

# Head Teacher Mathematics Links

NSW Department of Education and Training

Curriculum K-12 Directorate

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## Email Alert

### **Welcome to Mathematics Links April 2006**

HT Mathematics Links is an electronic update for DET mathematics faculty leaders informing on the latest additions to the *Curriculum Support* website, professional development opportunities and links to relevant free resources.

#### **Curriculum Support updates**

- Teaching trigonometry materials are now available on the website at <http://www.curriculumsupport.nsw.edu.au/maths/index.cfm?u=5&i=334>  
More trigonometry materials will be placed here throughout the year.
- The State Numeracy Plan 2006-2008 has been released and is designed to guide the work of schools, regions and state office directorates to achieve further numeracy improvements for all students. Further information is available at <http://www.curriculumsupport.nsw.edu.au/maths/index.cfm?u=2&i=5>

#### **Stage 6 review**

- The Stage 6 syllabus review is currently underway through the Board of Studies. A project officer, Margaret Bigelow, has been employed to begin the process of research and consultation on directions for new Stage 6 mathematics courses.

#### **Professional development**

- **Australian CensusAtSchool  
Years 7-10 Mathematics**

CensusAtSchool is FREE and available to all schools, teachers and students in Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed this project. The motivation for the project is to provide a rich educational resource for both teachers and students to enhance their statistical literacy as well as raise awareness of the 2006 National Census in August 2006.

#### **Key dates**

30 January Questionnaire for students available  
7 July Questionnaire for students closes  
11 July Data from questionnaire available for use with activities

#### **Website**

The website is located at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/cashome.nsf/home/home>

The CensusAtSchool website is designed to provide all the materials required for teachers to conduct and manage a successful CensusAtSchool project within their classrooms. The site contains the questionnaire for students and the resources for teachers to work with the data collected from students. Visit the website for more information about the project.

### **Professional Development**

Professional development sessions are **FREE** and open to all teachers whether registered to participate in CensusAtSchool or not. Each session will provide an overview of the data, how to get a data sample, how to manipulate the data and how to use it in the classroom. Novice and competent users of Excel will find the sessions very useful.

There are various target audiences and times for these sessions. Refer to the attached Word document *Maths CensusAtSchools PD sessions 2006*. You will need to contact the CensusAtSchool team either by phone 1800 623 273 or email [censusatschool@abs.gov.au](mailto:censusatschool@abs.gov.au) to register for the most appropriate course to meet your needs.

### **Working with the CensusAtSchool data in your classroom**

The data that will be available on the CensusAtSchool site will provide a rich source of real data from students. This will be an opportunity to **connect** your teaching to the real world (*Quality Teaching*) and to integrate ICT skills into your lessons at various levels.

The ABS website is structured so that you can access the site yourself and use the activity with your class in hard copy. You can have the students working with a sample of the material (predetermined by you) on the computer using Excel but not using the Internet, or you can be live on the Internet and have the students taking more control of their learning and working with all the raw data.

### **What do schools get from CensusAtSchool?**

Students will be able to get raw data (the answers other students have given in the questionnaire) about their peers across Australia. Your students can be part of the database. They can then use an Excel spreadsheet to answer questions such as:

- are boys taller than girls?
- can you predict how tall someone is if you know their foot length?
- how is my community different to other communities around Australia

CensusAtSchool is an international project so your students can also make international comparisons!

How do I register?

Go to [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) and click on the CensusAtSchool icon. Click on the How to Get Involved link and download a Registration form.

Any questions?

Please contact the CensusAtSchool team on 1800 623 273 or [censusatschool@abs.gov.au](mailto:censusatschool@abs.gov.au)

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### **Free online mathematics resources**

- **Financial literacy in primary schools**

The "MakingCents" free financial literacy resources for teachers of primary school-aged

children are now available online at <http://www.financefirst.net.au> These materials have been developed with assistance from the NSW Department of Education and Training and are matched to the Mathematics and Social Science curricula in each state and territory. Could supplement Stage 4 mathematics.

- **Year Book Australia 2006**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has made the content of its Year Book Australia freely available on its website at <http://www.abs.gov.au> It includes comprehensive facts on Australia's economic and social status, as well information on geography, climate, environment, international relations, science and innovation and ICT.

Deep link:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/54C4B6E54C0C737DCA2570B000368DFD>

- Have you heard about **Learning Objects**? The Le@rning Federation (TLF) is an exciting and innovative project that employs emerging technologies to produce world-class online curriculum content (learning objects) to encourage student learning and support teachers in Australian and New Zealand schools. TLF is an initiative of the state, territory and federal governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Have a look at some mathematics learning objects on *The Learning Federation mathematics and numeracy website* at

<http://www.thelearningfederation.edu.au/tlf2/showMe.asp?nodeID=75>

The TLF objects are available to DET teachers through the TaLE website at

<http://www.tale.edu.au/home.aspx>

Til next month!

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