

## The Bulletin

Number 3, Friday 3 March, 2023

### Inside this issue

Here's what you'll find:

- **From SVRC:** [Message from the Manager](#), [Accessible Maths Series](#), [Equipment for sale](#)
- **From the field:** [CMS in the City](#), [Seeking Visiting Teacher – Vision](#), [Sydney Road Street Party – Guided Experience](#), [Variety Braille Music Camp \(Brisbane\)](#), [Master of Inclusive Education Program 2023](#), [Graduate Certificate in Education \(Learning Difficulties\)](#)

### PD events

The [2023 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available for download on our website. See below for links to the events in Term 1 2023.

**Tuesday March 7** [Inclusion of students with vision impairments and additional disabilities](#)

Providing practical strategies that teachers and ES staff can use to support students with a vision impairment and additional disabilities.

### 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

### Professional Learning

Last week, SVRC staff presented at the 'Inclusion of Students who have Low Vision' professional learning online webinar with seventy participants. Despite the large group online, everyone seemed engaged and there were lots of questions and discussions in the chat and out loud. Topics discussed were vision and vision impairment, strategies to support students, technology success, iPad VoiceOver, orientation and mobility, individual, social, and family perspectives and a student's story. One teacher commented in the chat that she 'learned a lot and will definitely be implementing plenty of these ideas in her teaching'. I'd consider that a successful PL! If you missed the event, the recordings will be available OnDemand via our website through Eventbrite. Please note, post-production editing may take a couple of weeks to finalise.

### Department of Education central partnerships

SVRC has been connected centrally with the Victorian Deaf Education Institute (VDEI) and Inclusive Education Professional Practice (IEPP) branch for a number of years. With a structural realignment of the Education Department, IEPP, VDEI and SVRC will be virtually moving to new governance within School Education Programs and Support Division (SEPS) from 1 March. This will be an exciting opportunity to promote SVRC's work within new forums, whilst maintaining and leveraging off the great relationships we already have established with regional staff.

### Annual privacy reminder for our community

SVRC collects, uses, discloses, and stores student and parent personal information for standard centre functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to read our school's collection notice, found on the SVRC website [Policies page](#).

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace for Education safely at our centre and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace for Education, please contact SVRC.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

This information is also available in ten community languages: Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Gujarati, Mandarin, Somali, Sudanese, Turkish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

## Accessible Maths Series

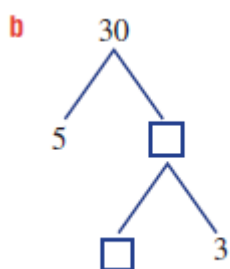
For the next few issues of The Bulletin, we would like to share the creativity and ingenuity of our two Maths/Science teachers on our Support Skills program. Support Skills is very fortunate to have Lauren Devenish and Sarah Hayman, both are teachers with a Maths/Science background, working with students on Fridays. Maths sessions at SSP are often the result of close collaboration with VTs and families about what the student needs or is doing at school. Also, rather than being about the Maths itself, SSP sessions are about Maths accessibility.

We are always open to more ideas and suggestions – please contact Marion if you want to comment or share your Maths ideas. [marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au)

### Accessible Maths Series Number 1 – Factor Trees

Factor trees are a way of expressing the factors of a number, specifically the prime factorization of a number. Each branch in the tree is split into factors. Once the factor at the end of the branch is a prime number, the only two factors are itself and 1, so the branch stops.

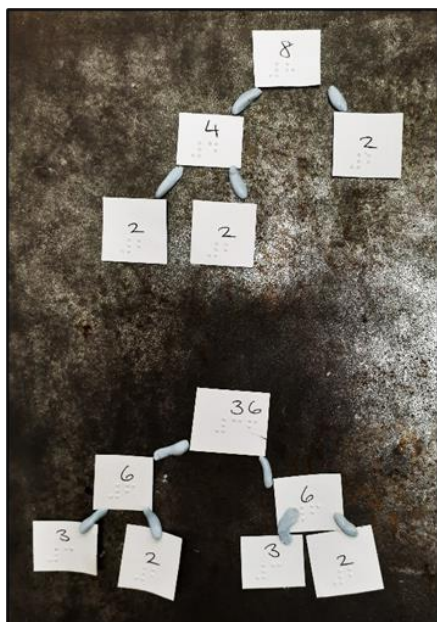
A VT informed us that her student was to be doing Factor Trees in Maths, and the Maths teacher had asked how these could be done in braille (see example from the text book below left).



