

The Bulletin

Number 10, 29 June 2018

Inside This "Quickie" Issue

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Check updated [The Bulletin archive](#) for back issues!

Dates for Your Diary – 2018

Here is a list of our planned PD and other activities:

Term 3

Dot Power: 7 August (for pre-school and Foundation/Prep)

Educational Support for Students who have Low Vision: Tuesday 14 August

Dot Power: 11 September (new date for Year 1 to 3s)

[**Space Camp:** September-October in USA]

Term 4

Dot Power: 30 October (for pre-school and Foundation/Prep)

Dot Power: 13 November (new date for Year 1 to 3s)

Technology Expo: Tuesday 27 November

Christmas Morning Tea: Wednesday 5 December [no need to register – just come at 11am!]

Programs and registration are available on the SVRC website! Online payment is also available! If you can't find the PD you need, please contact Lea Nagel or Marion Blazé to request a session.

Low Vision PD Day (Term 3)

When: 14 August 2018 from 9.00 to 3.30pm (registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Intended audience: Class and subject teachers, ES and integration staff, Visiting Teachers and others who support students with low vision

Registration essential: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/pd/ed-support-low-vision/>

Cost: \$88 (\$44 for family members and VTs)

Ozzie Dots – New Books

We asked you how we could improve Ozzie Dots and we have listened to the suggestions that we received.

It is early days but staff at SVRC are in the throes of updating Ozzie Dots books! The 3rd edition will contain more choices of books per contraction(s), less unlearned contractions per book and (drum roll) – there may even be a few books of activities, games and puzzles thrown in!

Annoyingly it is rather a slow process that involves many staff as follows:

1. write new books
2. seek feedback and make the required edits
3. illustrate new books
4. seek feedback and make the required edits
5. make sure the print copy matches the braille copy

We are very fortunate to have the very generous and continued significant input from braille enthusiast, Dr Gillian Gale AM, our Dot Power co-author.

The new books for the very first Ozzie Dots contraction, **like** (Set 1a books 1-11), are now available for braille readers who are starting out with contracted braille. The old books are still there and so is the humour, rhyme, Ozzie Dots family, opportunities for concept development and of course lots of excellent tactile diagrams. We have incorporated "do-braille" which is a favourite from the Dot Power Program along with braille re-reading activities. If you'd like to listen to "do-braille" in action, visit [Braille Reading – Speed and Fluency](#).

There are now 11 titles in the Set 1a (like) collection including:

1. I like my pets
2. I like Slob. I like Annabel.
3. I like fruit
4. I like to bake
5. I like pizza
6. I like grass
7. I like to draw
8. I like to skate
9. I like to make a mess
10. Jo says (from the 2nd edition which includes unlearned contractions)
11. Annabel my cat (from the 2nd edition which includes unlearned contractions)

We do not expect that students will need to read all 11 books from Set 1a to become braille-readers of **like** (the letter "l" by itself). Instead, Visiting Teachers can read the text (print or braille) of each book and select 2-3 titles for their beginning braille reader.

Once we are happy with **like**, we'll make a start on **can**. But in the meantime, if you have feedback about any of the books in the Ozzie Dots collection, please email the Statewide Vision Resource Centre: svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au

Deb Lewis and Lea Nagel

Goalball Give it a Go Day and Bring a Friend Day

From Tess Whelan, Secretary, Victorian Goalball Association

Are you trying to stay active this winter? Come and try Goalball it will keep you fit, warm and dry as it's played indoors. Specifically designed for people who are blind or have low vision but enjoyed by all, Goalball is a team Paralympic team sport that tests your hearing, communication and problem solving skills. While the sport of Goalball is played in over 100 nations, Australian players Sam Byrne and Daniel Pritchard began and continue to play in Victorian local competitions. If you have big dreams like Sam and Daniel than come down and try Goalball, You never know you might also get to meet these experienced players as well. Our Goalball Give a Go Day!!! (June 30th) and Bring a Friend Day (July 14th) will provide you with the chance to learn the game step by step and play in a safe and friendly environment.

