

Number 10, Friday July 22, 2022

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PD events

The [2022 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is available on the SVRC website. Most PL will continue to be held online, but some are planned to be onsite. Please encourage school staff to [register for PL through our website](#).

Tuesday October 18 [Preparing for a student who reads braille](#)

Providing practical support for school staff preparing to welcome and include a new student who will be learning to read using braille.

On Demand PL

The SVRC are pleased to announce that all of our professional learning workshops are now available on demand where participants can access all the videos and resources at a time that suits them. You can find links through the [On Demand page](#), under Professional Learning, on our website.

Message from the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

Welcome back to term 3. While I am writing this message, I am looking out of my office window at a beautiful clear blue sky as the temperature hovers around 2 degrees. Unfortunately, the inclement and freezing weather has increased the number of cases of flu and COVID across Victoria. In order to protect school staff and students' it is strongly recommended by the Victorian Department of Health that face masks are worn in indoor settings, with face masks mandatory for those aged 8 and over who are household contacts and attending school. This is because the wearing of masks is effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19. SVRC staff would appreciate it if all visitors to our centre could wear masks including students attending SSP on Fridays, unless you have a medical exemption.

SVRC is currently working in partnership with VDEI to create a Digital Hub for the Visiting Teachers (Vision) Community of Practice. The Digital Hub will assist in the storing of recorded sessions, resources, and an active noticeboard where VTS and SVRC staff can engage in conversations that will benefit all members. We hope to implement the VT (Vision) Digital Hub during term 4. On Thursday afternoon the VT (Vision) Community of Practice was held where we used case studies about fictional students to discuss appropriate teaching and learning solutions. The robust conversations generated excellent teaching and learning examples which were recorded and will be distributed to all participants for future reference.

It is that time of year when we begin the Equipment Library stocktake. Schools will receive an email and will be asked to complete a spreadsheet about the equipment on loan from SVRC that is in use by their students. We appreciate VTs supporting schools to complete the stocktake so we can keep our tracking system data up to date and begin planning and purchasing of equipment for 2023.

The Transcription Team are about to meet a very exciting milestone of 10,000 titles available in our alternative format library. It is a fabulous achievement which will directly benefit our students in having such an extensive list of book titles to choose from. Well done to our Transcription Team members!

New to the Library

Source: Transcription, SVRC

Anna Hibiscus by Atinuke (8-book series) as docx

Anna Hibiscus has a Canadian mother and an African father, and lives in modern West Africa – "Africa, amazing Africa".

Anna, her parents and her twin baby brothers live in a large compound with lots of aunties, uncles, cousins and grandparents, along with chickens, goats and a huge mango tree. Outside the compound, little girls sell oranges at the crowded market, and other skinny children in dirty clothes tap at the car window begging for money.

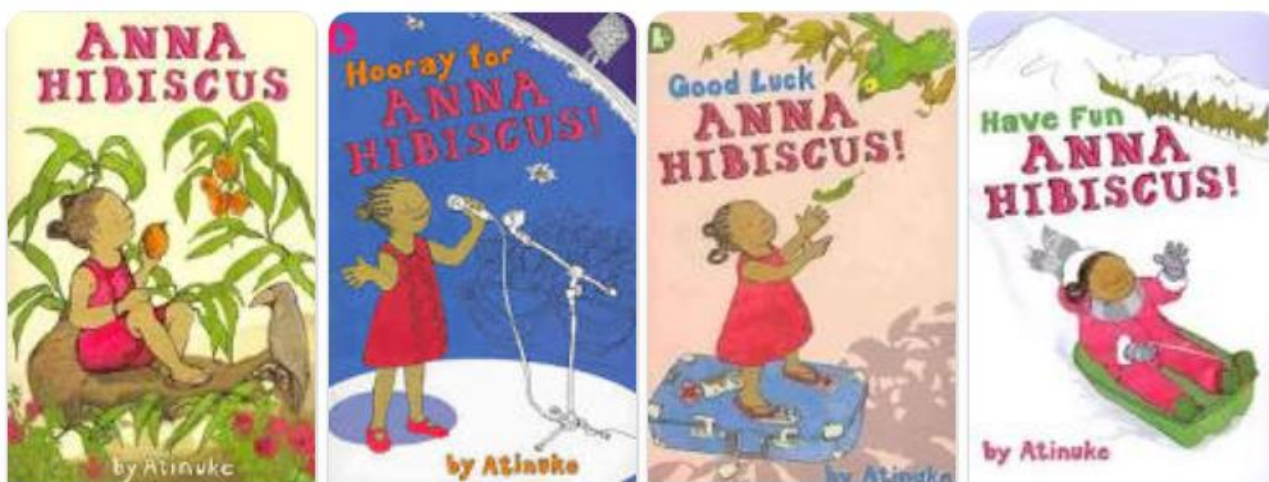
In the first book, Anna and her immediate family rent a beach house for a holiday. Very soon, Anna is lonely, the twins are fussing and Anna's parents are exhausted. Soon enough, Anna's father brings all of the extended family to the beach house to join them. The aunts cook, sing and watch the babies with Anna's mother. The uncles keep Anna's father company, and the grandparents settle disputes.

