

Number 13, Friday September 2, 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

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

Digital Hub

SVRC in partnership with Victorian Deaf Education Institute are currently designing a Visiting Teacher Service-Vision Community of Practice Digital Hub. The Digital Hub will have the capability to store resources, videos, and a noticeboard where participants can post comments and seek clarification from the statewide group. We are hopeful the Digital Hub will be accessible by the end of this year.

Swimming Professional Learning Workshop

This Sunday Emily White and Sue Botta will be delivering a workshop on the best practice in teaching blind or low vision students how to swim. Blind Sports and Recreation in partnership with SVRC will create a video resource from the day. Once the video has been completed, we will post a message in the Bulletin and on our website. Thank you to Michael Kelly for recording on the day, and postproduction including voiceover and editing to create a professional product from the event.

Technology Library

As the end of term three approaches, Sarah Hayman would like to give visiting teachers and school staff a gentle reminder to finalise and return their technology stocktake spreadsheet. Many thanks to those who have already sent them back! The information will assist us in the redistribution of resources and give consideration on future assistive technology purchases.

SVRC Landlines

Unfortunately, SVRC landlines have continued to be offline over the last fortnight. We are currently trying to address the outage and now have limited capacity to receive calls again, but only one at a time. We hope to have the landlines operating fully soon. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience and please contact us via svrc@education.vic.gov.au for support.

R U OK Day?

R U OK? Day is recognised on 8 September this year. The day is there to remind us to check in with people in our professional and personal lives. This year's theme is "**Ask R U OK? No qualifications needed.**"

The idea being, that being a good friend, a good listener or a caring person can make a difference to someone and even save a life. **You do not have to solve people's issues** or even agree with them just **ask, listen, encourage action, and check in**. To get started with your R U OK? Day plans please take a look at [the R U OK? Day resources hub](#) where you'll find FREE guides, information and activity ideas you can download and share. \

Holiday Reading

Term three ends on 16 September ... just a few short weeks away! Sooo, NOW is a great time to visit the SVRC [Alternative Format Catalogues](#) to search for holiday reading 😊

The latest catalogue of books is now available. Provided as a searchable Excel spreadsheet, you can hunt for picture story books, joke books, titles from your favourite series and MORE!!!

Please use the [request form](#) so we know who the book is for, where to send it, and other important information that we need for efficient delivery!

And please also remember, if you can't find the book you are looking for in our catalogue, send us a copy of the print book and we will transcribe it into an accessible format for you!

Recently added:

- *Assorted Aussie Nibbles and Aussie Bites*
- Assorted books from the *Alice-Miranda* series
- *Book of Curious Birds* by Jennifer Cossins
- *Girls in Boys' Cars* by Felicity Castagna
- *Huda and Me* by H Hayek
- *Living on Stolen Land* by Amberlin Kwaymullina
- *Running Free (Academy of Sport)* by Laura Sieveking
- *Six Days* by Phillip Webb
- *Scythe (Arc of Scythe #1)* – Neal Shusterman
- *Ten Pound Pom* by Carole Wilkinson
- *The First Scientists* by Corey Tutt
- *Tiger Daughter* by Rebecca Lim

Happy holiday reading!

Monash Occupational Therapy student projects at SVRC

For a number of years, SVRC has partnered with Monash University to support Honours students of Occupational Therapy through placements and projects at SVRC. One outcome of these projects has been that the students have produced a "deliverable" – a guide or handbook as a resource to assist our students and/or teachers. We have two handbooks on our website from past projects:

- Relationship and sexuality education
- Improving self-care

All can be accessed on the [Downloadable Resources page](#) of our website.

We currently have two more OT students working at SVRC and their project is to look at the way young children use their hands when they read or write braille. The project is in its very early stages, but we look forward to sharing more information about this topic with you all over the next twelve months.

Screen Reading Resource

Deque University have a great page called [Screen Reader Keyboard Shortcuts and Gestures](#). It's got information on various screen readers, across multiple platforms (Windows, Apple, Android), including single page summary sheets. There's also a link on the Tech Support page of our website.

UEB Online

You can learn Unified English Braille – free, online and on your computer

[UEB Online](#) is a set of free, online courses for anyone, with or without vision, administered by NextSense.

There are four courses available:

- UEB Literacy – 2 Modules: 1-14 & 15-31
- UEB Introductory Maths – 10 Lessons
- UEB Advanced Maths – 10 Lessons
- UEB Extension Maths (newly available) – 10 Lessons

It is recommended that you complete the Literacy course before commencing the Maths courses and to take the Maths courses in order.

Achilles Melbourne heads to Bendigo

As Melbourne's premiere fitness club for people with disabilities, Achilles enables members to participate in mainstream athletics, promote personal achievements, fitness and enhance self esteem.

And soon, we'll be hitting the road to create connections between Bendigo residents and Achilles Melbourne members!

Please join us on the weekend of October 28 to 30th as we host a parkrun guiding training event and provide basic orientation to the courses.

While visiting we will also go on a trail walk/run supported by Trail Bus and a local naturalist to explain the flora of the area, and learn about First Nations peoples connection to the area and experience a smoking ceremony.

Please stay tuned for further details, coming soon. We can't wait to meet you! This trip is being made possible through an NDIS ILC grant delivered by Guide Dogs Victoria.

People under 18 need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

[Please register your interest using the link](#)

AFL Blind Grand Final

Source: Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria

On Saturday the 3rd of September AFL Victoria is hosting the AFL Blind Grand Final at 12:00pm!

St Kilda vs Bulldogs

Location: Tullamarine Indoor Sports Centre

The whole day will be livestreamed on the AFL Victoria Facebook Page, and the AFL Inclusion Facebook Page.

Saints Blind Auskick

Saints Blind Auskick is a free interactive program aimed for children aged 5-13 years. 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.

Location: RSEA Park - St Kilda Football Club, 32/60 Linton St, Moorabbin VIC 3189

Webb's First Full-Colour Images, Data Are Set to Sound

Source: NASA, via Sonification World Chat

"There's a new, immersive way to explore some of the [first full-color infrared images and data](#) from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope – through sound. Listeners can enter the complex soundscape of the Cosmic Cliffs in the Carina Nebula, explore the contrasting tones of two images that depict the Southern Ring Nebula, and identify the individual data points in a [transmission spectrum](#) of hot gas giant exoplanet WASP-96 b. 'Music taps into our emotional centers,' said Matt Russo, a musician and physics professor at the University of Toronto. 'Our goal is to make Webb's images and data understandable through sound – helping listeners create their own mental images.'"

Listen to the soundscapes and read the full article on the [NASA website](#)

Bake, Play and Eat

Source: Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria

FREE School holiday fun Saturday 1st October. Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria invite kids and young people (4-18 years) with vision loss, to a FREE baking workshop in Brunswick.

Experienced chef, Susan Yarrow, from Gourmet Kids, will guide you through each step in making a delicious... Upside Down Pineapple & Cherry Cake. While it cooks, kids can run free on Brunswick South Primary School's outdoor play equipment, while parents sit back and relax with a cuppa.

To end, we will flip our cakes and dig in!

Contact Miriam on 9822 8876 or email miriam@blindsports.org.au

And finally ...

Did you know that the largest eyes in the animal kingdom belong to the Giant Squid and can be up to 25cm in diameter!