

Number 18, Friday 13th November, 2020

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## PD events

Click on the link 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)

## Tactile Indigenous Art and PD in 2021

From: Kim Foley, SVRC Manager

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Several members of the transcription team have been working on a project to tactually represent Indigenous artworks. The artworks have been chosen from the "Speaking with colour – longing for country" collection of Carrillo and Ziyim Gantner which was shown in an exhibition held at Shepparton Art Gallery in 2013, and from the National Gallery of Victoria. At a recent SVRC staff meeting, one of our transcribers, Sherryl, spoke about the art works that Jordi and Eva (also transcribers) chose to represent as tactile diagrams. The tactile diagrams create an opportunity for students who are blind or have low vision to appreciate and explore the artwork, with descriptions reproduced in braille. Below are two pictures, the original artwork *Namarnkol (The Silver Barramundi)* 1980, earth pigments on stringybark, by Curly Bardkadubbu (1924-1987) from the National Gallery of Victoria, and corresponding tactile diagram.



In 2020, we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. On Wednesday SVRC staff were invited to observe a minutes silence and reflection to commemorate Remembrance Day.



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Left We Forget*

In response to the huge number of state-wide, interstate and international educators being able to access SVRC Professional Learning online this year, SVRC leadership have decided to continue with this format for 2021. The costs will be considerably less than onsite PD. We are currently revising the Professional Learning calendar for 2021 and the document will be available on the website in forthcoming weeks, as well as being emailed to Visiting Teachers.

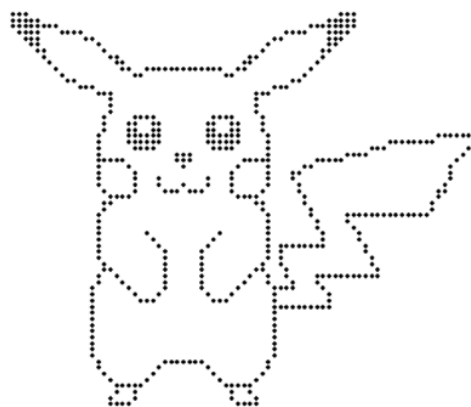
## Ozzie Dots 2020

Designed and produced by staff of the Statewide Vision Resource Centre in conjunction with education vision specialist, Dr Gillian Gale, AM, Ozzie Dots supports the teaching and learning of Unified English Braille (UEB) to beginning braille readers. Ozzie Dots is:

- a self-contained resource that can be used by the specialist teacher, teacher, teacher aide and/or parent/carer to introduce contracted braille (UEB) to beginning braille readers
- a systematic approach with the flexibility to individualise books for each student
- a fun and light-hearted resource that encourages children's love of reading
- 500+ fully illustrated stories that support the development of tactual graphicacy
- packed with stories, poems, recipes, procedures; and a range of opportunities for concept development

Ozzie Dots introduces contractions sequentially as follows:

- **Set 1:** like, can, it, the, go
- **Set 2:** do, you, will, not, little
- **Set 3:** very, good, have, but, for
- **Set 4:** that, so, with, him, from
- **Set 5:** and, more, every, people, said, quotes, comma
- **Set 6:** of, some, great, mother, father
- **Set 7:** here, friend, day, as
- **Set 8:** could, would, time, work, one
- **Set 9:** just, name, after, again, your
- **Set 10:** about, always, quite, rather, knowledge
- **Sets 11 to 20:** the remaining contractions



When Ozzie Dots was launched in 2011, it offered 2-3 books per contraction. But Ozzie Dots is a living, (almost) breathing entity ... and staff of the SVRC have continued writing, editing and illustrating more and more Ozzie Dots books.

Our aim for Ozzie Dots 2020 is 10 books (sometimes more) per contraction for Sets 1-10, and we are well on the way! Victorian Visiting Teachers have had access to the new books (Sets 1-5) this year and have offered the following feedback:

- It's great to have a wider range of books to choose from!
- I have a student in secondary school and there are lots of books with content suitable for the older reader
- My student simply loves the illustrations!
- My student loves the books featuring Slob and the Ozzie Dots family, but also the new "sci-ency" books, the new characters and also the puzzle books.

Staff hope to finalise Sets 6 and 7 in November 2020. Initially, these books will be available to Victorian Visiting Teachers, however we plan to make them available to all the organisations that have purchased Ozzie Dots over the years, at no additional cost.

Picture shows Pikachu from a story about tidying your room.

## Beginning braille: Support through SVRC

From: Lea Nagel, SVRC

Learning braille takes a commitment to daily practice of 15 – 50 minutes each day, and regular, weekly teaching from a braille expert. The school is responsible for student education with support – in Victorian government schools – from the Visiting Teacher service. We've had enquiries recently about how SVRC can help Victorian students in this process.

Dot Power Program: Pre-school to year 3 <https://svrc.vic.edu.au/educational-programs/dot-power/>

Students, school staff, visiting teachers and families come in once per term for an immersion day. Schools and families learn what is possible, and we demonstrate best practice inclusion for children reading braille. The children have a wonderful day making music, reading and writing braille and connecting with other children who are learning braille too.

