

Number 16, Friday 27 October, 2023

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PD events

Tuesday November 21 [Expo: Assistive technology for students who are blind or partially sighted](#)

Showcasing and demonstrating assistive technologies that can promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or have low vision. This year's Expo will be a hybrid format event with both onsite and online attendance available.

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: SVRC, Kim Foley

Happy World Teachers Day to all our wonderful teachers. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established World Teachers' Day in 1994 to recognise the role of teachers in society. It is a chance to recognise and celebrate the teachers who are making, or have made, an impact in our lives. This year, UNESCO is putting the teacher shortage at the top of the global agenda with the theme "The teachers we need for the education we want: the global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage".

Last week, Jane and I attended an online two-day Australian Leaders In Vision Education Conference facilitated by Next Sense. The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for SVRC and our interstate equivalents, blind specific stakeholders, and Next Sense staff to present and discuss what is currently happening in vision education and where to from here to improve better outcomes for students and their families. We look forward to continued collaboration with each State Department of Education across Australia.

Just a reminder that our last DOT Power Day for the year will be held on Tuesday 31 October. The theme will be "Alpacas with Maracas" – we have an alpaca and maracas! Five students will graduate from DOT Power this year and they have an open invitation to attend SSP in 2024.

This week was to be a celebratory farewell and a huge thank you to Jannine Cherry for sharing her extensive knowledge and expertise in the field of vision education while Deb Davidson was on LSL. We are happy to report that Jannine has gained an additional contract to continue working with SVRC until the end of the year. We welcome Deb back as she returns to her EVAC role on Monday.

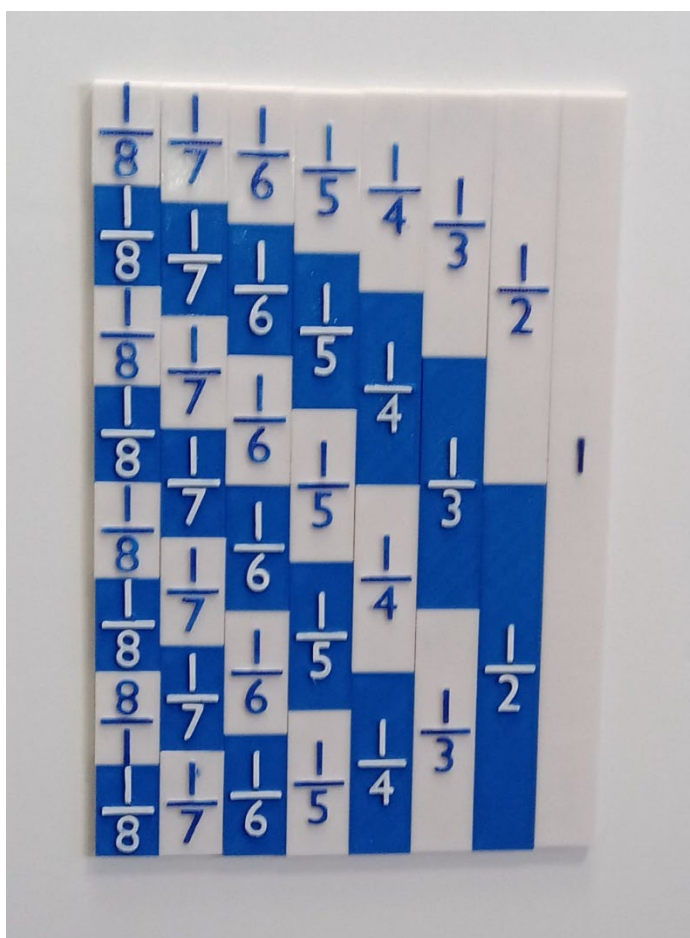
New 3D print – Fraction Fence

Source: SVRC

This is the same as a fraction wall, but rather than the pieces going from left to right, they go up and down. This allows for much bigger print labelling of the pieces which can assist students with Low Vision.

Pieces and labels are in contrasting colours so that pieces are distinct and print can be read more easily. Magnets have been glued to the back of the pieces so that they can be used with a whiteboard. This also helps to hold pieces in place while the student is using the fence. Pieces from 1 through to $\frac{1}{8}$ s.

This model can be used to support the teaching of Maths including AC9M4N03, AC9M5N03, AC9M5N05, AC9M6N03, AC9M6N05 or AC9M7N06.



FAQ: My Embosser is printing double-sided?

Source: SVRC

There are a few places this could be switched on in Duxbury.

