

Number 12, Friday August 19, 2022

Inside this issue

Here's what you'll find:

- **From SVRC:** Message from the Manager, Come Try Support Skills Program 2022, National Braille Music Camp, Q&A: Braille Maths, Accessing work on a whiteboard, NEW – SVRC Catalogue of Art Resources, Tech Tips
- **From the field:** Everybody In! Swimming Professional Learning Workshop, Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in UEB 2022, Meet CosmoBally the astronaut from Ballyland, Vision Australia Young Adult Programs

PD events

The [2022 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is available on the SVRC website. Most PL will continue to be held online, but some are planned to be onsite. Please encourage school staff to [register for PL through our website](#).

Tuesday October 18 [Preparing for a student who reads braille](#)

Providing practical support for school staff preparing to welcome and include a new student who will be learning to read using braille.

On Demand PL

All of our professional learning workshops are now available on demand where participants can access all the videos and resources at a time that suits them. You can find links through the [On Demand page](#), under Professional Learning, on our website.

Message from the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

DOT Power Day

DOT Power Day was held on Tuesday 16 August for nine students who access braille. The theme for the day was Metamorphosis - Life Cycles of Frogs and Butterflies. The students read braille print books with Picture Braille illustrations and had the opportunity to manipulate 3D prints and ChildsPly models representing each stage of the life cycle. Thank you to Marion and SVRC staff in particular, the Transcription team in producing alternative format resources and Sarah for the 3D printing. A fabulous time was had by the children, school staff and parents on the day. This group of children can now graduate to our Support Skills Program in 2023 and their Try Day will be held on Friday September 9.

New Art Catalogue

An Art catalogue has been added to our website under "Transcription" – "Alternative Format Catalogue". We would like to thank Sherryl, Jordi, and Eva for their contributions in creating this extensive resource catalogue. You can read more about the new Art Catalogue in an article below. Additional catalogues on the website are primary and secondary library resources, guided readers, and 3D prints. Please take time to view all the resources available on our website.

Monash University Partnership

SVRC, in partnership with Monash University, is supervising the placement of two Occupational Therapists over the next year. The students will be looking at "Developing finger skills and strength for students who are accessing braille." We look forward to working with Alesha and Jess in designing a program to develop these skills. Over the past two years the Occupational Therapy students have developed "Relationships and Sexuality Education Handbook" and "Improving Self-care at Home: A handy guide for you to use with your child." These resources are found on our website under Downloadable Resources. Special thank you to Marion and Di for their professional support and guidance throughout the student placements.

SVRC Landlines

Unfortunately, SVRC phone lines have been offline since Monday 15 August. We are currently trying to address the outage and hope to have the landlines operating fully next week. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience, and please contact us via svrc@education.vic.gov.au for support.

Come Try Support Skills Program 2022

Source: Support Skills Program, SVRC

Who: Students in years 4-10 in DET, Catholic and Independent schools

When: Friday September 9th

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where: SVRC @ 370 Springvale Road Donvale

Details: Information session for parents, students will participate in 4 sessions.

Register: Complete the form on our website and return to Di Bennett by August 31st at statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au

An example of mixed media art project created by a student who has low vision.



National Braille Music Camp

A music camp for braille readers who wish to learn braille music.

Saturday 24th September to Saturday 1st October 2022, second week of Victorian school holidays, Frensham Girls School, Mittagong, NSW.

We are excited to say that this year, we will once again have a music camp for the first time since 2019!

If your child is interested in attending, please note that we will require the application form and separate medical form by Friday 19 August. You will also be sent a Covid Safety Statement.

Travel for Victorian campers will be by air this year, departing Tullamarine Airport on Saturday 24 September. Transport to the airport will be the responsibility of parents.

The camp fee is \$330. Travel is subsidised by Roma Dix, Braille Music Camp Coordinator.

Please contact Jordie Howell to obtain the forms and so that she can keep track of numbers and arrange travel. Don't hesitate to get in touch with her regarding any camp queries.

jordina.howell@gmail.com

Q&A: Braille Maths

Question: how do I braille the following Maths?

$3^{x+1} + 2^2$ ["3 to the power of x plus 1, plus 2 squared"]

Answer: from Kathy Reissen, ICEB Code Maintenance Officer

Talking the equation through:

The number at the beginning puts the expression into grade 1 mode. Thus no grade 1 indicators are required.

So brailing from left to right:

3

superscript

[The expression $x+1$ needs grouping indicators – as it is not a single item, see 7.1 for definition of "item"]

Open grouping indicator

$x+1$

close grouping indicator

+

2

Superscript

2



Accessing work on a whiteboard

Source: SVRC Staff

We've discovered a new way for students to access work on the whiteboard. Using Microsoft Teams, a teacher can set up their laptop to view the whiteboard with their webcam. A student can then view this on their device (laptop/iPad), including Zooming in if required. The program automatically darkens the writing on the whiteboard providing better contrast. We tested it in the office and it looks like it could provide a good option for students accessing work on the whiteboard.

The full instructions to set it up are on the Microsoft website [Share whiteboards and documents using your camera in Teams meetings](#).

NEW – SVRC Catalogue of Art Resources

If you are looking for art resources, we now have a growing number of tactile adaptations available on request for eligible students. The example below shows "The Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh.

