DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Thursday, 3 December
  - Subway orders due
- Friday, 4 December
  - Presentation Night
  - Christmas Free Dress Day – gold coin donation
- Monday, 7 December
  - Graduation Day
- Tuesday, 8 December
  - Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday, 9 December
  - Pot of Gold Day
- Thursday, 10 December
  - Break Up Day
- Friday, 11 December
  - Clean Up Day

2016

- Wednesday, 20 January
  - Flexible Staff Professional Development Day
- Thursday, 21 January
  - Staff Professional Development Day
- Friday, 22 January
  - Staff Professional Development Day
- Tuesday, 26 January
  - Australia Day public holiday
- Wednesday, 27 January
  - School resumes

The Caves State School invites Students, Parents, Family and Community Members to our 2015 Presentation Night on Friday, 4 December at The Caves State School - Under Cover Area at 6:30pm.
NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL
This week, we’re focussing on the value of “Doing Your Best”.

Education is a community effort. It takes equal commitment from the school, from the student and from the parent. How do we teach our children to do their best? We start not by telling them how to do this, but rather by modelling to them how to do this through our own behaviour. Perhaps, then, the best way to help our children learn to do their best without rewards and without competition or comparison is to first learn to do it ourselves.

If we learn to do our best, and model that behaviour to our children, our example provides them more than any conversation can about how to do our best. The skills that help us most in life are not the skills we learn from homework. Ambition, self-confidence, and goal-setting are better indicators of adult-life success than doing well in school. These are the skills that really make a difference in children’s future success or failure.

RAINBOW AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indigo</th>
<th>Over The Rainbow</th>
<th>Pot of Gold</th>
<th>Pot of Gold</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Dodd</td>
<td>Joey Snowdon</td>
<td>Joey Snowdon</td>
<td>Isaac Snowdon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>Matilda Brown</td>
<td>Abbey Wright</td>
<td>Sophie Sommerfeld</td>
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<td>Jack Robinson</td>
<td>Lachlan Sutton</td>
<td>Darcy Frankish</td>
<td>Ciana Furnell-Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Blamires</td>
<td>Mason Rogers</td>
<td>Sina Abdollahi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Crystal Robson</td>
<td>Mia Broszat</td>
<td>Chardonnay Hick</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joseph Boswood</td>
<td>Daniel Dinsdale</td>
<td>Dawson Jones</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joel Schneider</td>
<td>Amity Merritt</td>
<td>Shonate Peterson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marcus Robson</td>
<td>Elizabeth Shaw</td>
<td>Alexander Weber</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fletcher Robson</td>
<td>Brock Hick</td>
<td>Thalia Hill</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rhett Weatherall</td>
<td>Joel Schneider</td>
<td>Cody Funch</td>
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PRESENTATION NIGHT
We will begin promptly at 6:30pm. The children need to wear their school uniforms.

In the event of storms or wet weather, we will reschedule. Details will be posted on Facebook if this becomes necessary.

A note has previously been sent home with details of your child’s costume. Please organise costume clothing items in a bag and leave it on your child’s desk when they arrive at school on Presentation Night.

Once formal presentations are completed, the children will go to their own rooms to get changed during intermission.

STUDENT BANKING
This week is the last banking opportunity for 2015. Please ensure your child’s banking book is placed in the locked wooden box outside the office by 9:00am Thursday morning.
**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Our Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday, 8 December, at the Rockhampton Grammar School, commencing at 9:00am and finishing by 2:30pm. Students need to be at the pool by 8:45am and ready to swim by 9:00am. As you have been advised previously, parents are required to organise transportation for their children to the venue.

Students will need to bring their hat, sunscreen, a large water bottle, lunch etc. Students will be required to wear a shirt when they are not swimming; a sunsmart swimming shirt that they could wear all day is preferred.

Adults may wish to bring chairs, and all adults are requested to assist with supervision of the children both in and out of the water, and to assist with set-up and pack-up. Wet watchers are also required to assist with supervision in the pool. Wet watchers will need to be able to be in the pool as required. Please notify the office or email admin@thecavess.eq.edu.au if you are able to be a wet watcher.

**STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME**

At a P&C meeting earlier this term, it was agreed that in 2015, The Caves State School will once again be operating a Student Resource Scheme which enables a parent to enter into a written agreement with the school that, in return for payment of a participation fee of $40 annually ($20 in Terms 2 and 3), provides textbooks, resources, consumables and materials for the student’s use. Details and a Participation Agreement Form will be sent home at the start of the new school year.

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Congratulations to the recipients of last week’s *Nothing But The Best* awards who displayed Freedom: Daniel Dinsdale & Ruqayya Nixon.

It is my extreme pleasure to advise that our priorities and strategies contained in 2016 Annual Improvement Plan include:

- **Writing and Spelling**
  - 7 Steps to Writing program
  - SSP (Speech Sound Pics Approach) program - continued to Year 2, and integrated into Learning Support and Intervention
  - Review of Spelling program and teaching practises to support learning of spelling

- **Student Wellbeing**
  - Review of Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
  - Development and implementation of program for positive behaviours to promote student wellbeing
  - Seeds and Gardeners program: The Prep class children are our little seeds, and for a seed to grow and flourish, they need a gardener to take care of them. The gardeners are the Year 6 children, and their job is to help our youngest children settle into school life.

