

Number 14, Friday 15 September, 2023

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## PD events

### 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.

### October 10, 2023 (now On Demand only)

Please note that registrations for Preparing for a student who reads braille are now closed and the event will now be accessible On Demand.

## Message from the Manger

Source: SVRC

As we fly into the last quarter of the 2023 school year SVRC would like to wish those taking the term break a very relaxed and happy holiday and of course a very safe and exciting "blast off" for our space campers who begin their adventure on September 24, returning on October 8.

For those Year 11 and 12 teachers, students, and families we send our best wishes as you head into exam preparation.

Please note that access to SVRC building will remain unavailable from the Monday 18 September until Monday 25 September due to Heatherwood School's fire damaged building being demolished. SVRC staff will be working from home during this time.

Jane and I have greatly appreciated the support, understanding and flexibility of all SVRC staff, especially during the consultation period for Visiting Teacher restructure and the fire on the Heatherwood School site.

## Support Skills Program – 2024

Support Skills is a specialised program for eligible students with vision impairments in years 4 to 10. Students come to SVRC in Donvale for one or two Fridays per term, and participate in a whole day of individual and small or larger group sessions with teachers. Many of our Support Skills teachers are blind or have low vision, so are experienced in the use of technology and life-skills. There is also one ONLINE Support Skills group, enabling students from regional Victoria the opportunity to further develop their skills. AND IT'S GREAT FUN! Our students all comment on the fun they had and friendships they made each Friday, while learning new and useful skills.

Places in the program are now open for 2024. Please go to our website where you will find the [Expression of Interest form](#) for Support Skills 2024.

Families are also welcome to arrange to come along on a Friday next term to see if this program is for you. Please contact Di Bennett or Marion Blaze via email at [statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au) to arrange a "Try Day" for your child.



## School Leaver Employment Support service

Source: Breakthru

Finishing school can be a mix of exciting and overwhelming feelings for everyone. Some people have a clear idea of what they want to do, while others are still exploring and trying to figure things out.

Breakthru (a Disability Employment and NDIS Support Service) offers a School Leaver Employment Support service. This service includes help improving people skills, equipping individuals with crucial life skills, exploring work opportunities and industries, support with job hunting and support on the job.

Visit the [Breakthru website](#) for more information.

## Special Christmas Concert with Jordie Howell

Source: Jordie Howell

Calling all musicians, especially if you read braille music! Come and join us on Thursday 14 December for festive fun around the theme of Christmas. We invite children who love to sing to perform at a sparkly Christmas concert in a gallery space featuring an exhibition of drawings and paintings made by children. We will have a very special Christmas tree with origami decorations made by the hands of blind and vision impaired adults. We will bring an awareness of braille music and the work of Louis Braille through song and festivity. A rehearsal will take place at SVRC several days prior to the concert.

**Where:** Victorian Artists Society, 430 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

**When:** Thursday 14 December, 10 am for rehearsal followed by our concert (lunch will be provided).

**Contact:** Jordie Howell for rehearsal and concert details and to register your child's interest via phone: 0402 308 484 or email at [jordina.howell@gmail.com](mailto:jordina.howell@gmail.com).

## Supporting Neurodivergent Kids

Source: Eastern Health

Eastern Health is hosting an online seminar titled "Supporting Neurodivergent Kids: How, what and why".

Kristen Potts (Senior Speech Pathologist) and Monique Thompson (Senior Speech Pathologist) will present on:

- Deepening your understanding of the communication styles of neurodivergent young people (including Autism, ADHD, Developmental Language Disorder and Trauma)
- How to create a neuro-affirming environment
- Practical strategies and approaches to connect with neurodivergent young people
- Lived experience of a neurodivergent student

**Target Audience:** Staff working in a range of settings including teachers, school support staff, youth justice, community services who work with children in late primary school to early high school years.

**Date and Time:** 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, October 10, 2023

**Cost:** \$40

To book or find out more information visit [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

## Round Table Conference 2024

Source: Ozbrl and Marjorie Hawkings, Round Table Administration Officer

On behalf of the Round Table Executive Committee, we are very excited to confirm details for the 2024 Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc conference. We encourage you to share this information with colleagues, friends, and other interested parties.

**Conference Theme:** Information Equity: Empowerment through Technology, Advocacy and Collaboration

**Dates:** Saturday, 18 May to Tuesday, 21 May 2024

**Venue:**

Novotel Perth Langley  
221 Adelaide Terrace  
Perth WA 6000  
Tel: +61 (0) 8 9221 1200

**Call for Abstracts**

Watch this space due to open soon.

**The Tammy Axelsen Lifetime Achievement Award**

A gentle reminder nomination for this annual award is open. The nomination form and further details can be found on our website by following this link: [Tammy Axelsen Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

We look forward to seeing you all in Perth. Together, let's make the 2024 conference a memorable and impactful experience!

**And Finally ...**

Did you know that braille started as a military code called "Night Writing"? Louis Braille streamlined and adapted the Night Writing code turning it into the braille code.