labelled envelope together with the $22, pay online or bring it along personally on the 10th February.

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**Meeting the Teacher Sessions/BBQ - Wednesday 10th February - School Hall**

All parents are encouraged to join us at school next Wednesday afternoon for an opportunity to meet and greet all of the teachers on each stage team. An overview of the exciting year of learning will be presented. There will be a friendly BBQ following each session and we are very much looking forward to having as many parents in attendance as possible.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Year 1 and 2</th>
<th>Year 3 and 4</th>
<th>Year 5 and 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Stage 1</td>
<td>4.00-4.30pm</td>
<td>4.30-5.00pm</td>
<td>5.00-5.30pm</td>
<td>5.30-6.00pm</td>
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**Calendar of Planned Events**

To help parents budget for up and coming excursions, camps and events we are currently putting together an overview with approximate costs to help you plan and budget. We understand it is sometimes a financial strain when there are a lot of things requiring payment all at one time. We hope our overview will help.

**Featured Class**

In each edition of the newsletter there will be an article about some of the learning taking place in our school. In this edition I visited 4/5/6H and witnessed them using string, elastic bands and plastic cups. Read all about what they were learning further on in this edition.

**School Attendance**

Please read some important information about Compulsory School Attendance from our Home School Liaison Officer Mr Tom Pastor.

**Parking Near Our School**

As our school grows finding a place to park is becoming more difficult. The drop off zone on Franzman Avenue is a quick way to drop off and collect your child as long as all parents use it in the way it is intended.

Please be respectful of our local residents by not parking in their driveways. This also applies to the entrance to the church complex adjacent to the school.

**Australia Day March 2016**

Thank you to the students and staff who represented our school at the recent Australia Day march in Camden. It was great to see our school represented so enthusiastically and demonstrating the pride they have in Australia and our school.

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‘Made Fresh’ rolled up the shutters and opened our privately run school canteen. A welcome letter, menu and price list was sent home last Thursday. We are very pleased to see such a variety of healthy food and drinks for sale. The canteen is open before school, at lunchtime and at recess break.

Have a wonderful week,

Michelle Sarjana

Relieving Principal
**Class Names and Teachers 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Endangered Australian Animal</th>
<th>Teacher/Teachers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Green Turtles</td>
<td>Katrina Smith M T W, Chrisie Grenfell T &amp; F</td>
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<tr>
<td>KF</td>
<td>Flying Foxes</td>
<td>Amy Filipinski</td>
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<tr>
<td>KR</td>
<td>Red Parakeets</td>
<td>Gayle Ryan</td>
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<td>K/1S</td>
<td>Spotted Tree Frogs</td>
<td>Kelly Spratt</td>
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<td>1/2T</td>
<td>Tasmanian Devils</td>
<td>Jess Tougher</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2O</td>
<td>Ornamental Snakes</td>
<td>Ellen Niewenhuis M T, Robyn O'Keefe W T F</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2V</td>
<td>Mist Frogs</td>
<td>Marie Viselli</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td>Corroboree Frogs</td>
<td>Tania Cannings</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2N</td>
<td>Numbats</td>
<td>Alex Naidoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Murray Cod</td>
<td>Chloe Mc Ivor</td>
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<td>3/4H</td>
<td>Helmetted Honeyeaters</td>
<td>Holly Marino M, T, W &amp; Liz Hordern T, F</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4S</td>
<td>Sydney Hawk Dragonflies</td>
<td>Jennifer Schroeder</td>
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<td>3/4B</td>
<td>Bilbies</td>
<td>Amy Bryant</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5/6H</td>
<td>Hawksbill Turtles</td>
<td>Amy Hodgson</td>
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<td>5/6C</td>
<td>Eastern Curlews</td>
<td>Lauren Campbell</td>
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<td>5/6P</td>
<td>Potoroos</td>
<td>Sarah Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6J</td>
<td>Speartooth Sharks</td>
<td>Shannon Jansen MTWF/Julie Winspear Thursdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Magnificent Broad Frogs</td>
<td>Suzie Markovska</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>Pygmy Possums</td>
<td>Michala Parrott/(Megan Lees)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>Barking Owls</td>
<td>Samantha Bell (Rhonda Croll &amp; Janine-Wednesdays)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Mahogany Gliders</td>
<td>Alison Berryman (Simone Hahn)</td>
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**Campbelltown Performing Arts High School**

**Year 7, 2017 Auditions**

Campbelltown Performing Arts High School is a specialist performing arts high school.

Audition applications are now open for students seeking enrolment into Year 7 in 2017. Limited places are available in drama, dance, music-vocal and instrumental, and circus arts. Our performing arts students are supported by exemplary specialist teachers and have access to state-of-the-art facilities. They are consistently selected to perform at a regional and state level and, overall, enjoy over 50 performance opportunities each year.

Audition for Year 7, 2017 will be held on 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th March 2016 in the areas of dance, drama, music (vocal & instrumental) and circus arts. Application forms can be downloaded from our website www.cpahs.nsw.edu.au or by contacting the school office.

Parents and prospective students are also welcome to attend an information evening on the 10th February 2016 at 6pm. This evening will provide an opportunity to meet key personnel, develop an understanding of the school's programs and subjects, tour the school's state-of-the-art facilities, and gain information about the enrolment and audition process.

**Audition applications close 26th February 2016**

If you would like a copy of the placement procedures, Audition & Application then please call into

**EPS School Administration Office**
Compulsory School Attendance in NSW Schools

Under the Education Act (1990) all children from six years to 17 years of age are legally required to attend school every day. Recent changes to attendance requirements place obligations on schools to more closely monitor attendance and to take appropriate action if students are either not attending or are absent for reasons not justified by the school.

