The QuickSmart Program: Sharing Resources

There are new resources in the CAAS and OZCAAS private areas of the QuickSmart website. These resources have been shared by schools using QuickSmart. The new resources include...

- a template for individual student QuickSmart timetables,
- a student record-keeping sheet,
- a QuickSmart passport,
- a numeracy summary sheet, and
- a literacy running sheet.

To download a copy of any of these resources log into the CAAS or OZCAAS private area and click the link to "QuickSmart Resources" in the menu. The resources can be found at the bottom of the resources pages.

We would love to include some of the resources you have made and wish to share with other QuickSmart schools. Please send your resources to quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au with a short description of what the resource is and how it should be used. We will review the resource and place it in the resources area for other schools to access. We will give you full credit for creating the resource. We are looking forward to your contribution.
Students involved in the QuickSmart program are continuing to make fantastic progress in both their speed in response to answering questions, as well as their choice of strategy use when solving problems.

This was the focus of the professional development course that teachers involved in the Quicksmart program attended last term.

We have also seen a growth in confidence of the girls, in their willingness to “trust their heads” in providing answers in class to basic number facts.

Our congratulations go to the girls as well as our encouragement to keep working hard.

To progress to the next level of difficulty, students must correctly answer at least 30 number facts in a given time. Some of the girls have even been taking home a set of flashcards in order to practise these number facts!

All students in our program have shown that they have progressed as can be seen in the charts they produce.

Students were surveyed during the term and responses were:

“In QuickSmart I feel good because my teachers are taking the time, even when they have to do QuickSmart at lunchtime, so that I can get better at Maths – Thank you”.

In QuickSmart I feel happy because I learn something new every time”.

In QuickSmart I feel confident because the teachers are helpful and they encourage me to do my best and learn”.

Quicksmart is well supported in the College by the Principal Maureen Moore and Assistant Principal Gina Whelan.

Reprinted from The Bathurst Cluster Newsletter, Term 2, 2011

If your school would like to be the next Spotlight School please email Rhiannon Wright rwrigh21@une.edu.au
What’s new in…

**QuickSmart**

**OZCAAS Software Updates for 2012**

This year we moved our CAAS and OZCAAS programs online to make downloading and updating the software easier. A big thank you to our IT support officers Gerard Todd and Dave Heap for their hard work answering questions and solving the technical issues that arose. We are providing OZCAAS software only next year because it more closely fits with the QuickSmart approach. The software will be available in the QuickSmart Private Area on our website during November.

**2011 Data from Schools**

We are currently trialling the online data entry of CAAS and PAT data from QuickSmart students. The Wagga Wagga CEO and Lismore CEO schools are testing the system during 2011. If all goes well we will be making this data sharing option available next year for all schools. Stefan Horarik is hard at work compiling all the pretest data. With the help of June and Rhiannon the data are being entered, so the reports can be generated more efficiently after post-test data are submitted.

**QuickSmart Presentations**

Lorraine featured QuickSmart in a keynote and two workshops at the Association of Independent Schools Conference in Sydney on 23 and 24th June. Thank you to Greg, Alison and Erin for showcasing QuickSmart at Namoi Valley Christian School.

Lorraine also presented QuickSmart Literacy results at the British Educational Research Association Conference in London during September. QuickSmart Literacy was also highlighted during a workshop presentation at the Learning Difficulties Australia conference in Brisbane on 17th September.

**Award Nomination**

QuickSmart was runner-up in the Research and Education category for the Northern Inland Innovation Awards (NSW) on 29th October. Thank you to Russel for setting up the QS display and to Narelle and Jody from Gunnedah High and Gunnedah Public for joining us.

**NSW Board of Studies**

John Pegg has accepted a Ministerial nomination made, by the Hon Adrian Piccoli, NSW Minister of Education, to fill a position on the NSW Board of Studies.

Congratulations to John. The appointment reflects the important work being undertaken by SiMERR and the impact of this work in the community.
QuickSmart Online

Check out the QuickSmart SIMERR Youtube interviews! They are useful QuickSmart resources for explaining the program and its impact to parents, staff members and other practitioners. Thank you all participants!

Over 10,800 visits to the QuickSmart Website were recorded during the last six months. Electronic copies of all the QuickSmart resources are available in the CAAS and OZCAAS private areas for you to download and use with your students. As more coordinators and instructors share resources, this part of our site will become more and more useful to all members of the QuickSmart Learning Community.

The QuickSmart Facebook page has attracted 124 likes. Join the QuickSmart community online and get in touch with tutors from around Australia. The Facebook site includes updates from the team and progress reports throughout the year.

High Speed Internet Trial

The QuickSmart team have been hard at work considering further possibilities for QuickSmart into the future. With Armidale being used to trial high speed internet access the team is excited about the opportunities this might bring for our program and for very rural communities.

Numeracy

New Clusters in 2011

This year the Numeracy program welcomed 9 new clusters: Inner East Melbourne with 26 schools, Ballarat with 26 schools, NSW North Coast with 21 schools, Hunter with 17 schools, Lismore CEO with 13 schools, Tasmania with 9 schools, Northern Territory CEO with 9 schools, Narrabri with 8 schools and New England with 3 schools.