In this eight-book series, themes such as poverty, social justice, traditions and family are explored from Anna's perspective, in a sweet and gentle way.

Each book has four self-contained stories written by Nigerian author and story-teller, Atinuke. They are written simply and can be enjoyed by children from 4 to 10 years.

This series is included in the Premier's Reading Challenge book list for Grades 3 and 4 and features:

1. Anna Hibiscus
2. Hooray for Anna Hibiscus!
3. Good Luck Anna Hibiscus!
4. Have Fun Anna Hibiscus!
5. Welcome Home, Anna Hibiscus!
6. Go Well, Anna Hibiscus!
7. Love from Anna Hibiscus!
8. You're Amazing, Anna Hibiscus!



Ugly Bugs

Ugly Bugs from the Horrible Science series is a fun way to learn about the creepy, crawly, hairy, squishy, slimy creatures that live here with us.

- What do slugs do with their slime?
- Why do flies throw up on your tea?
- How do insects drink your blood?

Get the awful answers in Ugly Bugs!

Here is a taster:

The bird-eating spider – a terrifying tarantula

Description: Big. Can grow to 25 cm long including legs.

Lives in: South America.

Fearsome features: Scarifyingly hairy.

Marital status: Single.

Horrible habits: Eats birds and frogs.

The bad news: It has a painful bite.

The very bad news: Those hairs can give you a nasty rash.

The absolutely appalling news: People keep them as pets.

Eligible students can request copies of this and other resources from the SVRC Alternative Format Library. Please send us a completed form ... which can be found on the SVRC "submit a request" page.

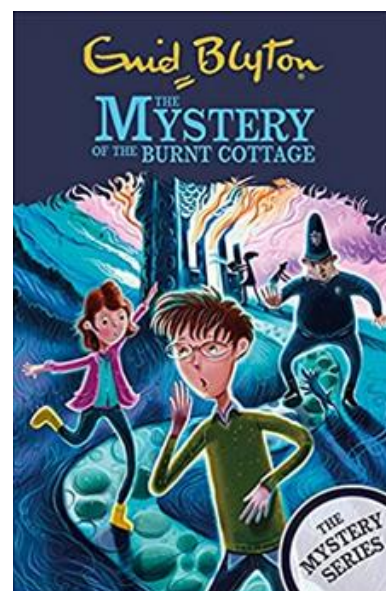
The Five Find-Outers Mystery Series

Enid Blyton's Mystery Series centres upon a group of children who solve mysteries in the fictitious village of Peterswood. Larry and Daisy (Laurence and Margaret Daykin) together with Pip and Bets (Philip and Elizabeth Hilton) meet Fatty (Frederick Algernon Trotteville) in *The Mystery of the Burnt Cottage*, the first in a fifteen book series.

When they set about finding out who lit the fire, Bets decides to call them the Five Find-Outers. And dog. Fatty has a dog named Buster, a small black Scottish Terrier. Together the gang solve the mystery, much to the annoyance of Mr Goon, the village policeman, who can't stand the kids and particularly hates that "nasty yappy little dog."

The 15 books from this series are available as etext.

