

Number 18, Friday November 25, 2022

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PD events

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

International Day for a Person with a Disability 2022

International Day for a person with a Disability is being held on December 3, 2022. The theme this year is 'Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world.'

SVRC is supporting the objective 'Innovation for disability inclusive development in employment' by organising a Careers Day on 9 December, which will now be held online. Registration forms for this event are due by November 30. Each presenter will create links between employment, knowledge and skills required to access future employment opportunities. You can [find out more and register in the article below](#).

SVRC also supported the objective 'Innovation for disability inclusive development in reducing inequality' with our Technology Expo which was held on Tuesday November 22. We hosted ten exhibitors and sixteen participants onsite and twenty participants online. Participants had the opportunity to hear about the current innovative assistive technologies which promote inclusive practices, equity, and diversity in schools and the workplace.

Every Friday as an integral part of the Support Skills Program, students can try out a range of different sports and recreation activities to encourage increased health and wellbeing practices. We often have support from Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria, AFL Blind football, Blind Cricket, Paralympics, Blind Soccer, Swish and Goalball which generates interest and encourages confidence in joining a team sport.

Support Skills Program Graduation

Last Friday, four students graduated from our Support Skills Program as they progress into the senior years of secondary school. Each student's upper torso was scanned using Skanect software and a 3D print version was mounted onto a wooden base and presented as an award at the graduation ceremony. Three students beautifully sang the Billie Eilish song 'My Future' to express how positive they were feeling about their future. It was an emotional time for students, families, and staff.

Visiting Teacher Community of Practice

On Tuesday 15 November, Leona Holloway (Monash University) and Sarah Hayman (SVRC) facilitated the Community of Practice session on the ARC Linkage Project '3D printing for touch readers'. SVRC was a partner with Monash University, along with an extensive range of other organisations that support the blind and low vision community. The Project goal and method was to identify how 3D printing can best be used for touch readers and build capacity for 3D printing within the accessibility sector. The key research findings were that 3D printing is a required asset for inclusion which can be used for curriculum, classroom tools and mapping, tactile properties are of primary importance, and we need visible catalogues. You can find a catalogue on our website featuring a vast range of designs that can be requested by schools, via the Alternative Format Request form, to support concept development within the curriculum.

Careers day now online

IMPORTANT NOTICE – due to rising Covid numbers, the SVRC Careers Day will now be completely online. Please [register through Eventbrite](#) to receive the Zoom link before December 9, 2022.

This Careers Day aims to start students thinking about the skills and knowledge that will help them find a career. We will hear from panels of people with vision impairments in work, in part-time work while at school, and in tertiary courses. We will also hear from agencies providing support to people with disabilities seeking work.

We hope to record all sessions, so that students who cannot participate on December 9 can benefit from the program later.

Please register on Eventbrite by Wednesday November 30th. Parents/carers can participate with their child.

If families, Visiting Teachers or school staff have any questions prior to the day or need further clarification about the program, please call and speak to either Di Bennett, Marion Blaze, or Kim Foley SVRC Manager on (03) 9841 0242.

There will be a Dot Power Day in Term 2, 2023!

Apologies that a date was left off the calendar included in the last Bulletin.

Dot Power in Term 2 next year will be on Tuesday, May 16.

Thanks from Transcription

PDFs of Textbooks

Thanks to all the VTs who have managed to wrangle the PDFs of textbooks out of their schools so we can begin the transcription of materials in alternative formats for students for 2023! As you all know ... the earlier that we receive the requests, chapter order & dates, PDFs or print copy of the print materials, the sooner we can begin!

Return of Padded Post Bags

Thanks to everyone who returns the padded post bags so that we can re-use them and cut down our costs a little (and not contribute so much to landfill). Make a pile in your school or at your office then bring/send them in to SVRC!

Return of Braille and Large Print

Thanks for returning your braille and large print that is no longer needed by your student. Maths books, in particular, may be needed by another student in 2023 so please return these resources ASAP, either by bringing them to the SVRC (we are more than happy to help you empty your car) OR posting them "freepost" back to the SVRC.

Support Skills loves science!

