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Eltham High School
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Eltham Volleyball

Sixty-six very excited students, seven staff, seven coaches and a number of parents ventured north last Sunday to represent the school in the National Volleyball Competition on the Gold Coast.

This is the first time since the COVID lockdowns that we have been able to travel and take part in this event. We know that the competition will be fierce because every school participating is aiming to take as many medals home as they can, but we also value the fun part of the opportunity. Lots of learning also takes place including: the development of skills and resilience being away from home; patience, understanding and connectedness having to live with a group of people that you don't normally spend 24hrs a day with; work at and being part of a highly effective team; and, developing social skills to be able to engage with other people across the program.

We are certain that no matter what, our students will make us proud.

I congratulate all the students, their coaches, and team managers, and wish them all the very best with the competition.

We are all looking forward to hearing about the successes of the various teams on their return.

Working Bee

I thank all members of our community that joined us here last Sunday, 4 December for the last working Bee of the Year.

It was a very hot day but every student, parent, staff member worked very hard to try and get the grounds ready for the extended break.

A great deal was achieved including the weeding of the Ely Street Garden Bed below the South carpark. One would have thought that with all the rain we had that the ground would be soft and easy to work with. Wrong! It was hard and challenging, but the team persevered and showed great resilience, and we managed to overcome the challenge and get the work done.

A big thank you to the Eltham High School Grounds committee, Ben Dawes (maintenance staff) and Anna Panas (AP – School Liaison with the Grounds Committee) for their hard work in planning the year's events, and for their leadership on the working bee days. Unfortunately, a couple had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, but we are hoping for a better opportunity in 2023.

I am pleased to introduce Lauren McNally (teacher) who from 2023 will join the Grounds Committee and provide a direct connection between the committee and the School Environment Team. I welcome Lauren onboard.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone who participated in any working bee during the year, even if it was for a short time.

Eltham High School Year 9 & 10 Sports Day 2023. 11/25/23 (Fri) 9:30am - 1:30pm. 018 Tw 8 0 0 8 48.4882 561.

Planning for 2023

It is at this time of the year when I put out a request for information from parents. Due to the high demand for places at the school, we have a number of students in Year 8-12 for 2023 on waiting lists for a place in the school. Whilst we are mindful of managing student numbers, we do want to give students and families who want to be part of the Eltham High School Learning Community the opportunity to do so. However, we cannot offer a place until we know that a vacancy exists.

Can I ask all parents of students currently in Year 7 - 11 to please communicate with us if you know that your child will definitely **not** be attending Eltham High School in 2023.

Please contact the relevant person below to provide this information **only** if you know that your child **will not** be attending Eltham High School in 2023.

- Junior School (Year 7 only) - Mrs Melissa Hughes – huh@elthamhs.vic.edu.au
- Middle School (Years 8 & 9) - Mr Ross McKinnon - mki@elthamhs.vic.edu.au
- Senior School (Years 10 & 11) - Ms Amanda Saliba - sai@elthamhs.vic.edu

I thank you for your cooperation.

Covid Update: The following is the latest information re COVID-19

The Victorian Government has announced the end of the Pandemic Declaration and associated Pandemic Orders.

The following settings, based on advice from the Department of Health, will apply from 11:59pm Wednesday 12 October 2022.

It is strongly recommended that students:

- Who test positive to covid-19 stay home and isolate for 5 days
- Should not attend school after 5 days if still symptomatic
- Who are symptomatic but have not tested positive should not attend school
- Advise the school of the covid-19 positive test result

Where students become symptomatic at school they should:

- Be collected by their parents/carers
- Undergo testing for COVID-19

It is strongly recommended that staff:

- Who test positive to covid-19 stay home and isolate for 5 days
- Should not attend after 5 days if still symptomatic
- Who are symptomatic but have not tested positive should not attend school
- Report their positive test result to the school and through eduPay

Reporting positive COVID-19 test results

The Department of Health recommends that a person who tests positive for COVID-19 should inform those with whom they have recently been in contact, including their workplace, schools and household.

Parents and carers will therefore be asked to continue to report positive student COVID-19 cases using the [VicED COVID Tool](#).

COVID-19 vaccination changes

The current mandatory vaccination requirement for staff and visitors, contractors and volunteers working in specialist schools will cease to apply from 11.59pm Wednesday 12 October. COVID-19 vaccination, including booster doses, continues to be strongly recommended for all school staff.

Face masks

Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask should be supported to do so, and schools should continue to make face masks available for staff, students and visitors.

The Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 when leaving home.

Additionally, the Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who has COVID-19, for at least 7 days after a positive test, when they need to leave home.

Distribution of Rapid Antigen Test Kits

The school has a current supply of Rapid Antigen Test kits which need to be distributed prior to the end of the school Year.

Any family wishing to collect one or more kits please do so through the General Office.

Students can also collect kits from the General Office with a note from a parent giving them permission to do so. Any kits not distributed before the end of the year will be disposed of.