1. The Mystery of the Burnt Cottage
2. The Mystery of the Disappearing Cat
3. The Mystery of the Secret Room



4. The Mystery of the Spiteful Letters
5. The Mystery of the Missing Necklace
6. The Mystery of the Hidden House
7. The Mystery of the Pantomime Cat
8. The Mystery of the Invisible Thief
9. The Mystery of the Vanished Prince
10. The Mystery of the Strange Bundle
11. The Mystery of Holly Lane
12. The Mystery of Tally-Ho Cottage
13. The Mystery of the Missing Man
14. The Mystery of the Strange Messages
15. The Mystery of Banshee Towers

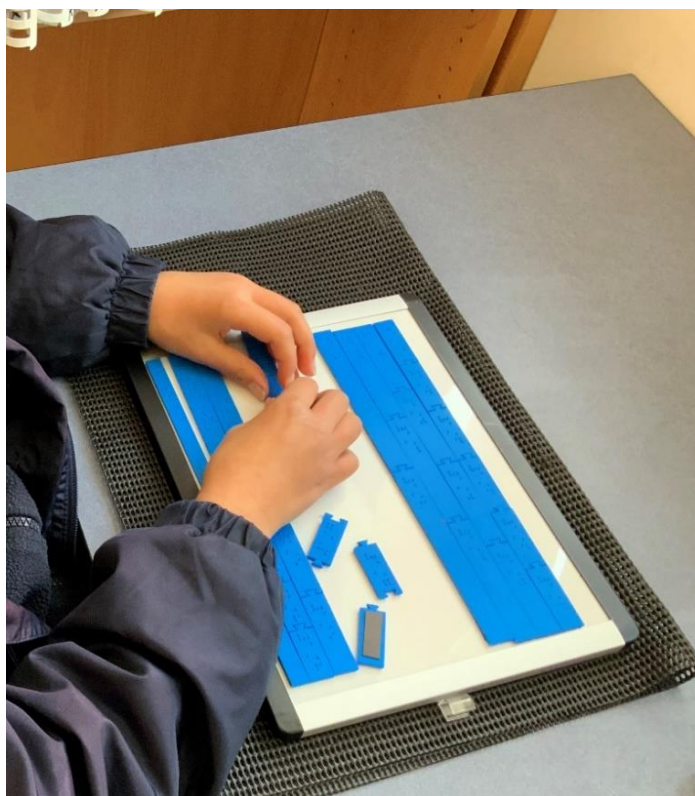
Eligible students can request copies of these and other resources from the SVRC Alternative Format Library. Please send us a completed form which can be found on the SVRC "submit a request" page.

3D printing collaboration

Source: SVRC

Fraction walls are a common aid used to teach fractions in primary school and early high school. We designed a 3D printed braille fraction wall with pieces that connect together like a puzzle. A VT saw the print when visiting SVRC and took on the challenge of testing it out for us. She cleverly added magnetic strips to the back of each of the pieces so they can stick to a mini whiteboard.

Below is a photo of a student using the fraction wall to explore equivalent fractions. You can download the files for this print through [Thingiverse](#) or request the print for a student using the [Alternative Format Request Form](#) on the SVRC website



Screen Mirroring Options

Source: SVRC Staff

Using projectors or TVs to display content is common in many classrooms. Our students can benefit from having that content being mirrored directly to their own device so they can view it more easily. Staff at SVRC have been looking into screen mirroring options recently, but several are now blocked by the Department's web filtering. However, with our recent experience of remote learning, there are a few tools that most students and teachers have already used which could also work at school.

Both Webex and Microsoft Teams have screen sharing capabilities, allowing the student to view what is on the teacher's computer on their own device. These work across platforms (laptop to iPad) and as they are DET issued programs, logins are standard across the Department and they won't be blocked by web filtering. To use them you need to be on Wifi and the teacher and student need to be logged in with their @education credentials. Then it's a matter of setting up the meeting and sharing the screen. All iPads loaned to SVRC can install Webex or Teams through the Self Service App.

We're always happy to hear about other ways you've found to mirror screens so please let us know if you've found another way that works at your school.