On November 4 and 11, 2022, Groups A and B participated in our accessible Science Day programs. With a 'teaching initiative' grant from Bank First we collaborated with and engaged 'Mad About Science' to enthral us with experiments all around the senses. Caleb and Mary had us experimenting with tuning forks and ping pong balls, making endothermic reactions with vinegar and baking soda. We were thrilled by the 'Whoosh' bottle exploding with flames and a whoosh, made sherbet and 'Ooblek' and more. There were gasps of surprise, laughter and questions. All students were fully engaged and hands-on.

After 'Mad About Science', teams from Monash University facilitated a rotation of activities about 3D printing and audio labelling, making electrical circuits, amazing tactile representations of cells, and sonification demonstrations. Thank you to Erica, Stu, Leona, Ruth, Minoli, Kirsten, Meelin and Mohith for providing all these fabulous, accessible science experiences.

Thank you also to all our wonderful SSP teachers and other SVRC staff for helping facilitate all sessions and the SVRC Transcription team for producing instant braille certificates.

At the beginning of the Science program, I asked the students 'who thinks science is fun?'. Three hands went up. At the end of the day, all eleven hands shot up!

Make your own Ooblek

Ooblek is a wonderful substance that can act as both a liquid and a solid. It's a gooey substance that forms a ball when you squish it together but quickly melts into a liquid when you let go.

Oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid, a fancy term for a liquid whose viscosity changes depending on pressure.

Basic ratio - 2 parts cornstarch to 1 Part water

Time needed: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 Cups Cornstarch (AKA Cornflour)
- 1 Cup Water
- Food colouring (optional)

Instructions

1. Add Cornstarch - Pour 2 cups of cornstarch into a bowl
2. Add Water - Add 1 cup of water into the bowl. Stir to combine
3. Add Colour (optional) - Add drops of food colouring to your oobleck. Stir or mix with hands to combine.

Make your own Sherbet

Sherbet demonstrates the tastes of sweet and sour. You can make your sherbet sweeter by adding sugar or more sour by adding more citric acid.

Ingredients

- Soft icing sugar
- Citric acid powder
- Jelly crystals (optional)

Add 3 teaspoons of soft icing sugar to a medium sized bowl. Next add 1 teaspoon of citric acid. If you wish for your sherbet to be flavoured you might choose to add 2 teaspoons of raw jelly crystals.

Simply measure the ingredients into a bowl and mix.

Photo 1 – Caleb from ‘Mad About Science’ demonstrating the ‘Whoosh’ bottle with flames!

