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PL events

The [2023 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available for download on our website. See below of links to the events in Term 1 2023.

Tuesday February 14 [Inclusion of students who are blind](#)

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who are blind.

Tuesday February 21 [Inclusion of students who have low vision](#)

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who have low vision.

Tuesday March 7 [Inclusion of students with vision impairments and additional disabilities](#)

Providing practical strategies that teachers and ES staff can use to support students with a vision impairment and additional disabilities.

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

Thank you

As 2022 draws to a close, I would like to extend my appreciation to all SVRC staff for their continued resilience, commitment, and sheer determination to deliver on all educational and professional learning programs, EVAC Clinics, delivery of alternative formats and technology. Your continued dedication and readiness to achieve high standards and increase skills while working in a hybrid model ensures our students, families, schools, and regional staff are supported in a timely and responsive manner.

Staff Update

Kira Young will be leaving the SSP in 2022, to begin her classroom teaching career at St Monica's Primary School. We have valued Kira's skills and knowledge which she has generously shared during her weekly ECC teaching and learning sessions. We wish Kira all the best for the future.

SSP team would also like to acknowledge Emily Spencer for the wonderful support she offered students and staff during her RMIT Youth Worker Placement at SVRC during terms 3 and 4. We wish Emily all the best for her further studies and future career.

SSP Graduation

On Friday 25 November, Micah, Zoe, Bob, and Dan graduated from our online SSP group. They each received a graduation award of a 3D printed laptop mounted on a wooden base with a braille or printed label. All students are transitioning into their senior years at secondary school we wish them all the best for their further studies.

Space Camp Information Meeting

The introductory Space Camp meeting will be held on Monday 12 December between 4 pm – 5 pm via Zoom. Please contact Peter Davis at peter.davis2@education.vic.gov.au or on 0478 821 287 to receive the meeting details.

Thank you to all our stakeholders

Once again, we were unable to organise the thank you morning tea for all the people and organisations that support our work. Transcriber Taryn has designed a wonderful SVRC Christmas e-card that should pop into your email account in the last week on term 4. SVRC staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing the positive partnerships in 2023.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas celebration and a relaxing New Year!

'In my perfect world...' – 'If I made the rules'

Source: Marion Blaze, SVRC

This is the topic that our award winning writers were inspired by in this year's SVRC Writing Competition.

Thirteen entries were received from twelve students (one entry was a joint effort). We received stories, poems and even lists about children wanting to be Prime Minister, wanting no chores and plenty of pocket money, world peace, and dreaming about writing. Thank you – Sienna, Zac, Kaitlyn, Zoe, Elijah, Olivia, James, Patrick, Hiroshi, Anita, Micaiah, Jake, Will and Nathan for your efforts and creativity. Our overall winner was Zoe (Year 4) and her wonderful entry is included in this Bulletin.

Thank you to chief judge and published writer, Olivia Muscat.

Thank you to Bolinda Audio for donating fabulous audio books for prizes. Thank you also to Michael Kelly and Sarah Hayman who created 'trophies' with print or braille, depending on the student's reading and writing medium.



Writing Competition Winning Entry

Name: Zoe

Age: 10

The Crazy World

I know what happens in almost all schools.

The principals and teachers make up all of the rules.

I really hate this, I think it's not fair.

So I hatched a daring plan to give my teacher a scare

I locked Mrs. Williams in the staffroom

And then after quickly going to the bathroom

With a smug smile returned to class

Because that day we were supposed to have a blast

I told my classmates "Let's do writing today."

Some of them groaned and some said "Yay"

At recess, I was in a pretty good mood

I told all the kids "You're allowed to share food!"

But Ben kicked his ball right over the fence

Later Harvey started writing in the wrong tense

I tried to take over to avert disaster.

But he just kept writing faster and faster

His pencils went flying

The kids began some rough play

Though I couldn't hear what Mrs. Williams was trying to say

I knew my day of teaching had been wild and berserk.

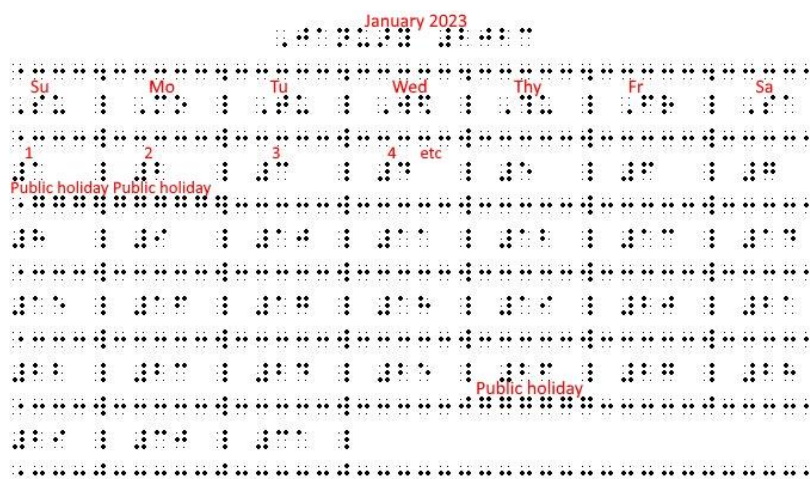
Making up rules is a whole lot of work.

