

The Bulletin

Number 10, Friday 17th June 2016

Inside This Issue

It's a quickie end-of-term issue this fortnight as Glen and Deb are off on leave (though not together!).

Please find the following topics below:

- **PD:** Low Vision Day
- **Technology:** Win a free copy of Ballyland!, Mac OS X Keyboard Shortcuts – The Basics
- **News:** SVRC Swim Carnival, Dot Power Day

SVRC Professional Development 2016

Glen Morrow and Emily White had a great Apple in Education for VI where participants had the opportunity to enjoy Macbook and iPad accessibility and skills that they learned on the day! We are grateful to Emily for coming out to Donvale from her other life as a doctoral student at Melbourne University to fill in for Lyn who is currently on leave.

Upcoming workshops and PD days include:

- Low Vision Day: Tuesday 9 August

Please register online for workshops and PD or phone (03) 9841 0242.

Go into the Draw and Win a Free Copy of Ballyland Magic App!

Go into the draw and win a free copy of Ballyland Magic app.

Ballyland Magic App is a new, educational and fun iPad game specifically designed for children with vision impairment to learn and practice touch gestures for VoiceOver, Apple's built-in screen reader. Supportive and entertaining games enable them to gradually develop touch gesture skills, understand the concept of VoiceOver, and to become confident with this special navigation that is required for the effective use of an iPad or iPhone. The app uses built-in self-voicing with real voices, rather than VoiceOver. The app is also accessible for parents and teachers who are blind and who want to support a child in using the app. The app has been very well received and is available from the App Store. More information can be found here: <http://www.ballyland.com/mobile/ballyland-magic-app.php>. The Ballyland Magic app is developed by Sonokids, not-for profit developers of accessible educational software based in Queensland.

Students of the Statewide Vision Resource Centre, readers of the Bulletin and members of the SVRC Facebook Group can now go into the draw to win one of **two free copies** of this fun app!

To enter, please send an email to support@sonokids.org with subject "SVRC Competition".

Competition ends 20 July 2016.



Mac OS X Keyboard Shortcuts – The Basics

Global

Moving between open apps – **COMMAND+TAB**
 Moving between windows within an app – **COMMAND+TILDA ()**
 Hide or minimise an app – **COMMAND+H**
 Hide Others (Hides other apps) – **COMMAND+OPTION+H**
 Close an app window – **COMMAND+W**
 Quit an app – **COMMAND+Q**

Safari

Open a new browser window – **COMMAND+N**
 Close a browser window or tab – **COMMAND+W**
 Create a new tab in a browser window – **COMMAND+T**
 Move between browser tabs – **CTRL+TAB**
 Move to the top of a webpage – **HOME**
 Move to the end of a browser window – **END**

Pages

Create a new document – **COMMAND+N**
 Open a document – **COMMAND+O**
 Close a document – **COMMAND+W**
 Save a document – **COMMAND+S**
 Print a document – **COMMAND+P**
 Undo – **COMMAND+Z**
 Cut – **COMMAND+X**
 Copy – **COMMAND+C**
 Paste – **COMMAND+V**
 Move to the start of a line – **COMMAND+LEFT ARROW**
 Move to the end of a line – **COMMAND+RIGHT ARROW**
 Move word by word – **OPTION LEFT or RIGHT ARROW**
 Delete an entire line – **COMMAND+BACKSPACE**
 Delete word by word – **OPTION+BACKSPACE**
 Show fonts – **COMMAND+T**

Accessibility

Invert Colours – **COMMAND+OPTION+CTRL+8**
 Zoom on / off – **COMMAND+OPTION+8**
 Increase magnification – **COMMAND+PLUS**
 Decrease magnification – **COMMAND+MINUS**
 Turn VoiceOver on / off – **COMMAND+F5**
 Display Accessibility options dialogue box – **COMMAND+OPTION+F5**
 You may need to go to the **Apple** menu then **System Preferences** then **Accessibility** to turn certain keyboard shortcuts on if they don't work.

This list of shortcuts by Glen Morrow can also be found via this link: [Mac OS X Keyboard Shortcuts - The Basics](#)

SVRC Swim Carnival 2016

Genazzano FJC College Pool played host to the SVRC Swim Carnival on 10th June.

Twenty-five Support Skills students competed in 40 events over the morning across all swim strokes. Students and extended families had travelled in from as far afield as King Lake, Ballarat and Euroa to participate.