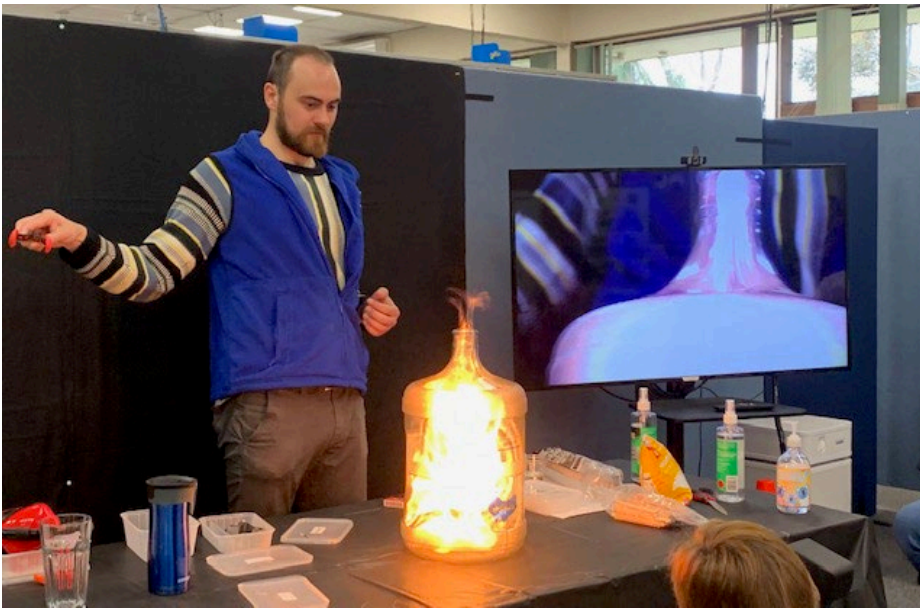
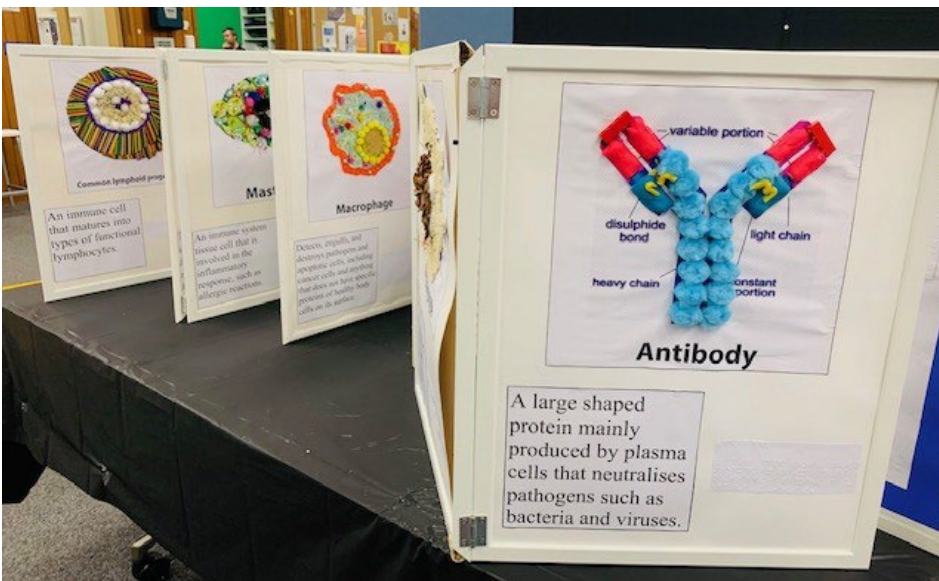


Photo 2 – amazing tactile diagrams from Monash Sensory



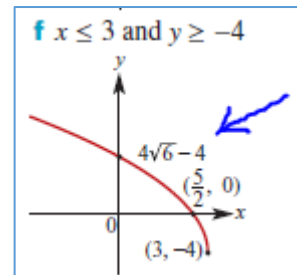
PDFs of Textbooks ... Did you know?

1. When a school nominates a textbook for the year/class booklist, the teachers often receive the PDFs of that textbook. This PDF can be used by the teacher for teaching purposes and also to support students with disabilities.

This is great for both the student and the VT as VTs can very often obtain a copy of the PDF from the student's teacher for use by their student with vision impairment ...

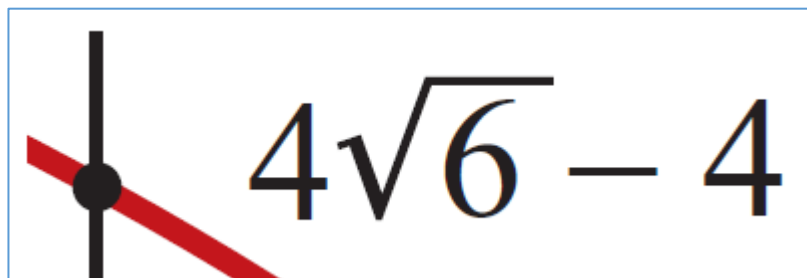
2. AND the PDF provided by the publisher is frequently the very best option for students, particularly those with low vision. The "publisher PDF" offers the text and the images as laid out in the print copy of the book.

3. The page can be enlarged using access technology – or the **CTRL + roll** feature of the mouse – to move quickly and efficiently between the whole page (for an overview) to enlargements of a specific part of the page/section/image. For example, in the two images (right), one is presented at 100% and below this, using CTRL + roll, is shown a small part at 800% allowing the

