

## LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series Teacher Update Number 3 – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### *In this issue:*

- ▶ Seminar 1 Questions
- ▶ Seminar 1 Challenge Questions
- ▶ LiveChat
- ▶ Sound quality issue for seminar 1
- ▶ Prime Minister's Science Advisor—Launch of the report on the future of science education in New Zealand

### Seminar 1 Questions

Thanks to teachers for supporting and encouraging questions from students.

The livechat and questions that came up during the seminar were impressive.

All questions will be transcribed onto the web site and answered over the next week by the team here. See the student update for details of the team.

### Seminar 1 week 3 — Challenge Questions

Scaffolded unpacking of the questions for use with your students is provided in [Student update No. 3, 2011](#). We hope you find this useful and look forward to seeing answers from schools posted on the wiki.

#### **Week 3: March 21-25**

- Hold a session in school to discuss the seminar challenge questions.
- Encourage students to work together to develop answers to the challenge questions and place these on the wiki.
- Keep a watch on the wiki to see how your student are participating and the responses they are getting from the science and science education team here.

### LiveChat

Great to see such a lively discussion on the LiveChat yesterday.

We had 60 logins from 14 schools participating - probably representing about 70 students in total.

We know there are around 1500—2000 students participating in total and would love to see more of you encouraging your students to have a look at the LiveChat. If you have not poked your head in—why not just login to have a look next time.

If you could like to discuss LiveChat before you use it - please give us a call on 09 9234282.

The Livechat room is secure and monitored by LENScience staff. When you register your school you are asked if you have internet access for the LiveChat during the seminars. If you answered yes to this then when your students register they will be sent a username and password for the chat room. If you selected NO for this question at registration but want to change this then email [LENSciencehelp@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:LENSciencehelp@auckland.ac.nz). we will update your registration and create chat accounts for all your students who have registered.

### Sound quality via satellite Seminar 1

We apologise for the issue with sound quality that occurred in Seminar 1 for those of you on the satellite system. Our IT team are investigating the cause of this and hope to have it resolved for the next seminar.

# Launch of PMCSA's report "Looking ahead; Science Education for the 21st Century"

April 5, 2011 via LENSscience Connect



## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, DCNZM FRSNZ FMedSci FRS

Chief Science Advisor

Dear Colleagues

The Office of the Prime Minister's Science Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Ministry of Science & Innovation, has undertaken an extensive programme to evaluate the state and future direction of school science education at both primary and secondary levels.

The official launch of the report *Looking Ahead: Science Education for the 21st Century* will be held at the Liggins Institute of The University of Auckland from 4-6pm on 5 April 2011, and broadcast to all schools and universities in New Zealand through the LENSscience Connect broadcast network.

The Office of the Prime Minister's Science Advisory Committee are establishing sites around the country where teachers can participate in this event. As you are in a school that is already using the LENSscience broadcast network, we are requesting that you join us for this event as a host school. A host school would be advertised on the PMSAC web site as a site where teachers could participate.

If you are able to offer your school as a host site, could you please email [info@pmcsa.org.nz](mailto:info@pmcsa.org.nz). Megan Jefferies will contact you requesting details of the location in the school where you will host visiting teachers. Megan can be contacted on (09) 923 6318.

Please register here [www.pmcsa.org.nz/science-education](http://www.pmcsa.org.nz/science-education) to ensure that you are sent all communication regarding the launch. Registered participants will be sent an electronic copy of the report on the day of the launch.

We hope that you will join us in ensuring that the launch of this report is an event open to all teachers, and look forward to your participation on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

Yours sincerely

Project Steering Group

Alan Beedle, Chief of Staff, Office of the Prime Minister's Science Advisory Committee

Richard Meylan, Manager Education, The Royal Society of New Zealand

Jacque Bay, Director LENSscience, Liggins Institute, University of Auckland