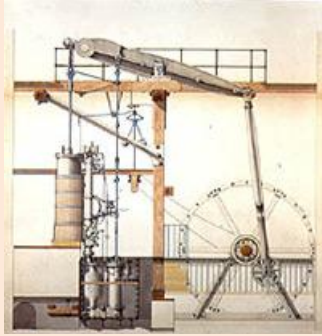


CAMD Case Studies - Education:

Maths After School Enrichment Program.

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney



Using collections to teach Mathematics

Powerhouse Museum offers a Maths After School Enrichment Program for inner city primary classes from Glebe Public School and Ultimo Public School. Each week different exhibitions and parts of the collection such as the Boulton and Watt Rotative engine, the Success and Innovation exhibition and the Tinytorem are used to enable Maths learning with the assistance of twelve volunteer UTS Bachelor of Education (primary) second year students.

This project sees staff participants, at a ratio of approximately one staff member to two students, supporting the children to achieve their homework and learning goals. The students selected to participate in the program fall into two groups, those identified by the school as needing assistance with numeracy and those exhibiting above average numeracy skills. The program caters for the diverse learning needs of each group.

Students attend the Museum after school one afternoon per week for one and a half hours. They receive intensive assistance with maths homework directly linked to topics covered at school. In addition the students also participate in activities utilising the Museum's collection and exhibitions.

Feedback from the students indicates that the program is achieving successful outcomes in terms of improving students' understanding of mathematics, building confidence to engage with others outside the school environment and enhancing communication skills. Significantly the program introduces the Museum as a welcoming and engaging place to students who might not otherwise have reason to visit. It has the capacity to build lifelong relationships with students from disadvantaged and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

Based on the success of this pilot program it is planned to expand the program in 2010-11 to include schools within a 15 km radius. There is also scope to utilise the pre-service teachers at local universities that Education Programs currently work with, also providing these students with professional development opportunities.