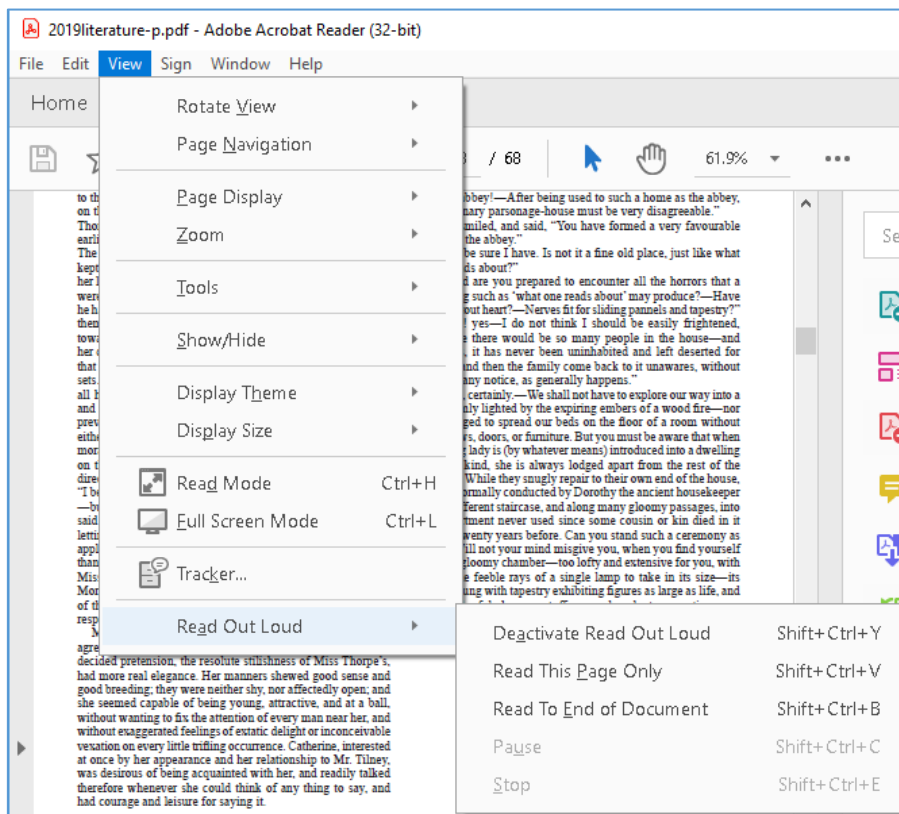


close inspection of clear, unpixelated text or image!

4. Further, the "publisher PDF" can be **read aloud** using the student's access technology, such as FUSE, NVDA etc OR via the "Read Out Loud" feature of Adobe Acrobat Reader (see image below):



- Activate Read Out Loud SHIFT+CTRL+Y
- Read this page only SHIFT+CTRL+V
- Read to end of document SHIFT+CTRL+B



Melbourne Zoo - maps and more!

Source: [Confident Steps](#)

Join us for a fun day exploring the Melbourne Zoo with other children with low vision and blindness.

As well as having lots of fun hanging out with new and old friends, we will be practicing skills including:

- mapping
- navigation apps like SoundScape and Blindsquare
- self advocacy
- long cane skills if applicable

Limited places available. Ideal for children 6-14 years.

Zoo entry is free, BYO lunch or bring money to purchase from the Zoo cafes. Snacks and accessible maps will be provided.

Please contact for costing details.

Melbourne Zoo (rear gate) Saturday December 10 2022, 10am-3:30pm

For more information contact Marnie on 0423 783 760 or marnie@confidentsteps.com.au

Emerging Performers Needed

Source: [SESTAA](#)

An inclusive evening to showcase the talents of people with diverse abilities

If you love to sing, dance, play a musical instrument or make people laugh, then this is for you! We are seeking emerging performers to join us in a celebration of their music, dance and drama.

Or learn some moves at our FREE Bollywood Dance workshop in January, with the option to perform what you've learned at the event in May.

Inclusive event: 20-21 May, 2023 in Doncaster. Contact us to get involved:
sestaa_admn@yahoo.com

Let's celebrate International Family Day with a difference! SESTAA is a local community organisation based in Bulleen, Victoria. The proposed activity is supported by Manningham Council.

And finally ...

The Transcription Team are e-texting a book called Growing Up in Australia as I write this. In amongst authors such as Stan Grant, Magda Szubanski and Tim Winton is our very own staff member Olivia Muscat with a contribution titled 'Selected Epistles'. Having just read Olivia's contribution I can confirm it's well worth it! If you'd like to read the whole book, it will be available very soon.