Select Global → Embosser setup. Make sure Emboss in Interpoint is unchecked.

Global: Embosser Setup

Braille Device:

- (No Target Embosser)
- Index Basic-D

Desired Braille Document Formatting

Form: 11.5 by 11 inches

Characters per line: 40

Lines per page: 25

Top margin in lines: 0

Binding margin in characters: 0

Emboss in Interpoint

Emboss Banner Page

Interline Print

OK Cancel

Select Document → Embosser setup. Make sure Emboss in Interpoint is unchecked.

Document: Embosser Setup

Braille Device:

- (No Target Embosser)
- Index Basic-D

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Emboss in Interpoint

Emboss Banner Page

Interline Print

OK Cancel

2023 SVRC Writing Competition "Dear Future Me ..." – get your entries in!

Source: SVRC

Term 4 is the time to get your entries in to the SVRC writing competition. We already have many entries including poems, letters, stories, and one rap with musical backing! (VTs, please call Marion if you'd like to know if your student's entry has been received.)

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).

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, email address.

Get your entry in by **November 10** to:

Marion Blaze

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

PO Box 201

Nunawading 3131

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

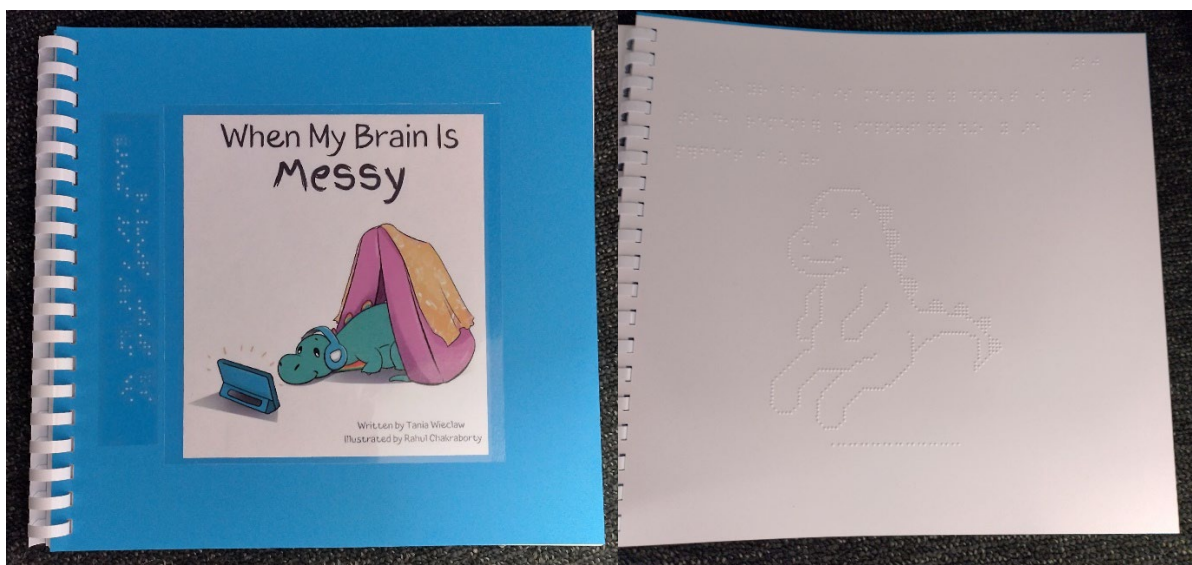
Judging will take place in early November and prizes will be awarded in each age category at our Expo at SVRC on November 21, 2023.

"When My Brain is Messy" Now available in picture braille!

Source: SVRC

"When my Brain is Messy" is now available in picture braille from the SVRC catalogue via request.

This beautiful picture book, written by Melbourne based author Tania Wieclaw, encourages discussions about autism and promotes empathy, teaching children to embrace diverse ways of experiencing emotions.



Reminder: Send in your Alternative Format Requests in for 2024

Source: SVRC

With the end of the year fast approaching, it is time to send in your Alternative Format Requests for 2024. This will ensure that our transcription team can get these materials completed for our students in time for the new school year and/or the summer holidays if required.

The request form can be found on the [SVRC website](#) and can be emailed to either debra.lewis@education.vic.gov.au or svrc@education.vic.gov.au.

Thank you in advance!

Special Christmas Concert with Jordie Howell

Source: Jordie Howell

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.

Please 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

And finally ...

The largest eye on the planet belongs to the Colossal Squid, and measures around 27cm across.