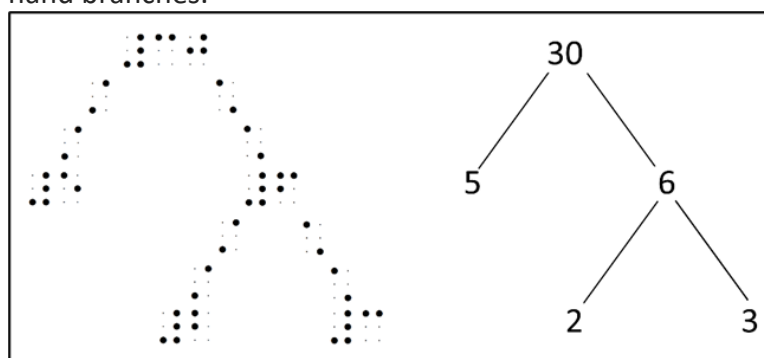
The following is Lauren’s explanation of her session with the student:

I typed up and cut out the numbers, and the student used blu-tac to stick them on a dark-coloured oven tray (for improved contrast). We then used blu-tac to make the branches – Wikki Stix would also work well.

It's hard to estimate how big a factor tree is going to be when you start. So, if the student can make it physically first, where they can move the pieces around as needed, they can then braille the factor tree on their Perkins.



As you'll see from the diagram below, we used dots 3,4 to represent the left-hand branches, and dots 1,6 for the right-hand branches.



## Equipment for sale

Source: Vision Technology Library, SVRC

We are selling some items that used to be part of the Vision Technology Library at SVRC but are now surplus to requirements. They are at different prices, depending upon how much they have been used and what accessories are with them.

The items, with price ranges, are:

- Victor Reader Stream: \$49.50 – \$123.75
- Victor Reader Trek: \$277.50 - \$555.00
- BrailleNote Touch: \$1499.00 - \$1873.75
- BrailleNote Touch Plus: \$1873.75
- Brailliant (BI14, 32, 40): \$497.50 - \$1947.50
- Draftsman Drawing Kit: \$240.00

These prices do not include delivery costs. If you're interested in purchasing some equipment, or would like more information, please contact us at [vision.tech.library@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:vision.tech.library@education.vic.gov.au). Items will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

## CMS in the City

Source: Guide Dogs Victoria

CMS in the City is for senior school-aged students who are looking to connect with their peers in the dynamic Melbourne CBD environment. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of planned activities that will build on core social, personal and Orientation and Mobility skills. They will explore new ideas, share experiences, and of course, make new friends!

**When:** The camp will be held over three days and two nights during the April school holidays, from Tuesday 18 April to Thursday 20 April 2023.

**Where:** Christian Youth Camps (City CYC), 538 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Shared accommodation is provided in comfortable, secure rooms with heating, cooling and ensuite facilities. Students will share a room with appropriate peer/s. Guide Dogs Victoria staff will be located nearby on the same floor as the students.

**Who:** The camp is best suited to senior school-aged students. The program will be staffed and facilitated by Guide Dogs Victoria Orientation and Mobility Specialists and Occupational Therapists.

**Program goals:** Through planned activities and travel within the busy CBD environment, students will build on their:

- public transport skills;
- social skills, such as group strategy, decision-making and inclusivity;
- self-advocacy skills;

- critical thinking and problem-solving skills;
- risk assessment and decision-making skills; and
- ability to use technology and apps to plan travel and activities.

**Activities:** Students will work together to decide and plan the timetable from a range of fun activities available in the CBD which may include:

- Rock climbing or bowling.
- Chocolate tour.
- Boat trip.
- Visiting popular tourist destinations and Melbourne landmarks.

**Cost:** \$2,600 per student.

### **Guide Dogs Victoria Group Programs and Camps costs**

The cost to attend Guide Dogs Victoria Group Programs and Camps is based on NDIS guidelines which cover the Therapy service delivered by the Practitioners supporting the program. Our therapist-student ratio is low to maximise each participant’s learning and skill development.

The cost of activities, travel, accommodation and food is covered by the generosity of our supporters.

Programs and Camps can be funded under several different line items. When applying to attend you will be asked to confirm how you will pay.

**1.** Innovative Community Participation NDIS reference number: 04\_210\_0125\_6\_1 Unit cost item, specific to the program.

**2.** Community Participation Activities NDIS reference number 09\_011\_0125\_6-3 Unit cost item, specific to the program.

**RSVP:** [Please register your expression of interest for this camp here](#). Once you have registered your expression of interest, an application form will be sent to you to complete. Places are strictly limited. Please express your interest by Friday 3 March 2023 to ensure you don’t miss out!

**Contact:** If you require any further information about this program, please contact your Support Coordinator (if applicable) or call our Customer Service Team on 1800 804 805.

### **Seeking Visiting Teacher – Vision**

Source: Casey Grammar School

Casey Grammar School – Cranbourne campus are seeking to employ a Visiting Teacher-Vision to support a student with low vision in Year 11 and studying a Year 12 subject. If you are interested in supporting this student, please contact Karina 0439 353 366.