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VINCENT SICARI, Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Immunisation Catch Up Sessions For Students

Over the past 2 years Covid Lockdowns, School closures and sickness have reduced the capacity for adolescents to access the HPV and Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine. In relation to this the Department of Health has requested local councils to develop and implement 'Catch up sessions' for students that have not completed or have missed out on being able to have these vaccines.

Additional sessions are being conducted in December at the below venues to allow students this opportunity of having their initial dose or completing the scheduled requirement of 2 doses.

Bookings can be made through the below links for each venue:

Monday, 12 December 4:30 - 6:30pm

Eltham Community Centre

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/445649528737>

Wednesday 14 December 4:30 - 6:30pm

Hurstbridge Hub 4:30-6:30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/445658796457>

Links with more information on the secondary school immunisation program are below:

[Secondary School Immunisations](#) – Better Health

[Vaccine information](#) - Health.vic.gov.au

DARREN SQUIRES, Assistant Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School News

Please note the following arrangements for Year 7 students over the remaining weeks of 2022.

Year 7 students Normal classes will continue until the end of Thursday December 15. Fte.e below information

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please note the following arrangements for Year 8 and 9 students over the remaining weeks of 2022.

Year 8

Classes will continue until the end of Thursday December 15. Additional information is provided below:

- **Students are not required to attend on Tuesday December 13** (Orientation Day for new Year 7 students)
- Last day of formal classes is Thursday December 15. Please ensure lockers are empty, and locks removed, by the end of the school day. We cannot take responsibility for any items left in lockers.
- The End of Year Picnic will be held on Friday December 16. The day will commence with an assembly in Room 101. Students will then walk to Eltham Lower Park for the picnic (Sausage Sizzle provided). After leaving the park we will return to school for a performance by the ever-popular sta band.
- The last day for students is Monday December 19. The program for the day will include a movie and a range of Working Bee activities, and will conclude at 2:30pm.

Year 9

Classes will continue until the end of Thursday December 15. Additional information is provided below:

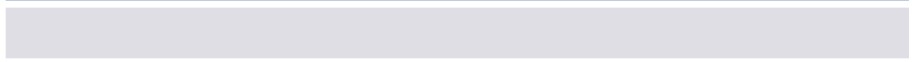
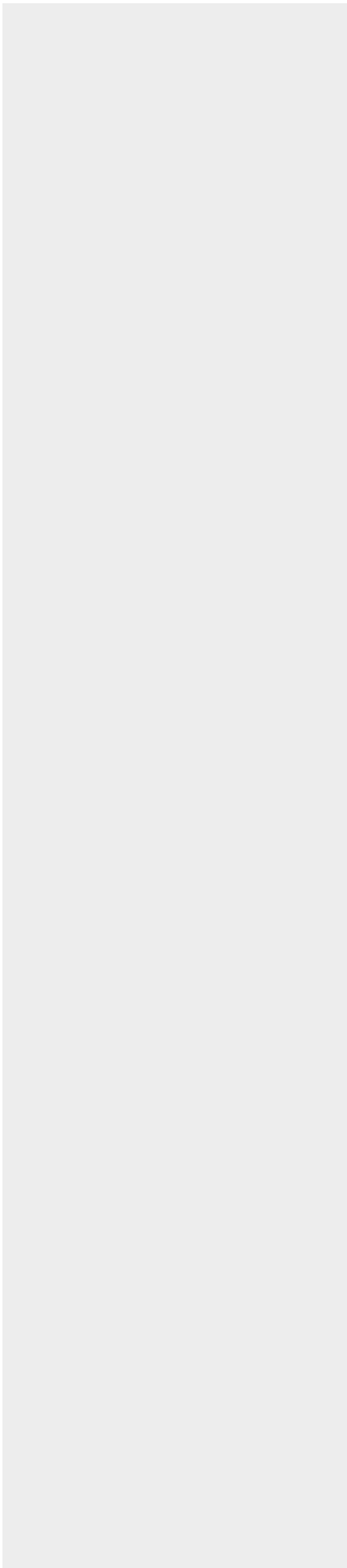
- Introduction to Senior School Assembly, Wednesday December 7
- **Students are not required to attend on Tuesday December 13** (Orientation Day for new Year 7 students)
- Last day of formal classes is Thursday December 15. Please ensure lockers are empty, and locks removed, by the end of the school day. We cannot take responsibility for any items left in lockers.
- The End of Year Picnic will be held on Friday December 16. The day will commence with an assembly in 101. Students will then walk to Eltham Lower Park for the picnic (Sausage Sizzle provided). After leaving the Park we will return to school for a performance by the ever-popular sta band.
- The last day for students is Monday December 19. The program for the day will include a movie and a range of Working Bee activities, and will conclude at 2:30pm.

