

Number 20, Friday 11th December, 2020

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PD events

The 2021 [Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available on the SVRC website. Most professional learning will continue to be online. Events are now on Eventbrite.

Tuesday Feb 2 **Introduction to support for Visiting Teachers (Vision) from SVRC**

Supporting new Victorian Visiting Teachers (Vision) to implement effective strategies to promote inclusion in the schools they support.

Tuesday Feb 9 **Educational support of students who are blind**

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who are blind.

Tuesday Feb 16 **Educational support of students who have low vision**

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who have low vision.

Tuesday Feb 24 **Educational support of students who are vision impaired with additional impairments**

Providing practical strategies that teachers and ES staff can use to support students with a vision impairment and additional disabilities.

Wed Apr 28 **Teaching and learning with braille music**

Providing practical strategies for music teachers to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind.

Wed May 12 **Including students who are blind or have low vision in art**

Providing practical strategies that teachers can use in their art classes to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or partially sighted.

We've made it through 2020

From: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

As the most extraordinary year draws to a close, we would like to thank all the students, families, regional and school teaching staff who continue to support the blind and low vision community. This year SVRC were unable to organise the Thank you Morning Tea due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, we have designed an e-card to express our appreciation. I would like to thank Taryn Radley for designing the SVRC Christmas e-card and Michael Donnelly for the wonderful student artwork created during the year while accessing Support Skills Program lessons on ZOOM. You can [access the e-card online through this link](#).

The Writing Competition awards have been posted to students and we hope they will arrive by the end of this week. Thank you to Michael Kelly for designing the awards. As you can see in the photo they will certainly be cherished by the children.



An update on one of our past students: Abbey Dalton has successfully completed her Law Degree from Monash and Carleton Universities and has been recently appointed into a high profile graduate position. We wish her well with her career and look forward to hearing about her legal experiences in the future.

SVRC Professional Learning days in 2021 will be delivered online, click the link to [view the professional learning calendar](#). You can now access and book the days via Eventbrite on our website.

On behalf of the SVRC Leadership Team, we would like to thank all SVRC staff for their preparedness to continue to deliver outstanding service provision while we were locked down in COVID-19 restrictions for most of the year. The SVRC site will continue to be open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am until 4.30 pm until the end of Term 4. If you require an alternative time to visit, please phone ahead so we can arrange for the building to be open.

The staff at SVRC wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe COVID-19 free New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2021.

Braille Calendar 2021

Braille Transcriber, Sherryl Orchard, has again produced the braille calendar for next year with input from Garry Stinchcombe. The calendar presents one page per month and includes Victoria's public holidays and term dates.

2021 Tactile Theme

For thousands of years the Australian Aboriginal people have used artistic symbols and designs to help them tell their cultural stories and to pass them across generations. Although these symbols vary from region to region, they are widely understood. They form an important part of Australian Indigenous art and culture. An example showing a honey ant is shown right. Our 2020 braille calendar introduced these symbols. Our 2021 calendar further explores symbols that relate to Aboriginal art with a focus on Australian animals.

Two optional companion braille books are available.

Reference of General Symbols: illustrations of some general Australian Aboriginal symbols (from the 2020 calendar) such as meeting place, campsite and shield.

Australian Animal Picture Book: a tactile picture book of Australian animals including the symbols of each animal's tracks. This book is designed to supplement the calendar and its tactile theme. We invite Victorian students, schools and families to request a braille copy of the calendar and optional braille books; and we are happy to send the files to others who are interested in a copy.



An emerging artist at Support Skills

From: Di Bennett, Support Skills Program

Support Skills would like to share some exciting news from one of our students, Josh. Josh has had his artwork picked and shown in the school's ART GALLERY! They were unaware of Joshua's vision impairment as it was work submitted by the teachers from across all three school campuses. Congratulations to Josh, great to have another budding artist amongst the Support Skills students.



Photos above are Joshua's artworks that were shown in the Art Gallery.

Interview with Jordie Howell

From: Australian Braille Authority Facebook Page

Jordie Howell, one of our Support Skills teachers, was interviewed on ABC Classic Breakfast on International Day of People with a Disability. She discusses using Braille music, particularly as a singer. You can [listen to Jordie's interview here](#).

StoryKids Podcast

From: Jeni Blake, VT

The StoryKids Podcast features Australian kids and their original stories, brought to life by some of our biggest stars.

12 year old Anita loves vivid colours and animals – and her story features a brightly coloured, fantastical cat! Anita has low vision, and so has a unique writing process. Myf Warhurst lends her gorgeous voice to this wonderful story. [Listen to Anita's story here](#).

New \$100 note goes tactile

From: Quantum RLV

As with the other recently released banknotes, the new \$100, which was released on 29th October 2020, has a "tactile" feature to assist people who are blind or who have low vision to distinguish between different denominations. There are five raised bumps on each of the long edges of the \$100 banknote.



The art of audio description

From: ABC Radio Melbourne

Alison Myers is an audio describer of film and television. She's provided audio descriptions for *Escape from the City* and *Griff's Great Australian Rail Trip*, just to name a few. Alison says the key to creating a good audio description is to give the who, what, when where and how but never the why. You can [listen to the full interview here](#).

And finally ...

Merry Christmas from all of us at SVRC.