The 2012 version of the OZCAAS software is now ready for download from the password protected QuickSmart Private Areas accessible from our main QS website (http://www.une.edu.au/simerr/quicksmart). All continuing QuickSmart schools should have a password to access these Private Areas, which contain the OZCAAS software, shared resources, electronic copies of QuickSmart resources etc. If there are any difficulties, please contact quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au or phone Gerard Todd or Dave Heap on (02) 6773 5061. (New schools can contact quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au to secure their password.)

The 2012 OZCAAS assessment software fits closely with the QuickSmart approach. Literacy instructors have trialed this software since 2010. Numeracy Instructors will find that some of the extension assessments (e.g., 'negative numbers') from the previous US version of CAAS have been deleted and assessments such as 'maths language' and 'maths vocabulary' have been included. We are very fortunate to again have Gerard and Dave available to provide technical support as required. Please do not hesitate to contact quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au or phone Gerard or Dave on (02) 6773 5061 if any difficulties arise.
QuickSmart
2011

St Joseph’s Catholic School Oberon, with the support of the Bathurst CEO, has been participating in the QuickSmart program since October 2010.

Four committed staff members together with Principal Miss Narelle Cross have been involved from the outset, attending many professional development days and putting in a lot of time and effort.

Throughout 2011 eight students from both the Primary and Secondary departments have participated. Each staff member was assigned two students with whom they met three times a week. This meant a continuity of instruction and certainly led to strong bonds developing between staff and students, an unexpected bonus!

We have two dedicated QuickSmart “rooms”, one on each campus and our instructors’ time with students is timetabled.

Overall the school community has been very supportive of the QuickSmart program. Almost without exception staff have commented on the vast gains in confidence levels and the desire “to have a go” that QuickSmart students have exhibited.

Preliminary reports from the QuickSmart team showed substantial improvement in our QuickSmart students in terms of speed and accuracy (14.24%), with growth being “in excess of the expected yearly growth”. These results confirmed what we had been seeing in the classroom. Each child showed growth in their NAPLAN results and are all now above the benchmark.

Comments from stakeholders include:
“the shutters no longer go down and she is willing to have a go…..”
“...it’s good because I don’t have to stop and think now…I just know the answer”
“..these students are more settled and engaged”

Both staff and students are very much looking forward to QuickSmart 2012.
A Fresh Start for QuickSmart!

QuickSmart was first introduced to the ACT in 2009. Urambi Primary School was one of the schools that continued with the program in 2010 thanks to the support of Principal Jackie Yeo. Urambi Primary School was closed at the end of 2010, to make way for a new P-10 school in the suburb.

Impressed by the results achieved with QuickSmart at Urambi Primary School, Principals Pam Rosser and Lynn Petersen brought the program to Namadgi School in 2011.

Tutor Leslie Fiocco had the privilege of working with 14 year 5 students in 2011.

QuickSmart students achieved fantastic results over the year, closing the gap and achieving effect sizes indicating more than three years’ growth.

These results have come despite the challenges of establishing QuickSmart in a new school. The Principals likened the year to “building the plane in the air” – and they were right!

One of the challenges faced was finding a location to run QuickSmart in a school that has been designed with open plan learning environments. The provision of a classroom provided a generous amount of space, and managing noise levels is an ongoing challenge.

Mrs Fiocco reports that operating QuickSmart in the ACT is exciting. Schools that see the results that QuickSmart brings are deeply committed to the future of the program. Mrs Fiocco would like to see more schools in the ACT take up the program in the future.

Feedback from parents over 2011 was positive, with reporting of the transfer of maths skills to everyday life, and an increase in self confidence.

“Seeing improved results has helped my son believe he can do it”.

In 2012 one of our goals is to strengthen ties with the parent community. One way we are doing this is by initiating a regular QuickSmart newsletter.

2011 students used the usual adjectives to describe QuickSmart:

- FUN, AWESOME, EPIC, COOL, THE BEST!

If your school would like to be the next Spotlight School please email Rhiannon Wright rwright21@une.edu.au
What’s new in…

QuickSmart

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Staff, partners and children gathered on the 17th December 2011 to celebrate another successful and prosperous year. Shirley was kind enough to lend her house as the festive location and with the help of Rhiannon, June and her husband, the place was transformed into a Christmas wonderland. And what did we do for a tree?...We decorated an Emu instead. A fantastic night was had by all.

NEW STAFF

This year we welcome 3 new staff members, Martin Trotman, Anne Parnell and Lyn Alder. To find out more about them go to page 7.

2010 SCHOOL REPORTS

Due to the new online data entry tool we have been able to increase the efficiency of the individual school reports, in many cases getting them out within 2 working weeks from the submission date. All hands have been on deck to make this happen from importing the data to proof reading the reports. An improved version of this new online data entry tool is available to all schools in 2012, and will be uploaded for use shortly.