ROSS MCKINNON, Middle School Team Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 12 (Class of 2022)

- Laptop Re-imaging - A reminder to the exiting Year 12's to get their laptops re-imaged to remove all of the school software. Students who miss this opportunity will see that their computers will stop functioning after 6 months.
- Year 12 Students are asked to ensure they have cleared out their locker and taken all items home.
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Past Student Achievements - Josh Weddle

Congratulations to past student Josh Weddle (2017 – 2021) who was selected at pick 18 by the Hawthorn Football Club in the AFL National Draft. Josh was a significant contributor to the Eltham High sports program in his time at the school, representing EHS in multiple sports at the District, Regional and State levels.

Josh's pursuit of excellence lead him to have a standout season with the Oakley Charges in the NAB League (an under-19 Australian Rules Football representative competition) and was rewarded with selection in the 2022 NAB League Team of the Year.

Josh also represented Vic Metro in the 2022 NAB AFL National Championships where his team took out the title.

We wish Josh all the best in his AFL career at the Hawks and look forward to seeing him run out for his first game.

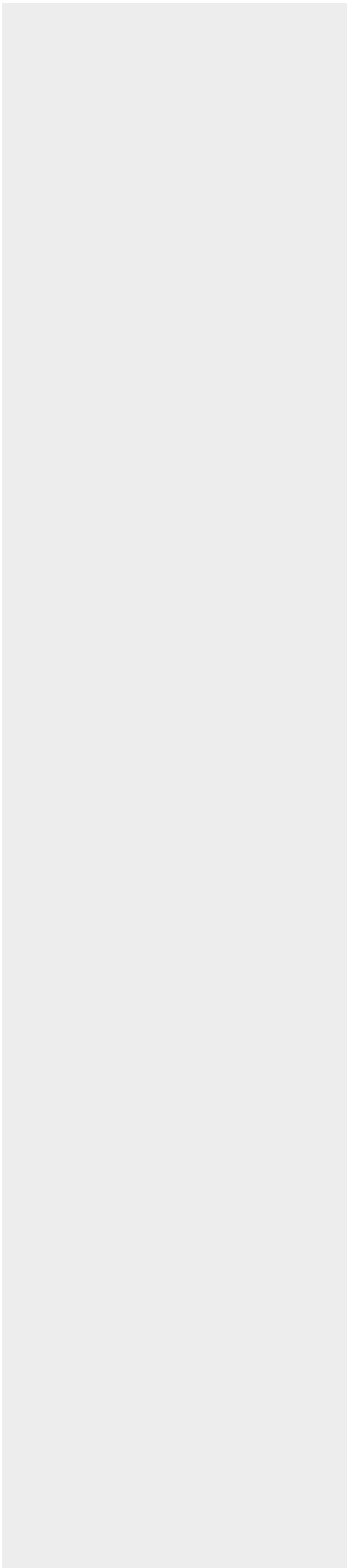
BREE PASCOE, Sports Coordinator

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Brisbane Ranges Qualifying Journey, 3 – 4 November 2022

These excerpts are from the students' Common Assessment Task.

“What I found inspiring about the hike was how the group game together. During normal classes, we are simply a group of students who don't know each other well, who see each other once a week in class, and then not for long. But on the hike, we talked, shared food, and simply had fun. We came together as a community to lead each other, and to communicate with each other. We teased each other but also helped each other. It was like sharing in a quest, having this one thing we were doing together bought us



ADDITIONAL NEEDS

I Can Online Group Mentoring

Expressions of Interest (EOI's) are now open for our Summer Holiday Online Mentoring Proh(e)-5 (stO O

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What is online safety?

Online safety is the act of staying safe online with the use of any technological device which has access to the internet.

How can we work together?

As a parent and carer, you have an essential role in guiding your child to protect themselves from online harms and risks. It is imperative that they learn how to have positive online experiences that ensure they can communicate safely with their peers, and that this experience does not impact their mental health and wellbeing. We understand that it can be challenging to keep up with new technologies and applications that allow young people to communicate online. By working together, we can support your child to use technology effectively to connect to others, to have fun safely and to enhance their learning.

Where to start?

If you wanted information and strategies about cyber safety, please refer to: www.esafety.gov.au/parents. This resource will provide you with webinars to develop strategies to support and encourage online safety. Moreover, the strategies are centred on ensuring your young person can have a positive experience online, and understanding the dangers and challenges that can occur. This can be achieved through watching short videos or using one of the family advice sheets to build your capacity to speak to your children about how to be safe online.

Educational and Technology Scholarships are Open!

Educational and Technology Scholarships are designed to support children who are living with financial hardship, and to provide assistance to cover the basic educational needs.

Scholarships in these categories are available up to \$1,000 for secondary school students, and up to \$500 for primary school students. Applicants will receive notification of their application outcome late January/early February 2023.

The current scholarship round will close 18 December. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out on (03) 8698 3900 or kidssupport@varietyvic.org.au

Technology Scholarships may include, but is not limited to:

- iPad or Laptop
- Protective case & accessories
- Accessible hardware, software and controllers

Educational Scholarships may include, but is not limited to:

- School uniforms
- Text books & stationary
- Camps
- Excursions

MADELINE KAMAMIS, Student Services Leader