Inclusion of students with vision impairment in school PE programs

Source: SVRC

15 teachers were online for this professional learning day. The 15 included 3 from State primary schools, 1 from a State high school, 2 from Catholic schools, 1 from an independent school, 2 Vision Teachers from WA and 6 Vision Teachers from NSW! Marion Blaze lead the group through discussions about the implications of vision impairments, especially in outdoor, hall-like settings or pools, why inclusion in PE is so critical for our students, general strategies and strategies particular to various sports, specialised sports such as Goalball and Swish, and opportunities for incursions or community sporting clubs for our students.

If you are looking for ideas on how to adapt different sports for students with VI, take a look at the [Camp Abilities website](#) from the US. It has loads of video demonstrations of adapted sports.

Comments from participants:

'A very clear and precise presentation. Will definitely take the strategies taught on board.'

'Thank you. I have lots of ideas to put into my PE program. Would love to do a similar PL on-site.'

Several comments were that this PL would be better as a practical, face-to-face workshop – maybe next year!

This PL is now available on our website as an On Demand recorded session that teachers can do in their own time. Please recommend it to any of your schools that are struggling with inclusion of our students in PE.

2022 SVRC Writing Competition: ‘In my perfect world’ – ‘If I made the rules’

All Victorian students with vision impairments are invited to submit a story/article for the 2022 SVRC Writing Competition. You can send your story in whatever format you wish (braille, email, audio, graphics). Word limit – no more than 300 words.

The topic is ‘In my perfect world’ or ‘If I made the rules’, or you can incorporate both ideas in your entry.

So that we can award prizes, please include with your entry: Your name, age, school, Visiting Teacher, postal address, email address.

Please post your entry, by November 10, to:

Marion Blaze
Statewide Vision Resource Centre
PO Box 201
Nunawading 3131

Or email to marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au

The judging will take place in early November and prizes awarded in each age category on our SVRC Expo day on November 22, 2022.

A note about the NDIS

A number of our students have plans with the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The purpose of the NDIS is to provide funding for eligible individuals so that they can reach their life goals. The types of support that can be funded are found on the [NDIS page](#)

Supports that will not be funded by the NDIS include those that are the responsibility of another government system or community service, such as the education sector.

Some of our students might have technology provided through NDIS as well as having the same or different technology provided through the SVRC Technology Library.

NDIS funded equipment is for home use and if children need support or training in its use, this should be negotiated as part of their NDIS package. It is not the role of the Education sector to provide training in the use of NDIS funded technology.

Call for papers JSPEVI Vol 15, 2022

Source: Bronwen Scott, Editor – JSPEVI

The Editorial Committee invites submission of original manuscripts, reports and news items for the next edition of the *Journal of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (JSPEVI)*. The journal provides essays, quantitative and qualitative research articles and analyses, conceptual papers, literature and book reviews, case studies, policy analyses and innovative practice descriptions and evaluations as well as perspectives and opinions on a wide variety of issues and topics related to the education of children, youth and adults in Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries who are blind or have low vision.

To allow for peer review, please submit manuscripts no later than the end of September/early October 2022.

[Further information, including guidelines for submission](#) can be found through the link.

Past editions of JSPEVI Available for free download, you can also access many of the earlier editions of *JSPEVI* from the link above.

Focus on Ability Film Festival

Source: Ryan Goodwin, Creative Director of Focus on Ability Short Film Festival.

Time for you to get together with your friends or even do a solo effort and make a short 5 minutes or less film that has a disability/ability theme. Have a lot of fun, use your creativity and hopefully share in some absolutely fabulous prizes.

Our [prize list](#) is immense and your film will also be viewed by our much esteemed [judging panel](#). Entries close July 29, 2022.

We also have some exciting news, not only will the films be viewable online, but we are making a return to live events. Keep an eye on our socials and your email for screening news. Free events will be hosted in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Fremantle and perhaps more locations pending demand.

Sonification on Twitter

Source: Digital Information World via Sonification World Chat

"The feature will be an expansion of its already growing accessibility tools and will comprise an innovative option that translates its charts into audio-based components so it's easily comprehensible for people with visual impairments.

To put it simply, visually impaired users will now be able to hear charts after they're translated into various pitched sounds. This will also be accompanied by a written chart description too."

