Port Douglas State School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians the Irrikandji and Kuku Yalanji Tribes of the country in which this school is located and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

Human Ping Pong

The game is set. 48 Ping pong balls. 2 players. Who will be declared the champion of 2013? The game started only two terms ago. The balls are going from one side of the table to another... only this is no ordinary game of ping pong. This is Human ping pong. This year the sixes and sevens have been playing a game of ping pong between the two classes.

The main subjects (Maths, English, history, spelling and science, also Japanese) mean we have to change classes-so it is an exciting game. This practice is for the real championships-High school. The other subjects (Health, technology, the arts (visual & media) reading, music and P.E) equal a rest break for the clever players (our teachers). The Year sevens are looking forward to High School, and it is vital they are prepared in the art of being the ping pong balls.

The game of term four will be an exciting one. Mr L’s class says BRING IT ON!

Kira L'Estrange and Emma Hudson

Help us win a $20,000 staffroom makeover!

Thanks to QT Mutual Bank we have the chance to win a $20,000 staffroom makeover as part of their “Staffroom for Improvement” competition.

The prize is a complete makeover of our school’s main staffroom and even better is the chance for individual voters to win one of five $1,000 QTMB bank accounts. The winning school will be the one with the most votes weighted against the number of students, so any school, small or large has an equal chance to win. We need as much support from our local school community as possible.

Simply visit www.staffroomforimprovement.com.au to read the terms and conditions and register your interest today. The competition kicks off on 28 August so spread the word and get as many people as possible to vote for our school.
Great Lunch Time Activities for Our Students

Great things can happen in 40mins! Our school has many different activities for students to engage with during lunch breaks. For example:

- Teacher Aide Games – Mon, Wed, Fri – Upper School Tues, Thurs – Lower School – They are getting great use of the Evacuation Centre
- Craft Room – open every day – check out the great display in the school administration
- Computer Lab – open every day – 25 computers available to use to study or play children friendly games like Mathletics and Reading Eggs. I’m sure that Minecraft also has a few fans.
- The Resource Centre / Library – a quiet place for students to read, play board games, use computers or chat.
- Play Equipment and Sandpit – Open to all Lower School students
- School Ovals – we have an Upper School Oval and a Lower School Oval that during our fantastic weather are a great place to play
- Cricket Nets
- Tennis Hit Up Wall (tennis court soon!)
- Undercover Areas – for handball or table tennis

Sporting Equipment is available at a number of different locations around the school – balls, ropes, racquets, Frisbees, etc.

As you see there is a so much to do during break times it can be hard to choose. Please talk with your children about what they like to do during breaks and even encourage them to try something new. Remember also our No Hat, No Play and Be Safe rules are designed so children can recharge, refresh and be ready for the next session of Teaching and Learning.

SENSITIVE CHILDREN

Do you have a sensitive child?

You know... a child who takes everything you or others say to heart; a child who has a thin skin and worries too much, particularly about things out of their control.

Sensitive kids worry about what others think of them. They often sense danger well before others and they see the consequences of behaviours well before their peers. Is this sensitivity nature or nurture? I suspect the former is the culprit. It has been estimated that 25 per cent of children are born with a more sensitive temperament. That is, a temperament that makes them particularly aware of their surroundings and of any changes that may occur.

Sensitive kids are like mood detectives with their antennae up trying to detect subtle changes in the moods of those around them.

In some ways this is healthy as emotionally intelligent people are tuned into the behaviours and feelings of others. Sensitive kids generally have high emotional intelligence quotients. However typically sensitive kids often read too much into what others say or do.

Sometimes parents will say something without thinking or a friend will ignore them for a whole day for no other reason than they were self-centred. Sensitive kids take these matters to heart. They take the mistakes of others and turn them into something they are not. They see a simple blunder as a personal slight or something sinister. Sensitive kids can think too much and read too much into simple situations.

That's why sensitive kids can become anxious, shy or both. They can be hard to live with.

If you have a sensitive child you need to see and appreciate both their sides. The side we most often see is the shy, inhibited, fearful worrier. The flipside is that sensitive kids generally have kind hearts; are empathetic, intuitive and usually possess a creative streak. These are wonderful attributes to have.

As the world kids inhabit at school is akin to a jungle sensitive souls can leave themselves open to being hurt by their peers. Kids who wear their hearts on their sleeves can sometimes be given a harder time by unthinking peers just as those who look and act a little different than the norm are susceptible.

Recent research into the area of children’s sensitivity and anxiety by Professor Barrett from the University of Queensland revealed that 40% of sensitive kids experience some form of real anxiety.

The secret to the 60% of kids who DON'T experience anxiety are certain ‘protective’ factors. The top of this list is parenting style.

