

Number 9, Friday 23 June, 2023

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PD events

The [2023 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available for download on our website. See below for links to the events in Term 2 2023.

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 and Jane Barker, Managers, SVRC

As we head towards the end of term 2 and reflect on all achieved, we here at SVRC would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of the visiting teachers in working hard behind the scenes to ensure inclusive access to education for all their students. Many visiting teachers joined our Community of Practice on Tuesday afternoon in which Ramona and Larissa from Humanware demonstrated the amazing capacity of the Victor Reader Stream.

On Tuesday 13 July Emily White, PhD. facilitated a full day of professional learning on 'Including students who are blind or have low vision in Physical Education (PE), Recreation and Sport'. Teachers and visiting teachers from many schools across Melbourne attended. Emily ran a fabulous and inspiring day and the topics included experiencing PE with simulated vision impairment, childhood vision impairment and implications, inclusion and strategies for teaching, orientation and mobility for PE, reasonable adjustments. A big shout out to ExSight Sports, Hawthorn FC, Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria and Paralympics organisations who supported the afternoon activities. This professional learning day video will be available on our website for On Demand viewing in early term 3.

The wonderful Transcription Team have once again produced an extremely user-friendly booklet of tactile diagrams called '[Braille Signs in the Community](#)'. The free booklet is downloadable as a PDF from our website. The booklet contains a range of diagrams that can be used to create tactile images that can be found in the community. Thank you in particular to Braille Transcribers Susanna and Di H for their meticulous work to produce and proof-read the diagrams.

To end the term on a high note, Group C students from the Support Skills Program will be attending the Victorian Opera and Arts Centre in Melbourne to enjoy a performance of 'The Grumpiest Boy in The World' followed by an Orientation and Mobility session facilitated by Alicia from Guide Dogs Victoria. The Victorian Opera and Arts Centre Melbourne are committed to providing performances that allow everyone to experience the wonder of theatre. This Relaxed Performance is especially designed to welcome visitors with disability or sensory sensitivities, their friends and families to the theatre. Thank you to Marion and Di for organising an inclusive and cultural excursion for students and staff.

SVRC Writing Competition 2023 'Dear Future Me ...'

Source: SVRC

We love to encourage the literary development of our students, so all Victorian students with vision impairments are invited to submit a story/article for the 2023 SVRC Writing Competition. You can send your story in whatever format you wish (braille, email, audio, graphics). Word limit is no more than 300 words – the judges don't want to read too many chapter books!

The topic this year is 'Dear Future Me ...'. We would love you to contemplate what wisdom you would share with yourself in the future.

IMPORTANT: so that we can award prizes (and yes, there are prizes), please include with your entry – your name, age, school, Visiting Teacher, postal address and email address.

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

Judging will take place in early November and prizes will be awarded in each age category at our Expo at SVRC on November 21, 2023.

Report on PE Day

Source: SVRC

Children who are blind or have low vision are at great risk of becoming inactive adults and PE is often a subject our students avoid in school. So, SVRC was thrilled to have Emily White run an all-day professional learning experience for PE teachers on how to include our students in sport.

'Simply brilliant!!!'

'The PD today was absolutely fabulous! All presenters were very knowledgeable and passionate. I learnt a lot and have so many new ideas to bring back to school.'

Thank you to Emily White for planning and running a wonderful PL day for 12 people including PE teachers, VTs and SVRC staff. Thank you to Dan Pritchard (Blind cricket and goalball), Rob Apps

(Ex-Sight Sport), Steve Obeid and Ned Brewer-Maiga (AFL Blind Hawthorn) for explaining their sports and the importance of inclusion and getting everyone moving! Thank you to Michael Kelly for all the technical support and to Lauren Devenish and Jannine Cherry for helping set up and clear up.

The day was recorded so it will become part of our 'on-demand' PL offerings.



Accessible Maths Series

Source: Marion Blaze, SVRC

Sharing ideas for making maths accessible.

