



the CensusAtSchool NEWSLETTER

Edition Number: 7

Date: December Quarter 05



Key Dates

CensusAtSchool Project Dates

The CensusAtSchool project has five key phases. Mark the dates down, or join the email list to be notified as they occur.

Complete	✓	Project Development
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Now	✓	Release Testing
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03 Oct 05	Registration Opens
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30 Jan 06	Questionnaire Opens
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07 July 06	Questionnaire Closes
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11 July 06	Data Usage opens
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CensusAtSchool

Welcome to the December quarter newsletter

Thanks for the tremendous support you have given to CensusAtSchool. After the successful launch in October there has been a steady stream of registrations, currently more than 11% of all Australian schools have registered to participate in the project. This translates into almost 100 000 students becoming part of the data pool giving students a rich source of data from which to take a sample. The more schools that register and have their students complete the questionnaire, the richer the database will be for students to use.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET:

- Register now to become part of CensusAtSchool in 2006.
- Tell your colleagues in other schools of this great opportunity.
- Plan to study/use statistics in the second half of the year, when data from the questionnaire will be available.

To inform and support teachers Australia wide, an extensive Professional Development plan has been prepared. Teachers will be informed about the programme and delivery timetable in the first half of 2006.

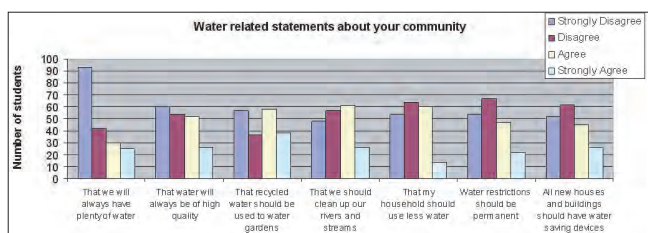
If you have not already seen the activities that currently appear on the webpages, please check them out. More activities are being prepared and will be added to the existing activities.

We are looking forward to continuing to provide you with information and comprehensive updates about the progress of the project throughout 2006.

The CensusAtSchool team would like to wish you a safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

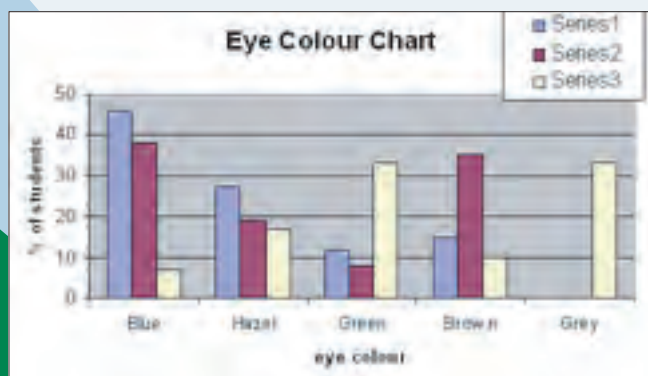
TEACHERS' FORUM

Teachers and students at Caroline Springs Secondary College tested the Water Management activity taking an integrated curriculum approach involving SOSE, Mathematics, Science and English classes. Part of the unit included a visit to the local creek to obtain and analyse water samples. During their visit they were fortunate enough to find a rare growling grass frog! Some student comments included "It was different, better than how we usually learn", "...more interesting", "I noticed that more people did their work" and "...we had more fun looking at real opinions".



Year 9 - Water Management Analysis

Teachers and students at Regency Park Primary School used information from surveys conducted in their own class and compared it to data obtained from a sample. A comment that came from many students was "Our class is very different to the sample". They wanted to know why the sample had so many grey-eyed students. Other comments from the students included: "I learnt a lot about using spreadsheets." "I liked drawing the graphs, it was easy." "Using the Countif function was cool!" Sounds like these activities really engaged the students.



Grade 5 & 6 Eye Colour Graph



Project UPDATE

The final quarter of 2005 has been an exciting three months. The software and website are complete and performing well. The project launch at the Melbourne Museum was a fantastic success with Adam Spencer highlighting the essence of the project - "CensusAtSchool gets students calculating real stats about themselves and each other..."

Since the launch, we've received a steady stream of registrations from schools all over Australia. Our registration process is performing smoothly, and our project support service is ready for 2006. We have just released a follow-up letter in support of the Introduction Pack, that was sent in October this year, encouraging schools to register for the project before the end of the year. Although registration continues throughout 2006, schools that register early have the opportunity to include the project into their 2006 school plan.

The website has entered the management phase with new and interesting information being posted regularly. One of the highlights for 2006 will be the 'Teacher Submitted Ideas' section of the website. Ideas submitted by teachers will be published to assist others in using CensusAtSchool in the classroom. Also, remember to watch the 'News' and 'Special Features' sections of the website for key information updates throughout the project.

Thank you for all your support in 2005 and we look forward to continuing this exciting project in 2006.

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Subscribe to the Email List!

You can subscribe to the CensusAtSchool newsletter online! The URL for the CensusAtSchool website is:

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

Click on the 'Teacher Area'. Select the CensusAtSchool Email list tab. Enter your email address and click 'Subscribe'. A confirmation email will be sent. You must respond to this email to complete the subscription process. Look at the information and resources contained in both the Teacher and the Student areas before exiting the site. For further information about the project or to provide us with feedback about the site please contact us via phone or email.

General Project / Support Enquiries

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