Read more at [Digital Information World](#)

Vision Australia Further Education Bursaries

Source: SPEVI listserv

Each year, Vision Australia awards Further Education Bursaries to a select number of students who are blind or have low vision. The bursaries provide adaptive technology to help students fully participate and succeed in their chosen studies. Assistive technology can eliminate barriers to education and enhance access to information. It enables students to read course material, conduct research and improve their student life. Applications are now open. Students of any age can apply, but conditions apply.

For eligibility criteria and information on how to apply, please visit the [VA website](#)

Applications close on 30 September 2022.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Joy King at Joy.king@visionaustralia.org, bursary@visionaustralia.org or phone 03 8378 1220.

Dickenson Memorial Literary Competition

Source: [Braillehouse](#)

The Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition is a national competition and is for children and adults who are blind or have low vision. There is also special "People's Choice" award that will be open to anyone (even if you are sighted) and all entries in this category will be published on the Braille House website and the audience will get to choose the winner.

Entry is only \$10 per category and there are 6 categories for all ages to enter and prize money is awarded in every category: \$350 first prize per category and \$150 second prize per category (judge's decision is final).

Prizes awarded in 6 Categories:

- Adult Short Story
- Adult Poem/Song Lyrics/Limerick
- Adult Article/Opinion e.g. self-reflection, blog
- Senior Student Creative Category, e.g. story, poem, song lyrics, limerick, blog,
- Junior Student Creative Category, e.g. story, poem, song lyrics, limerick, blog
- People's Choice Category – Short Story. (All "People's Choice" entries will be published online for the public to vote).

Entries close Friday September 16 at 4pm. Entries should be submitted in hard copy Braille, Simbraille or Duxbury-readable file or in a Word document

Timing of competition: Winners announced Friday October 7th at 4pm and then we publish the winners and runners up in a special anthology.

This unique competition has a proud history of showcasing the work of blind and low vision writers to a broader audience and has provided a platform for these people to tell their amazing stories.

Saints Blind Auskick

Saints Blind Auskick is a free interactive program aimed for children aged 5-13 years of age. Offering children with partial or low vision the opportunity to have a go at AFL Blind Football. This 5-week program will be delivered by Shannon Jones, captain and member of our St Kilda Blind Team. Offering fun and engaging activities throughout the program, Saints Blind Auskick looks to develop a pathway for young blind children who wish to play in the Victorian Blind Football League one day.

Starting Session: Tuesday 19th July, 2022 (5 weeks)

Final session: Tuesday 16th August, 2022

Venue: RSEA Park Moorabbin

Time: 6.00pm-7.00pm

Cost: FREE [Register here](#)

Bonus session Saturday August 20th @Action Indoor Sports Stadium 11am-2pm

DeafBlind Artist Uses Linocut to Portray Melbourne Landmarks

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Joe Monteleone was born deaf and later became vision impaired due to Usher syndrome. He has tunnel vision and night blindness ... and an incredible skill with linocut.

"Monteleone, 60, is retired; he left the public service in 2014 after a 32-year career, because his sight got too bad. He's been an artist for only five years, having enrolled in a certificate of visual art for 'something to do – it was good for my mental health because I was at home not doing much.' He now works 12 hours a day in his humble studio: a corner of his garage at his home in Lalor."

Monteleone produces meticulously crafted landmarks, one of which will be displayed in Federation Square in January 2023. The linocut of iconic Flinders Street Station (seen below) is 2.4 x 1.8 m in size and took him 800 hours to produce.

"When he first began studying art, he found he didn't love painting and drawing: 'I can't feel it, it is for the eyes. Linocutting is more tactile.' One of his guides took him to the National Gallery of Victoria, to show him some linocuts by MC Escher. 'I just fell in love. I thought it was absolutely amazing.'"

Check the link above for more about this incredible artist!



And finally ...

Former SSP Art Teacher Michael Donnelly has been travelling and sent in some photos from Wendy's Secret Garden in Sydney. He was excited to discover a brailled sign post at the entrance to the garden, as well as some touch friendly sculptures. You can find out more at [Wendy's Secret Garden website](#).