The Genazzano pool was a great venue. It is a 25m heated pool with very good facilities. The Genazzano pool staff were fantastic assisting the students in and around the pool. We were able to use the electronic start and timing system so every student who competed on the day had their time recorded for future reference. There were some “very” good times! Nick who swam in the 15 and over age category recorded a 14.37 seconds for 25m Free Style. Aimee Lee who swam in the 12 and over event clocked an impressive 19.97 seconds for the same event. The two Matthews had a great tussle in the same event with less than 0.5 of a second separating them (see photo right)! Many students were rightly pleased with their performance (see Danijela right).



Who could forget the best “bomb” of the day – yes, Tylah-Fred is our man!!!

Paralympics! Here we come!!!

Thanks to everyone who helped out with the planning and running of the day. A special thanks to Andi Smith and her lovely staff at the pool who did a great job assisting in the water with the events.



Also a big thank you to Laura Hunt and her awesome team of O&M Instructors from Guide Dogs Victoria who assisted with the lead up Swim Preparation session which were conducted at Box Hill Aqualink. The support the team provided on the day with general orientation and movement in and around the pool deck and surrounds was great. Darren even took on the responsibility of chief starter.

Many of the families stayed around to cheer on the swimmers. They were very enthusiastic spectators. We’d like to acknowledge the great support of all the parents and extended family members who ensured students attended on the day and also assisted with the lead up preparation sessions by getting children to the SVRC early so we could incorporate the public transport and real time learning opportunities such as these types of activities lend themselves too.

We are looking forward to future events like the Swimming Carnival to provide students with the opportunity to not only compete but to participate and be part of a supportive and encouraging program.

Our focus now moves to the Rio Paralympics which will run between 1st and 8th September later this year.

Swimming Carnival coordinators, Emily White and Charlie Roberts

Dot Power Day

Report from Lea Nagel

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre's Dot Power Program is aimed at children from pre-school to grade three whose main literacy medium will be braille. We welcomed four new students to Dot Power group on 7th June. The theme of the day was from the Daily Living Skills area of the Expanded Core Curriculum: Food preparation (Fruit Salad).

Aims for the day included:

- Social skills
- Braille literacy – book handling, page numbers, braille code, finger position and flow
- Braille writing – Perkins skills, loading paper, writing conventions
- Functional literacy – writing and reading a recipe
- Tactual graphicacy – scanning the page, searching for detail
- Concept development – real objects represented by 2-dimensional images and braille words; whole fruit eg watermelon, pineapple
- Language – description of fruit textures, smell and taste
- Organisation – managing cards on table top

Dot Power Days also functions as a learning day for adults. Parents and school staff are invited to observe the techniques, interactions and materials that we use.

We used music as an introduction to the day and the theme, then introduced all of the children and the adults in the room.

Worksheets and books were sung, so that the children would read and re-read the braille in time with each other. This technique encourages prediction and light flow of fingers over the braille. The children all worked hard at identifying tactual pictures of different ingredients of Fruit Salad, then reading the initial letter of the fruit names, identifying the word and finding letters that they knew within the fruit names. How many 'a's are there in banana? They sang the Yum Yuck Yum song, remembering which fruit was next by following along with the braille.

The children revised the fruit names by playing "Go Fish" using cards that had initial letters and fruit names in braille – giving the option of just identifying the letter or exploring the braille spelling of the word.

After enjoying some social and active time outside, the children explored each of the fruits that they might add to their fruit salad, discovering how big a watermelon might be and the roughness of the skin of a whole pineapple. They tasted and smelled samples of each fruit.

The children then used the Perkins braille writers to write a list of the ingredients that they planned to add to their fruit salad. This task could be adjusted to suit the children's skills from "scribbling" "a a a" for apple to writing a heading and spelling the words correctly using the word list. None of the children included lemon in their recipe!!



We finished the day by singing the Yum Yuck Yum song – but this time using the song to express our thoughts about whether the ingredients in the fruit salad were Yum or Yuck.

The children each took home a set of cards and the books that they had read. We encourage families and schools to help children revise their reading by playing “Go Fish”, listening to the children re-reading the books, and by writing recipes and cooking their favourite foods at home.

Our next Dot Power Day will be held during the week of the Paralympics! Our theme will be the Paralympics, and include discovery about many different accessible ways to measure time and distance. We hope that families and schools take an interest in the news about the Paralympics. Watch out for athletics, cycling, swimming and goal ball!

Perhaps some of our Dot Power children are future Paralympic athletes... Who knows?

See more on the [Dot Power Program including Dot Power songs](#) on the SVRC website.

Next Dot Power Day: Tuesday 6th September 2016

Finally

Editor Deb Lewis would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin and wish the readers a peaceful and satisfying term 3 break!