The SVRC Art Catalogue currently lists more than 70 artworks. Most have hyperlinks to further information about the work. Many artworks have a brief accompanying text that can be requested in etext, hardcopy braille or large print ... or you can request your own text in the most appropriate format for your student.

If you have a classroom with an artwork displayed and would like a tactile version for your student who is blind or has low vision, please make a request using the SVRC Request Form.

The tactile image can be posted to the school or emailed as a pdf for tactile production at the school (the quick-turnaround option!).

If the artwork you are studying isn't included in the catalogue, please make a request – our talented transcription team are happy to develop new works and can discuss the options with you.



Tech Tips

Did you know you can toggle the LCD screen on and off on a BrailleSense Polaris with a shortcut? To turn the LCD screen on press 4 + 5 + 6 + Enter in the Main Menu.

Have you used the Accessibility Checker in Word, Excel, Powerpoint, OneNote or Outlook? You can run it to make sure your content is easy for people to access. Find out more about it on the [Microsoft website](http://www.microsoft.com/australia/accessibility).

Everybody In! Swimming Professional Learning Workshop

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre and Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria are excited to announce the **Everybody In!** Inclusive Swim Teaching for Children with Vision Impairment Professional Development Workshop, run by Dr Emily White.

While aimed at swim teachers, anyone who works with or supports children with vision impairment, including families, would be welcome to attend. Registration for professionals is \$50 and free for families. The workshop will be held in person in Melbourne on 4 September 2022. We are also planning to develop related online professional learning resources and opportunities to increase the accessibility of the content in the coming months.

To register, please contact Susan Marshall at Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria on info@blindsports.org.au or (03) 9822 8876. Please contact Emily White with any questions about the workshop at emily.white@unimelb.edu.au.

Date: Sunday, 4 September 2022

Time: 11:30am for a 12.00pm start – 3:30 pm

Venue: Ruyton Girls School Aquatic Centre, Fitzwilliam St, Kew VIC (Entrance to Aquatic Centre is between Selbourne and Coleridge St, Kew)

Places are limited. Program has a wet/dry component, so bathers are required.

Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in UEB 2022

Source: Jordie Howell – Chair, Australian Braille Authority (via OzBrl)

Hello Braille Enthusiasts,

The Australian Braille Authority is excited to once again hold the Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in UEB. We invite those wishing to sit the examination this year [to register for the Certificate](#).

The 2022 examination will be held from 3 to 10 October and 10 to 18 October 2022. Candidates are allowed one full week to complete the examination, beginning on their elected date.

Applications will close on Friday 9 September.

Please contact ABA via aba@printdisability.org if you have any questions regarding registration.

We look forward to receiving your registrations!

Meet CosmoBally, the astronaut from Ballyland



CosmoBally is the main character in Sonokids' new educational game app "CosmoBally on Sonoplanet" (free, for iOS and Android mobile devices). In this app students can explore sonification, an important, emerging technology where information is represented in sound. Read more about sonification and this app on sonoplanet.com.

As CosmoBally plays an essential role in the digital app, 'getting to know' her will make learning with the app more meaningful: you can better imagine CosmoBally when she welcomes you to Sonoplanet and feel more motivated to interpret the sonification of shapes and help her discover more clues about this strange planet.

From digital to tactile



In support of their learning with the digital app, Sonokids has designed a 3D-printed tactile learning tool for students who are blind or vision impaired to explore through touch what CosmoBally looks like. And as we know that not everyone has easy access to 3D printing services, we are happy to announce that you can now enter the draw for a free, ready-made 3D printed learning tool of CosmoBally - for your student, your child, or for yourself (Terms and

Conditions apply).

How can I apply?



To go into the draw for a chance to win one of the **ready-made** 3D-printed CosmoBally tactile learning tools, all you need to do is to download the app and complete the short survey on sonoplanet.com.

The 3D-printed tactile learning tool of CosmoBally was made possible thanks to financial support from Mable Community Grants. The CosmoBally on Sonoplanet app was developed with support from

South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI Inc). Contact: support@sonokids.org

Vision Australia Young Adult Programs

Vision Australia is offering two programs for young adults aged 14-18. All sessions are held by zoom, so no travel is needed! Both programs can be fully funded by NDIS.

LEAP Up: Transition to Tertiary

This 6 week program is designed for young adults interested in tertiary education (TAFE or University). This program will help participants identify the skills and resources they need in order to be successful in tertiary education.

Application closing date: September 30th

For more information, visit the [Leap up website](#) or email academy@visionaustralia.org

LEAP (Learn, Engage, Act, Perform)

This 10 month program is designed for young adults interested in developing their employability and leadership skills. The program assists participants in developing confidence, organisational skills, technology skills, job seeking skills, and interacting with their peers.

Application closing date: October 31st

For more information, visit the [Leap website](#) or email leap@visionaustralia.org

And finally ...

An excerpt from "100 Most Awesome Things on the Planet" by Anna Claybourne which was being transcribed at SVRC this week.

The Great Wall of China is just that – a really huge, awesomely long wall that stretches across 7,200 km (4,470 miles) of northern China. If you walked along all of it, trekking for eight hours a day, it would take seven months.