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

Accessible Maths Series Number 6 – Childsply

Childsply is a Victorian company that produces educational tactile manipulatives for students with vision impairments. The designer, Claire, has collaborated with Visiting Teachers and educators in developing many of her products. Here are some mathematical examples. For more information on products and prices, go to the [Childsply website](#).

Braille Maths Starter Kit

Standard kit includes:

1x5 grid module x2

5x5 grid module x1

Blank counters x10

Set of 5 different double sided shape counters x5

Set of 5 different texture counters x5

Braille operator counters (+, -, =) x5

Braille # counters (1-10) x5

Braille # counters (0, 11-20) x2

Packaged in partitioned plastic boxes and a large mesh zip bag.

Made from plantation Hoop pine ply and upcycled wooden venetian blinds. Module wells are 30x30x5mm and the grids have non slip foam pads.



Braille Maths Counter Kit

In conjunction with the 5x5 grid system, these counters provide an ordered way to introduce basic linear mathematical operations as well as a concrete way to introduce simple vertical maths formats before moving on to using a Braille. Operators can be adapted to suit a student's specific or growing needs.

Single digit counters are double sided with opposing sides differing by 5. There are 9 x 5 counters per boxed kit.

Operators plus box contains: single sided plus(2), minus(2), multiply(1), divide(1), equals(1), #(5), ##(1),#.(1), _(9), |(4) and double sided fraction/percent(5) and decimalpoint/comma(5).



Tactile Protractor

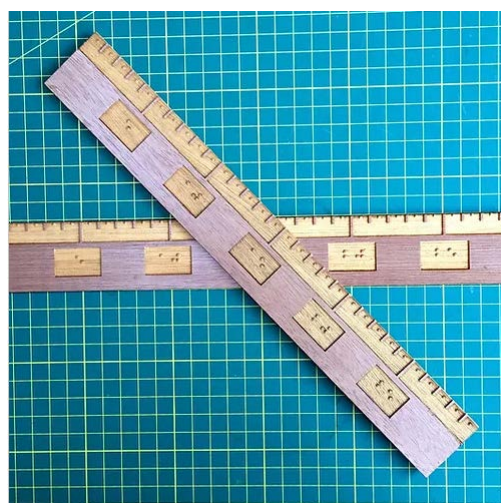
A small (12cm diameter) 180 degree tactile protractor with 10 degree marked intervals with 30 degree intervals highlighted by use of Braille dots instead of a solid line.



30cm Rule

30cm overall and marked with a braille size dot at 5mm, a short line at 1cm and long line at 5cm intervals. The 5cm marks are also labelled in braille, with the number sign and cm dimension assumed.

Made from recycled 3mm hardwood venetian blinds.



Seeking Expressions of Interest for EduVis Mathematics Tutoring

Source: Charlie Roberts, EduVis

Tutoring to empower students who are blind or vision impaired (BVI), with usable, inclusive and accessible strategies for Mathematics.

Charlie Roberts here, a registered and qualified secondary Maths teacher and teacher for students who are BVI. I am pleased to be offering online Mathematics tutoring sessions on Mondays during Victorian school Terms, using Zoom meetings:

- Beginning Monday 17th July, Term three, 2023.
- Hourly service (50-minutes sessions, with 10 minutes preparation time).
- Available from 11.30am to 6.30pm on a Monday.
- Accessibility training will be provided for online Zoom meetings.
- Face to face tutoring can also be provided in the Greater Geelong region of Victoria.
- The tutoring charge for this support item is \$70.87 /per hour (as per NDIA Schedule of Supports).
- Preference of session time will be given to students wanting a Term of support, and places will be available each week for students wanting fortnightly and casual sessions.

Options:

1. As an unregistered NDIS provider, NDIS participants who self-manage the supports and services in their plan, have someone else to do it for them (a plan nominee), or use a registered plan manager can access my maths tutoring services. (Item Reference Number 13_030_0102_4_3 : to transition through school and to Further Education).

