Leaking tap audit

What we are measuring?
We will be measuring the amount of water that is wasted from leaking taps around the school.

Why are we measuring it?
A dripping or leaky tap is not only annoying but it can waste a lot of water as well. One drop per second equals 7,000 litres of water wasted per year. In the table below you can see how much a water is lost from a dripping tap.

Leaky tap audit example				
	6 minutes	1 hour (x10)	1 day (x24)	1 year (x365)
Slow drip	75mls	750mls	18litres	6,570litres
Fast Drip	1,000mls	10 litres	240litres	87,600litres

If the cost for water is 0.65c/KL the fast dripping tap would cost the school $56.94 a year!

How do we do it?
1. Draw a table similar to the one above in your Eco'tude journal.
2. From the water walkthrough audit you will have identified leaky taps in the school. List them in the table.
3. For each leaking tap measure the amount of water that drips in 6 minutes. You may like to borrow a measuring cylinder and a stop watch.
4. From this calculate the amount that drips in one hour, one day and one year.
5. Add up the total of all the leaking taps in a year.
6. From your schools current water bill find out the current cost for per litre of water.
7. Now find out how much water your school is wasting due to leaky taps!
8. Record your results and thoughts in your journal.

Taking it further

1. Check that there are no leaky pipes that you cannot see. To do this, turn off all taps in the school at the end of a school day. Then take a reading of the school water meter. The next day read the water meter again before anyone has used any water. There should be little difference between the two readings. If water has been used, it could be leak!
2. Investigate the procedure at your school for identifying and fixing leaks. Is there someone to report leaks to? Are the leaks fixed quickly?