## Sydney Road Street Party – Guided Experience

Source: Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria will be offering a guided festival experience on the 5th of March from 12pm to 2pm at the Sydney Road Street Party in Brunswick, Melbourne. This is for anyone from age 12 to 25 with a vision impairment. There will be six stages playing the best local and international talent, loads of market stalls to browse and delicious street food. Siblings and friends are welcome!

Warning: Noisy and crowded event, but free ear plugs and a quiet zone will be available on the day.

### Meeting locations

- Option 1: Meet Flinders Street Station outside Police Box at 11:15am for assisted travel to festival
- Option 2: Meet in front of Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Rd Brunswick, at 12:00pm

### Meal voucher

Any vision impaired member will receive up to \$15 for one meal only. BYO own money for all other purchases.

For more info or to RSVP contact Miriam on 03 9822 8876 or email [miriam@blindsports.org.au](mailto:miriam@blindsports.org.au)

## Variety Braille Music Camp (Brisbane)

Source: Lee Strickland via Ozbrl and <https://www.varietymusiccamp.com.au/>

**Note:** This is a different Braille Music Camp to the one held in Mittagong, NSW.

**When:** 12th - 15th April

**Where:** St Joseph's Nudgee College, 2199 Sandgate Rd, Boondall QLD

Variety Braille Music Camp offers students and adults who are blind have low vision a four-day musical experience to help support educational music needs, personal musical growth, independence and self-advocacy skills. The camp will teach how to read and write braille music along with the skills to use accessible music computer software programs. If your child is learning music at school or shows interest in learning music, don't miss this opportunity! No prior braille music knowledge is required.

Registrations for kids aged 9-17 close on Monday the 6th March!

Spots for Professional Development and Adult registrations will remain open for a couple of weeks after this date, depending on spots available.

There will be daily braille music lessons, music computer software workshops, DJing and Percussion workshops and four different band streams to choose from. A timetable loaded with fun, music, friendship and learning!



For more information and to register (by 6 March) visit the [Variety Music Camp website](#).



## Master of Inclusive Education Program 2023

Source: Inclusive Education Scholarships Unit, Department of Education

Are you interested in gaining a department-funded master's level qualification specialising in vision impairment or inclusive education? Applications for Round 9 (R9) are now open and will close on Tuesday 28 March at 11:59 pm. The long-term vision is for all Victorian government schools to have a master-level qualified inclusive education teacher on staff, creating and leading a more inclusive school environment for all students regardless of their abilities and backgrounds.

There are 75 places available, and the program will consider providing schools with an additional masters if teachers are interested in specialising in vision impairment, through the following course:

- **NextSense - Macquarie University:** [Master of Disability Studies](#) - Blindness/Low Vision

For all other Inclusive Education courses, please see course details below:

- **Australian Catholic University:** [Master of Education \(Inclusive Practice\)](#)
- **Deakin University:** [Master of Specialist Inclusive Education](#)
- **La Trobe University:** [Master of Education \(Inclusion and Diversity\)](#)
- **Monash University:** [Master of Applied Behaviour Analysis](#)
- **Monash University:** [Master of Inclusive Education](#)
- **University of Melbourne:** [Master of Learning Intervention Stream A](#)
- **University of Newcastle:** [Master of Special and Inclusive Education](#)

Through additional postgraduate study, teachers can make a significant contribution to how their schools plan and support students with disability and additional learning needs, using contemporary evidence-based, best practice approaches. These bespoke courses have been designed for the Victorian context and will be delivered by our seven partnered universities listed above. Please see the Master of Inclusive Education website for further information, including testimonials from graduates of the program.

To find out more or to check whether your school is eligible, please contact the IESU at: [inclusive.ed.scholarships@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:inclusive.ed.scholarships@education.vic.gov.au) or call 9084 8496.

## **Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning Difficulties)**

Source: Inclusive Education Scholarships Unit, Department of Education

Strengthen your knowledge of learning difficulties, including dyslexia and dyscalculia, with postgraduate study in 2023.

The Department is offering 75 fully funded places for learning specialists, leading teachers, and classroom teachers working in mainstream Victorian government primary or secondary schools to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning Difficulties) program, commencing study in Semester 2, 2023.

Delivered by the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne, this bespoke course is designed for the Victorian educational context.

Applications for Round 2 opens are **now open** and will **close on Tuesday 28 March at 11:59 pm**. Visit the [Graduate Certificate webpage](#) for more information about eligibility and how to apply.

### **And finally...**

Blue eyes are caused when there is no pigment in the front layer of iris, and blue light is reflected back out making the eyes appear blue.