2. Vision impairment education services may employ me to provide tuition to a cohort of students or teachers online on Wednesdays, or face-to-face is an option in Victoria.

Please express your interest by email to charlier.eduvis@gmail.com, and I will reply asap. Please include student details: name, year level, maths stream if in Yrs10-12, preferred session time and duration of support requested (term, fortnightly or casual session).

If students would like to have tutoring during school time, so that a staff member or teacher of BVI can attend, please gain permission from your school.

Kind regards,

Charlie Roberts.

EduVis

Well done Evangelos!!

Source: Sophie Michael, Visiting Teacher Service NEVR Team leader

Evangelos has come first in the Multi Class running through Eastern Metropolitan Regional Cross Country Championships. Here is what he shared about the experience ...

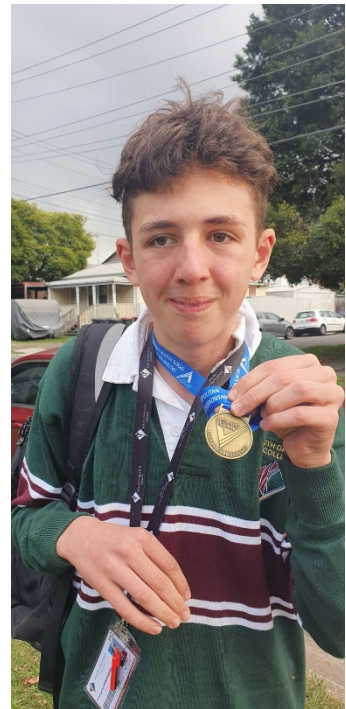
Hi,

My name is Evangelos and I am in Year 7 at South Oakleigh Secondary College.

I had the opportunity to participate in the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Cross country to qualify for the state level cross country championship this week. I competed in the Under 12/13 Multi Class running 3 km, finishing first! This is a section that students with special needs can participate and compete. I ran with a Year 9 student who ran alongside me to help with accessing the course. We ran at Yarra Glen Racecourse.

I am looking forward to the next challenge!

Evangelos



Using Immersive Reader

Source: Veroniiiica (Veronica with Four Eyes)

"One of my all-time favourite low vision assistive technology tools is the simplified reading display, which applies a consistent text style, size, and background color to digital text. I use a few different simplified reading displays across different devices, but my favourite one is the Microsoft Immersive Reader, which has been a major game changer for accessing my college classwork, websites, and for reading content at my Microsoft internship.

Microsoft has made Immersive Reader available across a variety of applications, along with an Immersive Reader API for integrating it into other tools. Supported applications include:

- Microsoft Edge
- Microsoft Forms
- Microsoft Office Lens
- Microsoft OneNote
- Microsoft Outlook
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Word

Read the full article with instructions on how to use Immersive Reader in each application, and what kind of adjustments you can make, on the [Veronica with Four Eyes website](http://www.veroniciawithfoureyes.com).

Online Resource from Statewide Vision Impairment Serviced, Queensland

Source: Allison Jones, Deputy Principal, Statewide Vision Impairment Services

The Department of Education Queensland is excited to share with you a newly developed online resource; Blindness and vision impairment toolkit.

The online toolkit supports, specifically, students who are blind/have low vision.

The toolkit consists of three modules:

1. Understanding blindness and vision impairment (BVI)

This module defines what blindness and vision impairment is, factors influencing visual acuity, and the impact of blindness and vision impairment.

2. Supporting students

This module begins with a focus on Department of Education QLD policies and procedures regarding disability but continues with helpful information for any educators, families or allied health professionals. It emphasises the importance of knowing the learner, provides guidance on the teaching and learning process and making adjustments for students who are blind or vision impaired, as well as how to implement assistive technology for educational adjustments. It also outlines school-based strategies to support student access to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities (including incursions and excursions).

