

Head Teacher Mathematics Links

NSW Department of Education and Training

Curriculum K-12 Directorate

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Email Alert

Welcome to Mathematics Links 1 June 2006

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

Curriculum Support updates

- **NEWS FLASH** – The new Curriculum Support website is live! Please take a few minutes and have a look at the homepage
<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/>

If you didn't manage to find mathematics, try this link

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/mathematics/index.htm>

Our aim at Curriculum K-12 is to provide material to support your teaching in the classroom. Thank you to all the teachers who have contributed material over the years to share with others. More material will be added to the site on a regular basis and advertised in this section of the email.

- Have you seen the new State Numeracy plan 2006-2008? It is available on the site at
<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/mathematics/numeracy/index.htm>
- With report time looming fast, many questions about **Year 10 reporting** may now be topics of discussion in faculties. The attached document, **11 April 06 Mathematics report advice**, may answer some of these questions.
- **Year 10** students this year will be the first cohort to sit for the School Certificate on the new (2002) syllabus. On the Board of Studies website you can download a copy of the **SC specimen paper**
http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/maths_scope_specs_06.html
(You will need to scroll to the bottom of the page.)
- **Stage 6 new syllabus development update** - The Board Curriculum Committee (BCC) has held its first meeting and begun the formal process of mathematics syllabus development for Stage 6 courses. Opportunities for mathematics teachers and faculty leaders to contribute to a symposium on Saturday 19 August to guide the direction for these courses is offered through MANSW at this link
<http://www.mansw.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/stage-6-forum.html>

Professional learning opportunities

- Contact your Regional mathematics consultant for regional activities and/or visit

your Regional/SEA website at
<http://www.wollongongd.det.nsw.edu.au/districts/default.htm>

- **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 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 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

Free online mathematics resources

- Have you looked at buying an **interactive whiteboard**? They have such potential for the mathematics classroom. The learning objects available at this URL are engaging for students, free to download and work just as well on an interactive whiteboard as on a computer. <http://www.newdealedzone.com/interactivenum.html>

- **Unfortunately not free but available from the Maths Association of Victoria**

Maths and Soccer: Just in time for World Cup fever!!

Grab your chance to take a light hearted and fun filled mathematical journey through the world of soccer (or should that be football?) by joining an unlikely group of sports fans as they discover how ...

- **Geometry** plays a role in **deciding tactics** on the pitch
- A quick **survey** can help make a **difficult substitution** decision
- Goalies and Strikers rely on getting their **angles** right
- **Chance and data** can determine the result of a **penalty kick**
- **Algebra** helps a Manager with match ups
- **Areas** and **percentages** can help break an extra time deadlock
- And much, much more!

Available now in VHS and DVD formats this special package is suitable for the junior secondary and upper primary years and comes with a completely revamped set of **teacher worksheets** and a **'stats pack'** full of World Cup and Soccer facts and figures. Only \$89.95 for the DVD version and \$84.95 for the VHS version, both with a CD-ROM of classroom resources. To order follow the link <http://www.mav.vic.edu.au/pubs/index.html>

- **FEEDBACK ON NATIONAL YEAR 12 CERTIFICATE**

The Minister for Education Julie Bishop recently released a report into the feasibility of establishing a national Year 12 certificate (currently called the Australian Certificate of Education). You can download a copy of this report from <http://www.dest.gov.au/ace> The Minister has also called for public comments on the proposal. The AAMT will be making a formal response and will be seeking members' input (more information to come shortly) on the matter. You can also provide input directly to DEST via the above site.

- **REACH FOR THE STARS 2006**

The theme for this year's numeracy activity is 'How fast is your class?', and will involve students from all over Australia conducting a 'balloon relay' and sharing the results.

Suggested activities are tailored for students from pre-school to junior secondary, but older students may also be interested in the data.

Teachers who have participated in previous years say that Reach for the Stars is appealing because of its flexibility, ease of use and the opportunities to engage students across a whole school (and country) with age-appropriate approaches to a single activity -- and 2006 will be no exception.

For more information, go to

<http://www.aamt.edu.au/reachforthestars>

- **COMMONWEALTH BANK FOUNDATION GRANTS**

Applications are now open for the CBF e-Learning Grants (\$5000 for primary schools) and Financial Literacy Grants (\$3500 for secondary schools). For more information go to:

<http://commbank.com.au/elearninggrants>

<http://commbank.com.au/financialliteracygrants>

Til next month!

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