

Number 14, Friday September 16, 2022

## Inside this issue

Here's what you'll find:

- **From SVRC:** Message from the Manager, Dot Power in Term 3, 2022, 3D prints catalogue updated
- **From the field:** City of Melbourne braille tactile street signage, Accessible Representations of Human Body Movement for Education, Braille Elephant Design

## PD events

### 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.

### Tuesday November 22 [EXPO: Assistive Technology for students who are blind or partially sighted](#)

Showcasing & demonstrating assistive technologies that can promote inclusion & achievement for students who are blind or have low vision. This year's Expo will be a hybrid format event with both onsite and online attendance available.

### 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

### **End of Term**

As this term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SVRC staff for their perseverance, resilience, and commitment in continuing to deliver on all programs and service provision during such challenging times. As the weather begins to improve, hopefully there will be less sickness in the community. We would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday break.

### **Community of Practice**

On Tuesday Alicia San Martin from Guide Dogs Victoria (GDV) gave a presentation on Orientation and Mobility (O & M) skills that Visiting Teachers, and school staff could use to support our blind and low vision students in the school environment. Alicia encourages us to use the same O & M commands when supporting students to reinforce the skills and concepts that are being taught by O & M instructors.

### **NextSense Professional Learning**

On Tuesday NextSense hosted an introduction to 'Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment' (CFVI) defining specialist skills development and best practice support to promote equity, inclusion, and personal agency. The University of Birmingham in partnership with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) (UK) has developed the framework to clarify and define specialist skill development, targeted interventions, and best practice support. The CFVI is underpinned by the "access to learning – learning to access" framework. Please visit the [RNIB website](#) for information.

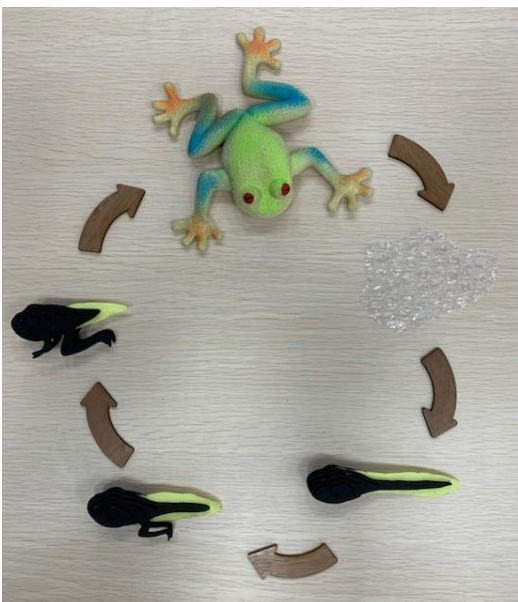
### **SVRC Landlines**

Unfortunately, SVRC landlines have continued to be offline again over the last fortnight. We are currently trying to address the outage and hope to have the landlines operating fully soon. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience and please contact us via [svrc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:svrc@education.vic.gov.au) for support.

## Dot Power in Term 3, 2022

METAMORPHOSIS – what a wonderful word! Thirteen letters, five syllables and no braille contractions.

On August 16 and 30, SVRC had the pleasure of hosting Dot Power for students in Pre-school to Year 4, whose primary reading medium is braille. Our focus was metamorphosis, so we read about frogs and butterflies, discovered some very long words, did word searches with Wiki Sticks, explored 3D prints and even made our own life cycles.



Many students in our older group have now 'graduated' to Support Skills (for students in Years 4 to 10) and they came along to our Support Skills Try Day on September 9. Students participated in several Expanded Core Curriculum sessions and were presented with a Dot Power Graduation Award of a 3D printed Perkins braille model attached to a base with their names printed in braille.

Families had the opportunity to meet and greet the teachers and find out a little more about the learning areas covered by the program. Thank you to Michael Kelly and Sarah Hayman for designing the awards.

## 3D prints catalogue updated

Source: SVRC

We've recently updated our [3D Print catalogue](#). It's got lots of new designs (more details below) and information on the source of the print for anyone who's got their own 3D printer. Requests for 3D prints for eligible students can be made using the [Alternative Format Request form](#) on our website.

### Same volume shapes

These were designed for Dot Power last term. 3D shapes, some with the same volume, some with different volumes. You can fill them with water to prove if the volumes are the same. The 3D shapes are:

- Cylinder
- Cube
- Rectangular prism
- Square based pyramid

Possible to add some more on request (i.e. cone)

Source: [SVRC Thingiverse](#)

### Kidney

Tactual cross-section of a kidney, showing blood vessels, ureter and internal parts. Can come with braille labelled tactile diagram.

Source: [Thingiverse: Kidney model](#)

### Life cycles – Butterfly and Frog

These life cycle sets were used for Dot Power this term (see photos above)

Butterfly set consists of 4 prints

- Eggs on a leaf
- Caterpillar
- Chrysalis
- Butterfly

The frog set is made by Childsply by Claire and consists of 5 items

- Frog eggs
- 3 stages of tadpole development
- Frog

Sources: [Thingiverse: Butterfly Eggs and Chrysalis](#), [Thingiverse: Caterpillar](#), [Thingiverse: Butterfly](#), [Childsply Tadpoles](#)



## City of Melbourne braille tactile street signage

Source: OzBrl email

City of Melbourne is investigating the current perception and usage of braille tactile street signage that is installed at intersections within the central city. These signs are installed on the traffic poles above the audible crossing buttons. They are blue with white raised lettering and feature braille dot information about intersecting road names and building numbers.

The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete. Some questions are yes/no answers, some have multiple answers, while others will be worded answers that you will need to write as sentences. This survey is intended to inform future improvements to our signs and navigation of the city.

If you would like to participate in the survey, contact [Martin.Whittle@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:Martin.Whittle@melbourne.vic.gov.au).

Kind regards

**Martin Whittle** | Senior Project Coordinator (Wayfinding) |  
Experience Melbourne **(Mon, Wed, Fri)**



## Accessible Representations of Human Body Movement for Education

Source: Madhuka De Silva, Immersive Analytics and Inclusive Technologies, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University via [ANZAGG Facebook Group](#)

Are you interested in accessible graphics of Dance, Sports, Martial Arts for educational/training purposes through technology driven solutions?

If you are interested in this, contact us by calling +61452373585 or [filling this survey](#). Survey should take no more than 10 minutes. Then we will invite you to have a discussion or join in co-design workshops. For engagements after the survey \$50 gift cards will be provided as thanks for your time.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or feedback.

This project is being co-investigated by Monash University's Immersive Analytics Lab and Inclusive Technologies with: Dr. Sarah Goodwin, Prof. Matthew Butler, Ms Leona Holloway, and Dr Kirsten Ellis.

## Braille Elephant Design

Source: Paths to Literacy

Find instructions to make a tactile elephant using a Perkins on the [Paths to Literacy website](#). Can you come up with some instructions for making your own picture?

### And finally ...

We think the word with the most print letters that can be represented by 1 braille cell is "knowledge", and the word with the most print letters represented by the least braille cells (that isn't a wordsign) is "understanding", with 5 braille signs for 13 print letters. Can you think of any others? Let us know and you might make it into the next edition!