

The Bulletin

Number 17, Friday 30th October, 2020

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PD events

Click on the links to read more information and to register online. If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

Tuesday Nov 24 [Expo of technology for students with vision impairments](#) – our first online Expo!

Note: For upcoming professional learning at SVRC along with programs and registrations, visit the SVRC [professional learning page](#).

SVRC helpline

Please call SVRC if you have questions about our provisions or inclusion of students with vision impairments. (03 9841 0242)

The Zooming continues

From: Kim Foley, SVRC Assistant Principal/Manager

On Tuesday 20 October, SVRC hosted a "Preparing for inclusion of a student who reads braille" webinar that was attended by forty-eight participants. The webinar was accessed via Zoom from across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand. The program included: Expanded Core Curriculum (including a student who uses braille in your school program); Reformatting at School; What does inclusion look like; How will the student fit in; Where and how to get equipment and resources and Panel questions.

Examples of the feedback from the session:

- "Thank you that was fantastic!"
- "Thank you for the great presentation"
- "Great video - I know a lot of PE teachers who will really appreciate it!" The video shown during the morning tea break on accessibility resources for Physical Education lessons is available on SVRC Website and YouTube channel.

SVRC staff are currently formulating the 2021 Professional Learning Calendar and the dates and access will be available in the next few weeks.

SVRC is continuing to host fortnightly "Community of Practice" Zoom meetings with Visiting Teachers (Vision). This week, SVRC and Guide Dogs Victoria (GDV) launched a new referral process for requesting Orientation and Mobility Services. Visiting Teachers will be able to enter referrals on the SVRC tracking system once a signed parent and school consent is attached. Shelly Pannier, GDV Client Service Manager outlined the services available such as environmental assessments, mobility skills, professional learning in schools and supporting PSD funding reports. Sarah Hayman from SVRC demonstrated the new referral process and documentation required to access O & M services. The session generated much discussion around service provision and the referral system. Sarah Hayman will contact VTs when the tracking system will be available to enter any new requests. Please do not hesitate to contact Sarah with any questions about the SVRC tracking system.

SVRC staff would like to wish our VCE students the best of luck with the upcoming exams beginning with the English exam on 10.11.2020.

SSP Virtual Visit to the National Gallery of Victoria

While the Support Skills Program continues to be offered as an online only program, art teacher, Michael Donnelly, has still managed to visit art galleries with the students from several SSP groups this term!

Many art galleries, nationally and internationally, are beginning to present images of art works accompanied by audio descriptions on their websites, offering people with vision impairments the opportunity to enjoy more fully some of the wonderful artworks in their collections.

Michael worked with Eva Lewis-Col and Sherryl Orchard to develop tactile representations of several illustrations, some of which were deconstructed for improved access and understanding in tactile graphic form.

Michael Donnelly writes:

Students were invited on an online excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) with the help of a book of tactile images that had been posted out from SVRC in advance.

We focussed on the six artworks that have recently been made available with both zoom-in full screen images of the works for sighted visitors, and audio-description and matching music soundtracks for everyone to enjoy. These artworks can be accessed from the following link:
<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/audio-descriptions/>

We started the tour by looking at and hearing about the iconic John Brack painting: "Collins Street, 5p.m.", along with its corresponding Bela Bartok tune.



In tactile image form the artwork was split into four different images, concentrating on foreground figures, background figures across the street, and the backdrop of buildings and street furniture in the painting (see in the images below and on the following page).

During the Art session via Zoom, Michael "walked" the students through the art works by referring to each "part" of the image.

Transcribers were delighted to be part of this innovative project and students appeared very engaged in the learning activity! The Education and the Community and Access people at the NGV are very pleased that SVRC is helping to make their collection more accessible.



The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York also offers several "visually described" artworks at this link: <https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/3#stops>

Many galleries and museums, needing to find ways of reaching people online, are now following best practice guidelines, making all their website text screen-readable and providing alternate descriptions to accompany images. Some are better than others, but it is encouraging that such visual environments are becoming more "multi-sensory", with audio tracks, mood music and audio guides available online.

Image shows the people in the lower band.



Image shows seven of the individual people in the lower band.



Image shows the people in the mid-ground.



Image shows buildings, lamp post, tree and bush from the background.



SVRC Expo

From: Sarah Hayman, SVRC

The SVRC Technology Expo is running online via Zoom on Tuesday the 24th of November. We are finalising the exhibitors and presentation topics for the day and many people have already registered. If you'd like to register, please follow the link in the PD events section at the beginning of the Bulletin. The winners of the SVRC writing competition will also be awarded on the day.