At Elderslie Public School, we value good attendance from all students. Regular attendance is important because it helps your child:

- Maximise their learning opportunities
- Develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- To learn the importance of punctuality
- Maintain healthy social relationships with their friends
- Develop a good working relationship with their teachers

Unfortunately habits of non-attendance tend to develop quickly and it is concerning, that if a child misses just 8 days a term, they would miss more than one year of schooling by the end of primary school which then presents problems as they begin high school.

The law requires that if your child is absent from school, you must inform the school as soon as possible and provide a legitimate reason for your child’s absence. This can be done by

- Sending a note on your child’s return to school
- Contacting through email /fax
- Visiting the school

Parents / Caregivers should note that schools are required to record absences that are unexplained or unjustified and may also be required to report these to various welfare agencies, who may choose to follow this up with parents.

Your child’s education is important. Please contact the school if there are problems in getting your children to school or if there are concerns you have about them at school. A positive partnership between home and school in this area is of great value to the school but most importantly to the success and quality of your child’s education.

Tom Pastor
Home School Liaison Officer
Elderslie Public School

Admin News

Welcome to 2016, we look forward to another amazing year at EPS. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office for any enquiries, appointments with teachers or information in general. The school calendar and all school notes also available on the school website. School Banking will commence next Monday Feb 8th.

Payments of amounts over $10 can be made online via the school website. Could parents please include a spare change of clothes including underwear for all Kindergarten students as we have had several “accidents” and now we have very limited replacements.

Thank you

Karen Chrupalo
School Administrative Manager
The Cup Challenge!

On Friday 4/5/6H participated in a thinking activity called ‘The Cup Challenge’. In small groups we had to work together using string and a rubber band to unstack a stack of plastic cups and then build a cup tower. For this task we weren’t allowed to touch the cups with any part of our bodies, including our hands. If we touched the cups we had to start all over again! We were only able to use the materials Mrs Hodgson gave us (1 rubber band per group and a piece of string for each person).

Shae & Eliza

What were we learning during this activity?

“Mrs Hodgson wanted us to work together so we could get to know each other.”

“We were learning to work together as team.”

“It taught us how to use different strategies to complete tasks.”

“We were learning about teamwork and how to use different objects around you.”

“You can’t do everything on your own.”

“We were learning how to co-operate.”
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>1 Jan</td>
<td>26 Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>27 Staff Development Day</td>
<td>28 Y1-6 Students return to school Best Start Assessment</td>
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<td>2 Feb</td>
<td>1 Kindergarten First Day</td>
<td>2 Camp Quality Show</td>
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<td>2 Feb</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>8 EPS Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>10 Meet The Teacher BBQ 4-7pm</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 Environmentors Unwrapped Lunch</td>
<td>18 P&amp;C Meeting 7pm in Staffroom</td>
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<td>25 Picton Razorback Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>29 Young Leaders Day Dental Clinic</td>
<td>1 Dental Clinic</td>
<td>2 Dental Clinic</td>
<td>3 Dental Clinic</td>
<td>4 Clean Up Australia Day Dental Clinic</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Dental Clinic</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>28 Easter Monday</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 3 Way Conferences 3-7pm</td>
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<td>11 Apr</td>
<td>4 EPS Cross Country</td>
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Cobbitty Village Markets

Cobbitty Village Markets provide quality & unique Crafts and produce. The markets are held on Cobbitty School Grounds on the first Saturday of each month between 8 am and 1 pm.
OSHClub News
Before School / After School Care Program

Program Update
Hi Everyone!

At OSHClub, the children's ideas create the program and they have the option to do the activities programmed or there are always materials for free craft available, and equipment for free play.

Welcome back to term 1 2016! We have many changes to announce this term and our biggest is we have a new face that will be around and her name is Bernadette she is excited to be part of the OSHClub family. Natalie will also still be around but on a more casual basis.

Our goal this term is to work with the children for our OSHClub to become more sustainable and work on building our own garden which in turn will spill over into our main goal of healthy and happy children. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families to Elderslie and would appreciate any feedback for the coming year.

It is going to be a very exciting fun filled year and we are all excited to be back and are ready for the year ahead

Thank you this week: The Pan, Evans and Brown families for their donations during the school holidays

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<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>Drawing Competition</td>
<td>Play-dough</td>
<td>Lego Competition</td>
<td>Kids Catch up</td>
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<td>School</td>
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<td>Cooking omelettes</td>
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<td>After</td>
<td>Inventions and Get to know you</td>
<td>Baby play and minute to win it games</td>
<td>Three legged race and Chinese paper lan-</td>
<td>Making water colours and cre-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>game</td>
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<td>terns</td>
<td>ating our OSHClub garden</td>
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<td>Preparing our own sandwiches</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and creating our OSHClub</td>
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<td>garden</td>
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This week's focus area is welcome our new and existing children and build their comfort levels

Parent Information
OSH program phone: 0478 081 301
Coordinator: Jess
Assistants: Natalie
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program. Remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au All bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
ORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

IT'S FREE!

We accept Medicare Child Dental Benefits

Dental treatment for children under 18 years of age is free at NSW Public Dental Health Clinics.

Clinic Locations:
BANKSTOWN NORTH | FAIRFIELD | INGLEBURN
LIVERPOOL | NARELLAN | ROSEMEADOW | YAGOONA

PHONE (02) 9293 3333

BOWRAL AND TAHOOM - PHONE 1300 559 393