Sensitive kids benefit from having an optimistic, resilient parent who supports them but doesn’t allow them to take themselves too seriously. It also helps if parents can encourage their child to take risks socially and applaud their social successes, no matter how minor.

The double whammy for kids of sensitivity and negative or pessimistic parents is not ideal. Kids need a parent who gets across that there are some unpleasant events and things but we can learn to cope and the world is generally a great place.

It is good if parents are supportive; even better if a parent is resilient so that the sensitive child sees how to cope with some of life’s hurts, rejections and disappointments. In fact, sensitive kids are less likely to develop anxiety if at least one parent is of the ‘thick-skinned’, positive, even jovial personality.

When sensitive kids are raised in a balanced way with proper understanding and encouragement, they are well-placed to grow up to be happy, healthy, unusually well-adjusted and creative adults.

Except from Parenting Ideas - Helping schools support parents - parenting guides & advice
**Every Student, Every Classroom, Everyday! TARGET 95%**

As we move closer to the end of Semester 2, Attendance is holding above the 92%. Please remember every day counts!

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**Port Douglas State School Website and QSchools App**

The PDSS Website is “live” and will continue to develop into the best information and communication tool for members of our school community. The website directly informs the QSchools App available on iTunes and Android devices. Please take a few minutes to add our website to your favourites and download and install the QSchools app on your device.

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**Curriculum News**

Classroom teachers have engaged in curriculum planning sessions for Curriculum into the Classroom (C2C) Unit 6 – English and Maths. Teachers have deconstructed each assessment task to identify the core content and skills that students require to achieve success in each task. The Guide to Making Judgements (GTMJ) and task sheet for each assessment task will be sent home to inform parents of the tasks students are required to complete in the classroom. A GTMJ lists the success criteria on which students are given their achievement level for the task. Exemplars of each task will be shared with students in the classroom to model high quality responses. The end of semester achievement level is then allocated by a balanced judgement of all tasks during the semester. Please see your child’s teacher for further information.

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**PDSS P&C News**

The student leader election process for 2014 has been determined after consultation between the school community. As there are both year 6 and 7 students as our senior students as a result of both grades moving to high school in 2016, some changes are required. These changes are below:

- There will be 4 School Captains (1 boy and 1 girl from year 7 and 1 boy and 1 girl from year 6) and 4 Vice captains (1 boy and 1 girl from year 7 and 2 boy and 1 girl from year 6).
- There will be 8 House captains (2 per house, either year 6 or 7) and 8 Reef Guardians (from years 6 and 7).

The School has a Student Representative Council Constitution that can be found on our website under the SRC tab if you would like further information.

Congratulations to Cassia Jansen and Taylah Harper who are finalists in the ‘Keep it Wild’ Poster competition. The pair will travel to The Cairns Regional Council Gallery to find out if they have won one of the major prizes of either a class trip on Skyrail Rainforest Cableway or a day our on Big Cat Green Island Cruises. Well done girls and fingers crossed.

SCHOOL JUMPER ORDER

Return to school (with payment) by Fri 13 September to be included in the inaugural order:

Name of student……………………… Teacher/Class………… I wish to order the following Fleecy lined school jumper/s:

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Total cost (must be enclosed):……………………
**Community Announcements**

**VACANCIES AVAILABLE NOW**

For Children turning 4 this year

Join our Kindergarten program

We run 2 groups per week during school Terms from 8.45am – 2.45pm

**Blue Group** – Every Tuesday and Wednesday and alternate Mondays

**Green Group** – Every Thursday and Friday and alternate Mondays

Contact us now: 4098 5811

or email: pdck@bigpond.net.au

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**Freaky Friday Fancy Dress Ball**

A fun-filled evening for the whole family!

Friday 13th September ~ 6:00pm - 10:30pm
Port Douglas Community Hall

Tickets:
$25 per family of 4
$8 per additional child
$10 per additional adult
*All children must be accompanied & supervised by an adult at all times

Prizes for gents & best dressed family!
Cash bar available for food & drinks

Music by DJ Nicky Q

Come along and support the Mossman Gymnastics Club to build their own gym!

Tickets available from
www.trybooking.com/59704

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**Thursday Sept 19, 2013**

COME AND SUPPORT PDSS SRC in the CYCLONE SHELTER

Dress up in your best RETRO outfit

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**World Sight Day**

Lions Clubs International invites you to a

Free Eye Screening Test

Where: Mossman Shire Hall, Mill Street
When: 10.00am Thursday 10th October
Cost: Free

Come along and have a FREE eye screening test

All welcome

FREE sausage sizzle also provided with all screenings

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL – “WE SERVE”