3. Eye conditions

This module outlines key vision conditions in more detail and the specifics regarding each condition. Each eye condition describes the attributes associated with it, and the implications for students and the school. This section also outlines reasonable adjustments for schools to implement and how to cater for students with each specific eye condition. A downloadable PDF has been developed for each available eye condition to access "on the go".

The Blindness and vision impairment toolkit is available to anyone at any time. Please feel free to share it amongst your networks and within your organisation.

[To access the toolkit, click here](#)

Please note: to access the webpage, please select the "View resource" link at the top of the page under the title, "Blindness and vision impairment toolkit" (see image below).

Further information and learning options will be included in module 2 of the toolkit.

This toolkit has been developed collaboratively with the Department of Education Queensland's [Statewide Vision Impairment Services](#) (SVIS) team.

For more information, please contact SVIS via email (3140_SVIS@eq.edu.au)

The screenshot shows the openEQUELLA interface. The main content area displays the title 'Blindness and vision impairment toolkit' with a 'View resource' button and a file size of 4 KB. Below the title is a description: 'A high-quality resource toolkit that: - Supports teachers to build on the impacts associated with vision impairment - Engages teachers in self-paced, just in time resources to assist students with vision impairments in the classroom - Supports teachers in applying educational adjustments and further considerations when catering for students with vision impairments.' A green box indicates 'This resource is visible to Everyone. This resource is discoverable by Everyone.' The page also shows 'Audience: Community', 'Resource type: Training package', 'Technical information' (Technical requirements: Adobe Reader (download), JavaScript must be enabled), and 'Publication information' (Source: Queensland, Department of Education (publisher), 2023; Correspondence: REfer to TRIM reference: 22/043036).

Vision Australia Life Ready Youth and Family Day

Source: Vision Australia

You're invited to join us for Youth and Family Day at Vision Australia

We're hosting a huge day for all our clients in Melbourne.

Come and learn about the Life Ready Program and participate in a day full of free fun activities, including:

Test your skills in the kitchen at our cooking demos

Become a Masterchef and try your hand at some of our talking kitchen gadgets, as we host two cooking sessions for youngsters and teenagers. Come away with a delicious treat.

Connect with mentors

Start thinking about the future and aspire to what your child can achieve, with opportunities to talk with successful people in the workforce who are blind or have low vision.

Learn to code

Learn the skills and knowledge to write and understand computer programs.

Create a tactile song card

Up your singing by learning new songs and create a tactile song card.

Use your radio voice

Jump on the mic at Vision Australia Radio and try your hand at hosting a show! Meet our presenters and volunteers who are on the airwaves every day.

And that's just a few activities to be involved with on the day.

Date: Saturday 15 July

Time: 12pm - 3pm

Location: Vision Australia Kooyong Office, 454 Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong, VIC 3144

Cost: Free

[Register attendance here.](#)

Quantum Sight Support Roadshow

Source: Quantum RLV

Are you, or a friend or relative, affected by macular disease, glaucoma, dyslexia or learning difficulty, stroke, blindness or low vision?

If so, this event is for you. Quantum Sight Support Roadshow will provide an opportunity to talk to the experts, see the extensive range of vision aids on display and give you a hands-on opportunity to try the latest in assistive technology. New products such as Vision Buddy TV and Canute will also be on display.

Often customers will say to Quantum consultants: "I didn't know that existed." So at the Sight Support Roadshow we will show you just what does exist and why it's important to understand your options. The good news is that there are many solutions to suit you as you start or continue your low vision journey.

We welcome everyone. This is a free event and while no appointment is necessary, we would welcome an indication of whether you will be joining us.

What: Sight Support Roadshow

When: 10 am-4pm, Tuesday 4 July 2023

Where: Quantum Showroom 6/417 Ferntree Gully Road, Mount Waverly

Although bookings are not necessary, we would appreciate if you can let us know if you plan to attend at events@quantumrlv.com.au.

And Finally ...

Owls have rod-shaped eyes that don't move in their sockets. Therefore owls have to move their bodies or heads in order to look around.