- **Digital Technologies**
  - Robotics program in Years 4-6
  - Data outlets and electricals in B Block and lower A block classrooms

- **Extension**
  - Participation of all Year 5s in Booster program, with aim of boosting student confidence and levels of achievement towards the Upper 2 Bands
  - Participation of nominated Year 6s in Impact program, for mid-to-high achieving students who would benefit from extension/enrichment.


Report Cards will be emailed to parents by Friday, 4 December. Please check your inbox and advise the office on Monday if you have not received your child’s report card.

I am extremely proud of the effort our teachers have put in to their report cards once again. If you have seen report cards from other schools, you will notice the increasing trend to use generic, generated comments. At The Caves, the teachers go to great lengths to personalise each and every report card so
that you and your child know how your child is achieving and how they can improve. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s report card, please speak with their teacher.

I would like to congratulate Ms Schroeter, Mrs Lee and Lisa for another successful Ready Set Prep! pre-prep transition program, and acknowledge their hard work at a busy time of year. I have received so much positive feedback on our approach this year, and we are delighted to offer such an extensive and thorough program which enables our future preppies to hit the ground running when they commence in the New Year.

When transition to school is well managed through collaborative relationships, children have a much greater chance of better social and emotional and academic outcomes. Transition activities which provide opportunities for conversations with families are the most direct and effective ways to build knowledge of the child, minimise disruption or stress and be well-prepared for the start of the school year.

Research indicates that parents’ aspirations for their children are an important driver for their children’s educational success, and children’s experiences at school can depend on their family’s perceptions of, and relationships with, the school community.

If you have questions about bookpacks, please contact the P&C. If you have elected to purchase your child’s stationery requirements, the 2016 booklists have been loaded onto our school website www.thecavess.eq.edu.au.

Please make sure that everything is covered and named for the first day back in 2016.

In 2016, we will be making a few changes to communications. All letters from the school will be emailed as necessary. Newsletters will be emailed on the last Friday of each month, with a weekly catch-up emailed every Friday for the following week. The catch-up will be dot point, with key housekeeping information only. Forms that need to be returned will be the only paperwork sent home, still on yellow paper, unless it is not practical to send an electronic copy.

This will be my final newsletter for 2015, as I will be handing over the reins to Ms Dean at the conclusion of Presentation Night. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to catching up with you all when I return on 15 February 2016.

Yours in education,

Sandra Porter
Principal

LOST PROPERTY
Please check lost property before the end of the school year. Anything remaining on Friday, 11 December will be donated to charity.

KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL THESE HOLIDAYS
Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school. If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 4 December</td>
<td>Christmas Free Dress Day</td>
<td>Student Council is holding a Christmas Free Dress Day. For a gold coin donation, wear your favourite sunsmart Christmas shirt, dress or even a Christmas costume! All funds raised will go to Student Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation Night</td>
<td>We will begin promptly at 6:30pm. The children need to wear their school uniforms. A note has gone home with details of what the children need to bring for their class performance.</td>
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<td>Monday, 7 December</td>
<td>Graduation Day</td>
<td>Our Year 6 students will be celebrating their primary school graduation with bowling, laser tag and lunch. Ms Dean, and the students are organising this event together. The Year 6 Slide Show will be in Ms Dean’s room from 2:30, after the Graduates share their graduation gift from Miss Porter, a graduation cake.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 8 December</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>The Caves State School will hold the annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival for all students at the Rockhampton Grammar School commencing at 9:00am and finishing by 2:30pm. Students need to be at the pool by 8:45 so that they are ready to swim by 9:00am. Please note that there will be no-one to supervise students at the school on this day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 9 December</td>
<td>Pot of Gold Day</td>
<td>We will be celebrating at The Botanical Gardens. Students are required to be at school no later than 8:45am. The bus is booked for a 9:00am departure. We will leave the park at 12:30pm to return to school for an afternoon of activities that we can enjoy in the air-conditioning. Please make sure Pot of Gold forms are returned by Monday, 7 December!</td>
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<td>Thursday, 10 December</td>
<td>Break Up Day</td>
<td>Break Up Day will be held at the school on Thursday, 10 December. This will be Free Dress Day. Children need to wear appropriate, safe footwear and sun-smart clothing and must wear broad-brimmed hats. Classroom teachers will be arranging class parties and notes will be sent home from each teacher with all the details.</td>
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<td>Friday, 11 December</td>
<td>Clean Up Day</td>
<td>Clean Up Day will be held at the school on Friday, 11 December. We understand that some children will not attend as families will leave early to travel. If your child is not attending, please let us know in advance. Children who do attend need to wear work clothes, including safe, closed-in shoes, as they will be helping to clean and move furniture. Children will need to bring their own morning tea and lunch as usual. Children should bring a set of clothes to change into, as they might get wet when cleaning furniture.</td>
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BARMOYA XMAS PARTY
The Barmoya Community Sports & Recreation Association will be holding their annual Christmas Tree on Sunday 20th December from 6pm. BYO chair, drinks, meat and a salad or a sweet to share. There will also be some tennis played, so bring your racket. Santa will drop by at around 7pm. Please RSVP as Santa needs to know who will be coming! Call Jo Geddes on 0419705061

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE
The P&C need YOUR help with their Christmas Hamper Raffle in the form of donations of any suitable Christmas or Hamper items. Items could include drinks, sweet and savoury treats, canned items, Christmas decorations, wrap, etc. The more items collected will mean more hampers can be created. Please bring your non-perishable donated items to the school office for this year’s raffle.

If you need more raffle tickets to sell to friends and family, please collect a book from the office. The raffle will be drawn on Friday, 4 December at Presentation Night.