SVRC Writing competition

The annual SVRC writing competition is open to any eligible student with a vision impairment who are supported by a Visiting Teacher and/or the Statewide Vision Resource Centre. You can "write" in the format of your choice. Your writing can be creative or factual. A judging panel will award prizes at every age level of participants and an overall winner's prize.

The topics this year are:

- If you were to be given three wishes, what would they be and why?
- The magic of music and what it means to me.

Please include your name, age, school and contact details (for prizes and certificates).

Please email your entry to brooke.fairley@education.vic.gov.au or post to Statewide Vision Resource Centre, PO Box 201, Nunawading, 3131, entries close Tuesday, November 10th, 2020.

Classical Guitar course freely available in Braille, Audio and PDF

From: Lea Nagel, SVRC

Twitter has just told me about a braille classical guitar course that is presented on a beautiful and user-friendly website. Braille, Audio and PDF files are free to download. I highly recommend you take a look! Here's part of the introduction from the site <https://www.letsplayguitar.org/>:

Let's Play! is a collection of stepwise Braille and audio classical guitar lessons. The first few lessons are audio only, so you can start right now!

Let's Play! is a collaboration between [Austin Classical Guitar](#) and [Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#), made possible by The Rea Charitable Trust, Texas Women for the Arts, The Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation, and many generous individual donors. The Let's Play! core curriculum was designed by Joseph Palmer, and Jeremy Coleman, along with the Austin Classical Guitar, and [GuitarCurriculum.com](#) education team.

We hope you love it. Let's play!

Sound Matters Online Exhibition

Some of our readers may recognise our talented students featured in the Sound Matters Online Exhibition!

In partnership with Vision Australia, the Sound Matters workshop series at Melbourne Recital Centre explores interactive and creative music-making, especially designed for children aged between 6-12 who are blind or have low vision.

Passionate, joyous, expressive and truly unique, Sound Matters is directed by Inventi Ensemble's Ben Opie and this particular workshop was co-facilitated by Melbourne-based cellist Stephanie Arnold, who together have collaborated with five budding musical storytellers participating in the program to create their very own story and accompanying soundscape.

Enjoy the stories and soundscapes:

<https://soundscapes.melbournerecital.com.au/explore/welcome-to-the-sound-matters-online-exhibition>

Australian Blind Football (Soccer)

Are you blind or partially sighted and interested in playing football (Soccer)?

Australian Blind Football (Soccer) is developing a new initiative for 2021 with the aim of increasing grassroots participation in football by people who are blind or partially sighted, regardless of age, gender or ability. These sessions will focus on having fun and developing a love of playing the world game.

If you would like to get involved or would like to know more please register at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/202222655484857>

More news to come soon on this exciting new initiative!

<https://ausblindfootball.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ausblindfootball/>

Braille back at school

Kartia went back to school a couple of weeks ago. Below are photos of the setup for her online braille session with her Visiting Teacher. An iPad sits horizontally on a stand, with the camera pointing down at her fingers so her Visiting Teacher can see her hands as she reads the braille.



Paths to Technology

[Paths to Technology](#) is a website designed to assist educators, families and students to stay current on ever-changing technology for students with visual impairments. Below are some recent articles and ideas.

[Battle of the Tools: Activity to Help Students Buy Into VI Tools](#)

[Fingerprinting, Forensic Science and Magnifiers: Magnification Activity](#)

Exciting, inclusive classroom activities that combine Crime Scene Investigation skills while learning about magnification tools!

[STEM Career Showcase for Students with Disabilities 2020](#)

Connect with role models who have disabilities and who are thriving in STEM careers!

[Screen Reader for Low Vision Students?](#)

Should your student with low vision be introduced to a screen reader? Here are screen reader indicators and three student scenarios to help you decide!

[Chromebook: Learning Targets and Lessons on Ways to Zoom \(Magnification\)](#)

Learn more about Chromebook low vision accessibility here!

SVRC News

We would like to thank Sam Oxley and Annette Godfrey-Magee for accepting short term contracts to support EVAC during the recruitment process for the SVRC Manager.

Sam, your enthusiasm, diligence, positive engagement, patience and willingness to 'go the extra mile' has shone through at every step of the way. You will be greatly missed.

Annette, the EVAC waiting list is now in a much reduced and manageable state thanks to your tenacity, persistence, diligence, hard work and thoroughness. Your knowledge and expertise in following up students has been invaluable. You are very much appreciated and will be greatly missed.

And finally ...

For those in Australia, happy World Teachers' Day!