Goalball Give a Go Day!!!

When: Saturday June 30th 2018

June 30th - Session 1: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

June 30th - Session 2: 12:40 pm – 2:10 pm

Goalball Bring a Friend Day

When: Saturday July 14th 2018

July 14th - Come & Try Session 10:30 am – 12 noon

July 14th - BBQ Lunch 12 noon – 1:00 pm

July 14th - Bring a Friend Day 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Where (for both planned activities): Scotch College Junior School Gym. Entry 7, Corner of Callantina Road and Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Getting There: 10 minute walk from Kooyong train station (Glen Waverley line) or alternatively, Tram #16 Stop 68 (Callantina Road / Glenferrie Road)

Cost: Free for Come and Try Sessions - \$5 for lunch. Drinks and chocolates available for \$2 each.

What to wear: Runners, tracksuit pants, and a comfortable top. Please note, there are changing facilities available at the venue.

What to Bring: Water bottle, friends.

Who can attend: Open to all ages, abilities and all levels of sight

To help us ensure there is enough food to go around, register via the website at:

www.goalball.org.au/giveago/ Registrations will close 5 days prior to each event.

You will then be contacted to confirm your details and allocate you to a session. Please note:

People who are playing in the one day competition: teams will be decided on the day.

For all other queries, please contact us at info@goalball.org.au.

Audio Described Circus Oz Performance of Precarious: Saturday 7 July

For more information about the show visit [Circus Oz](#). Tactile tour from 5.30pm. Tickets from \$35 to \$50. Book via the Ticketek accessible seating hotline on 1300 665 915.

Audio Described Magic Show: Magic in the Dark

Another accessible opportunity for 10 years + is [Magic in the Dark](#), daily from 3 to 7 July.

Focus on Ability 2018 Short Film Festival – View and Vote

Visit the Focus on Ability website to vote on one of the 297 entries for this year by 3 July 2018.

A quick look didn't turn up any entries by Victorian students with VI but they may well be there in the Short Film or Documentary sections. Visit [Focus on Ability website](#).

Usher Syndrome Connections Conference 2018

The **UsherKids Australia** Connections Conference 2018 will provide the Australian Usher community the opportunity to connect with families of children with Usher syndrome, clinicians, researchers and services providers. The program will include an update from the International Usher Syndrome Symposium which is taking place in Germany next month, inspiring Usher stories from our ambassadors and the progress of Australian Usher syndrome research.

The conference will take place at The Larwill Studio which is located at The Royal Children's Hospital, 48 Flemington Rd, Parkville, Victoria.

Registration: 8am - 8:30am

Conference: 8.30am to 4.00pm

This conference is suitable for individuals and families of children with Usher syndrome and the professionals, educators, clinicians, therapists and service providers involved in their care and those interested in the medical and research aspects of the condition.

While the presentations are not suitable for children, alternative activities can be provided for children in a separate space with prior notice.

For further details contact: info@usherkidsaustralia.com or visit: usherkidsaustralia.com

Feelix Library Membership for VTs, Teachers and School Librarians

Update from Toni Chilton, Feelix Library Liaison & Access ... with correct email address!!!

Visiting Teachers, Classroom Teachers and School Librarians can become members of the Vision Australia Feelix Library to borrow story kits to use with students who are blind or who have low vision? Each kit contains a print picture story book with clear braille overlay, (contracted and uncontracted version), a CD, small tactile handbook and materials to enhance the enjoyment and engagement of the blind/low vision student.



Membership and postage is free. For further information contact FeelixLibrary@visionaustralia.org or phone 9864 9545 (Toni) or 9864 9546 (Louise).

News

Many will remember **Margaret Bull** who was head of the Early Childhood Services at RVIB Burwood for many years where she contributed to the welfare of young children who were blind and or had low vision, and their families. Margaret passed away on 18 June 2018 after a long battle with ill-health. RIP Margaret.

Finally

This is actually the last issue for term 2. Have a great winter break! – Deb Lewis (Ed)