PD RECOGNITION

Many of you reading this newsletter will have received recognition from us for the Professional Development you have undertaken so far. If you think you should have received something but haven’t, please contact Shirley Cooke or Anne Parnell using the contact details on the last page. In order to be eligible, you must have attended a minimum of 4 days of year 1 training (workshops 1, 2 and 3) in either Literacy or Numeracy. Recognition for Year 2 training is being developed but is not yet available. If you are a teacher and registered at the level of Professional Competence with NSWIT, you may be eligible for acknowledgement of 47 hours of Institute-endorsed Professional Development for attendance at 6 days’ training and assistance with the presentations developed for workshops 2 and 3. Again, if you think you are eligible, and you haven’t yet received your acknowledgement with NSWIT, please contact us.

ONLINE ORDERING

We are currently developing an online ordering tool for QuickSmart kits and materials. We will let you know when we have more information available.
NEW CLUSTERS IN 2012

We have 7 new clusters to welcome this year: South Adelaide, Lismore CEO, Hunter, East Melbourne, Cudgegong, Brisbane and Ballarat.

ARIMALDE HIGH TRIAL

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Quicker and Smarter was trialed at Armidale High last year. Even though it was a short trial that was interrupted by the end of year activities, the team gathered some useful information. Thank you to the staff at AHS for their support. We hope to continue the trial if funding permits.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- East Melbourne Workshop 1, 29th February-1st March
- Inner East Melbourne Workshop 4, 2nd March
- Brisbane Workshop 1, 5-6th March

LITERACY

NEW CLUSTERS IN 2012

We are welcoming 5 new Literacy clusters this year: South Adelaide, New England, Hunter, East Melbourne and Ballarat.

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

We are currently working on creating a participant handbook. This handbook will guide participants through the content of the 1st workshop and will be taken back to the schools to highlight what was taught during that workshop.

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH

The tutors at Asquith Boys’ High are adding their units of work into the QuickSmart format, to make their QuickSmart lessons more relevant to what they are studying in the classroom. We can’t wait to hear from this dedicated team how their work develops.

COMPLETED TRAINING

At the end of 2011 the Horsham cluster completed two years of professional development. The Narrabri, Sydney and Melbourne clusters also completed their year one training. It has been wonderful getting to know all of these participants and it has been gratifying to see how the literacy program has been given a high profile in their schools.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- East Melbourne Workshop 1, 1st-2nd March
- Ballarat Workshop 1, 7-8th March
- South Adelaide Workshop 1, 22-23rd March
Since 2007 the *QuickSmart* team has employed the assistance of The Ascent Group to collate, pack and deliver our resources to over 600 schools nation wide involved in the *QuickSmart* program.

The Ascent Group are a Disability Service and Support Organisation based in Armidale, NSW. They provide accommodation support services for people with a range of disabilities and supported employment services within their small business enterprises, and are an open employment service provider.

Over the years The Ascent Group has experienced a “series of unexpected and wonderful outcomes in both numeracy and literacy skills of some of the employees working with the *QuickSmart* resources.” Since then, the *QuickSmart* team has donated a set of numeracy resources to the group.

The *QuickSmart* team would like to thank The Ascent Group for their continuing involvement with the *QuickSmart* program.
Anne joined the QuickSmart team in January this year. She is an experienced Mathematics teacher and has taught at many public schools throughout New South Wales. She has also held head teacher and senior executive positions. Most recently, she was Head Teacher Mathematics at Armidale High School, where she was joint-coordinator of the QuickSmart Numeracy program that began in 2008. Anne will be working with state and territory bodies overseeing teacher accreditation, assisting in conducting professional learning workshops for QuickSmart Numeracy instructors, as well as contributing to resource development and instructional design.

Lyn began working with QuickSmart Numeracy and Literacy as a practitioner/coordinator at a secondary school on the NSW North Coast in 2005. Since that time she has supported the QuickSmart Numeracy implementation in schools across the NSW Department of Education, North Coast Region. Lyn is a Special Education/Learning Support Teacher having worked in various educational systems in Australia, the US and Canada. Lyn has joined the Literacy team to further support the QuickSmart Project.

Martin joined the QuickSmart team at the end of 2011 to support the implementation of QuickSmart with adults in employment contexts and to work with disadvantaged groups. Martin has 21 years experience as an ordained minister with church communities in rural and remote centres across NW NSW, including experience as a Correction Centre Chaplain and University Chaplain. He has also lived and worked as a forester in remote rural communities. QuickSmart for the Workplace and Communities has been launched in NT mines, prisons and Indigenous communities and will soon be introduced to participants from northern Qld and WA. Although just beginning, the early stories from these sites match the exciting stories from successful QS school students!
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For more information on *QuickSmart* please visit:  

or find us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](http://twitter.com)