Quicker and Smarter

Shirley and Jenny are trialling an extension of the numeracy program at Armidale High School. This program focuses on fractions, decimals and percentages. Shirley and Rhiannon have spent the last few weeks preparing the material and are excited to see what the result of this short trial will be.

PD Recognition

During 2012 we will be aligning the language we use on the QuickSmart Professional Development recognition certificates with individual state requirements in accordance and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) standards.

Upcoming Workshops

- Tasmania Workshop 3, 8-9th November
- North Tasmania Workshop 6, 10th November
- Narrabri/New England Workshop 3, 14-15th November
- Port Augusta Workshop 6, 14th November
- Port Pirie CEO Workshop 8 15th November
- Adelaide CEO Workshop 6, 16th November
Jenny joined the QuickSmart project in 2003 as a part-time Research Associate and interventionist. Her roles have included instructing in both the QuickSmart Literacy and Numeracy programs in a number of schools; developing materials for both programs; assisting in the delivery of professional learning workshops conducted to train QuickSmart instructors; acting as a consultant in QuickSmart schools; and in conducting follow-up research for both programs. Jenny guided the development of the 6S Strategy for problem solving and is a key QuickSmart team member. Jenny first organized our QuickSmart materials into earlier versions of the materials that are now shared with schools around Australia.

Literacy

Literacy Resources
The start of the year saw the Literacy Resources and Organisation Manual and the Example Student Folder become professionally printed documents. Thanks to the hard work of the QuickSmart team and the staff at University of New England Partnerships.

New Clusters in 2011
We have welcomed 4 new clusters into the QuickSmart Literacy program: East Melbourne with 15 schools, Sydney with 3 schools, NSW North Coast with 3 schools and New England with 2 schools.

School Visits
Lorraine, Noelene and Jenny have visited schools in the Sydney and New England region. They have seen some wonderful QuickSmart spaces and have talked to many dedicated tutors and hard working students.

Workshop 2
During Workshop 2 for the East Melbourne, Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley Clusters, Lorraine, Noelene and Jenny were delighted to include Jo Jefferson from the Northern Territory in the team. Jo demonstrated a Literacy lesson with two students from Upwey South Primary School. It was inspirational to see how Jo interacted with these children and how well they responded to her Literacy lesson.

Armidale High Trial
Noelene and Jenny have also begun a trial at Armidale High School. The program is an extension of the current Literacy program, where the focus is on developing writing skills. The students are enjoying their lessons and gaining confidence.

Upcoming Workshops
- Narrabri Workshop 3, 14-15 November
- Sydney Workshop 3, 28-29 November
- Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley Workshop 3, 21-22 November
- Horsham Workshop 6, 1 December
Shirley Cooke joined the *QuickSmart* team as a Research Fellow in May 2009. Shirley is an experienced teacher of Mathematics and has held senior executive and head teacher roles in both independent and government schools. Shirley’s responsibilities in the *QuickSmart* project include: developing a framework which articulates the *QuickSmart* professional development program with the requirements of the NSW Institute of Teachers and other State and Territory bodies overseeing teacher registration, assisting in conducting professional development, resource development and instructional design. She is currently working on developing and trialling materials for *Quicker and Smarter*.

Noelene began working as a *QuickSmart* Research Fellow in 2006. Prior to this she worked in the Department of Education (NSW) as a District School Counsellor. Her roles in the *QuickSmart* Project include developing learning materials, collecting data by conducting interviews with stakeholders, assisting in conducting professional development workshops, and performing various administrative tasks. Her main project has been revising material for the *QuickSmart* Literacy program, which is now being used in a number of schools in four states.

**QuickSmart Team Contacts**

Professor John Pegg: Phone: (02) 6773 5070 Email: jpegg@une.edu.au

A/Prof Lorraine Graham: Phone: (02) 6773 3821 Email: lgraham@une.edu.au

Mrs Jenny Thomas: Phone: (02) 6773 2788 Email: jthoma26@une.edu.au

Mrs Noelene Raymond: Phone: (02) 6773 4289 Email: nraymond@une.edu.au

Ms Shirley Cooke: Phone: (02) 6773 4289 Email: scooke2@une.edu.au

Dr Stefan Horarik: Phone: (02) 6773 3256 Email: shorarik@une.edu.au

Mr Russel Glover Phone: (02) 6773 4288 Email: rglover@une.edu.au

Mrs June Billings: Phone: (02) 6773 5065 Email: jbillin5@une.edu.au

Ms Rhiannon Wright: Phone: (02) 6773 5067 Email: rwrigh21@une.edu.au

Mr Gerard Todd and Mr Dave Heap Phone: (02) 6773 5061 Email: quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au

For more information on *QuickSmart* please visit:


or find us on [FaceBook](http://www.une.edu.au) and [Twitter](http://www.une.edu.au)