Support Skills: Years 4 to 10 <https://svrc.vic.edu.au/educational-programs/support-skills-program/>

We have expert braille teachers amongst our expert staff at Support Skills. We can assess and discuss need and provide advice and encouragement. We can book teaching sessions to reignite the student's interest in braille and support the school process. Students come in to Support Skills once or twice per term, so the main learning will be at school with extra practice at home. School staff can observe sessions for their professional learning. For further information, please email [statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au).

Transcription - getting braille: <https://svrc.vic.edu.au/transcription-services/>

You can request materials from our transcription service to work on at home or at school. We have a great range of beginner and more advanced braille books in our library. You can send in textbooks or worksheets etc to be transcribed.

Professional Learning: <https://svrc.vic.edu.au/professional-learning/>

School staff, parents and others can attend Professional Learning events at SVRC.

Bulletin and website: <https://svrc.vic.edu.au/>

Our Bulletin and website can include information and tips on learning braille and other areas of Vision Impairment.

Skill Power Workshops:

Teachers, school staff, students and families can email in and request learning sessions on specific technology or how to teach a skill – please email [svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au)

## SVRC Expo

From: Sarah Hayman, SVRC

The SVRC Technology Expo is running online via Zoom on Tuesday the 24th of November. Information for participants who have registered will be coming out today, and to give you a taste, here's a list of the Presentations that will occur on the day. Registration details can be found via the link in the PD Events section above.

Presentations:

**10:15-10:35** Pacific Vision – From Music to Maths, Meetings to Movies: Getting the best from the BrailleSense Polaris Notetaker at home or school.

**10:40-11:00** Quantum RLV – Multifunction tablets for near and distance viewing in the classroom

**11:05-11:25** Quantum RLV – Maths – braille and audio approaches (possibly put Guide Dogs here instead)

**11:30-11:50** Humanware – The 5 most important criteria to consider when choosing a device

**11:55-12:15** Quantum RLV – What's new in JAWS

**12:20-12:40** Vision Australia – Code Jumper

**12:45-1:05** NV Access – What's new with NVDA

**1:10-1:25** Guide Dogs Victoria – Technology in O&M Sessions

## Understanding 3D Prints

From: Round Table website

There are five overarching principles for presenting and reading 3D models by touch:

1. [Know what to expect](#)
2. [Gain an overview first](#)
3. [Use appropriate touch](#)
4. [Use reference points](#)
5. [Explore the detail](#)

Read more on the [Round Table website](#)

## **PD from RIDBC**

### **Paths to Technology**

2nd December 2020, 12pm - 2pm AEDT

Regular Price \$30 SPEVI Member Price \$20

Should I update my software? How do you create an accessible PowerPoint? How can I start a blind preschooler on an iPad? Is there an accessible app that ...? This session introduces participants to Paths to Technology, a teacher-friendly resource that answers these tech questions and more! Paths to Technology is a Perkins eLearning website created to assist educators, families and students to learn about and stay current on ever-changing technology for students with visual impairments and blindness. Read posts, watch videos, use lesson plans, follow curriculums; Paths to Technology has a wide variety of posts covering all types of technology for students with visual impairments of all ages and abilities. With the recent increase in need for accessible digital materials for remote instruction, Paths to Technology now has a Resource Library with available teacher-created educational materials, non-visual digital maps and lessons! This session will provide an overview about the website, how to find desired topics on the website and how YOU and/or your students can share information with the Paths to Technology community!

[Register Here](#)

### **DeafBlindness Masterclass Series 2020**

Recordings now available!

Regular price \$150 SPEVI Members Price \$75

Session 1: Teaching strategies for children with DeafBlindness

Session 2: Teaching strategies for children with multiple disabilities including DeafBlindness

Session 3: Independent living skills for children with DeafBlindness (not MDVI)

Session 4: Individual education programs – setting goals for students with DeafBlindness and those with MDVI

[Register Here](#)

### **Practical Tips for Promoting Literacy Skills in Students with Visual Impairments**

Recording now available!

Regular price \$40 SPEVI Members Price \$20

In this two-hour session, we explored activities and tips to facilitate the development of literacy skills in children with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities. While training programs for teachers of students with visual impairments typically teach the braille code, basic information about cortical visual impairment (CVI), and more, teachers in the field often discover that they have not had specific preparation in teaching braille skills or adapting materials for students with CVI.

[Register Here](#)

## Early Learning Apps

From: Paths to Literacy

Many apps (applications) are available to promote early learning for young children who are blind or visually impaired, including those who are deafblind or who have multiple disabilities. This is a partial list (part one of two) to help you get started. [Click here to see Part 1.](#)

The apps here help young children to develop basic cognitive skills, such as cause & effect and matching. They also help to reinforce eye-hand coordination, vocalization, and response to sensory input. These apps have been used specifically with young children especially those with additional needs, or have been chosen because the visual component is very clear and/or the auditory/sound aspects are of high quality and clear. Many of these apps are particularly appropriate for children with CVI (Cortical Visual Impairment).

Read more at [Early Learning Apps – Part 2](#)

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

We had a Perkins repaired during the week. Apparently it was made in 1977 and may be on its last tour of duty. We think 43 years is a stellar effort!