The End

2023 Braille Calendar

The braille calendar for the year of 2023 is now available! With a month to a braille page, the calendar lists term dates and a list of public holidays.

Here is January, as an example! The month of the year is indicated at the top of the page; the days of the week are indicated in the top row; and public holidays are indicated by a double braille line beneath the number.



The 2023 calendar features transport as the illustrations at the bottom of each page and as a bonus activity, there is a transport word-search at the end of the calendar. Eligible students, VTs and family members can request copies of the calendar using the request form. For all others, we are happy to provide the braille file for you to emboss in your local area – so send us an email!

Amazing donation from Pacific Vision

Source: Marion Blaze, SVRC

On SVRC's Expo day, I related a sad story to Ranjit Jacob of Pacific Vision. One of our Support Skills students had to move back to Vietnam at the beginning of the Covid lockdowns. We had donated a 'retired' BrailleNote Apex to this boy, but because this is old technology, he had no way of getting support in using it. He really needed a new device. Ranjit said, 'leave it with me', and a few days later had found an ex-demo Polaris to donate to this student.

We really can't thank Ranjit and the team at Pacific Vision enough for this hugely generous donation. This young boy in Vietnam will now be able to continue his education with a device to enable access to the curriculum and possibly a future career. Thank you!!



Q&A: Etext

Question: How do I represent a "space for an answer" when preparing a worksheet in etext for a student?

Answer: In line with the [Guidelines for Accessible Etext](#), you are aiming for your document to be:

- equivalent to print
- easy to navigate
- have a clear visual style
- consistent throughout the document

There are no real hard-and-fast rules about indicating spaces for answers but here are several options that you can use.

1. For a number or a word or a short answer, you can use 4 hyphens ----
2. For several print lines to be used for an answer, you can write this in square brackets [4 blank lines]
3. For an unlined space for a drawing or maths calculations, you can write this in square brackets [space for your answer] or [space to show your working]

Two examples show the original question and the etext:

<p>Question 2</p> <p>a. According to Lucie, what are the four advantages of going to New Caledonia?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 marks</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Question 2 (4 marks)

a. According to Lucie, what are the **four** advantages of going to New Caledonia?
[4 blank lines]

<p>b. Draw a structural formula for this compound that is consistent with the data provided. Explain your reasoning by referring to this data.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 marks</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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b. (4 marks)

Draw a structural formula for this compound that is consistent with the data provided. Explain your reasoning by referring to this data.
[Space for your diagram and 4 blank lines]

How to Guides on the website

We've just added a PIAF Instructions guide to the [Technology Support page](#) on our website, perfect for anyone who needs to familiarise themselves with using the PIAF for making tactile graphics.

Do you need to access etext on an iPad? We've got a Guide for that too! It includes instructions for various sources where you may get files like a website, Google Drive, or an email.

What about a checklist for a student who using a refreshable braille device? The Polaris Notetaker Checklist has lists of skills students need to use a Braille Notetaker.

Romeo 50s free to a good home

We have several Romeo 50 Embossers that have done their service to our students and are ready to retire. They are free to a good home, pickup from SVRC.

Paraclimbing

Source: Excerpt from Taptilo Newsletter Vol 4., <https://www.taptilo.com>

Have you ever tried sports climbing? It is not simply becoming one of the most populated indoor sports around the world but also the most accessible sport for all the nature of disabilities. This sport is called 'Paraclimbing'.

Background

Sport climbing as a modern sport is far different from traditional rock climbing. Soft and elastic mattresses cover the floor instead of muddy grass, and colourful plastic holders attached to the wall replace rough rocks. As a result, climbing has become one of the most popular sports among all generations. Moreover, this also allows people with different disabilities to enjoy the sport.

Paraclimbing

Paraclimbing is the sport climbing for people with disabilities. The paraclimbing world championship has been held annually since 2011. To ensure fairness, competitions are classified by the nature of participants' disabilities.

Blind climbers' competitions are divided into three classes, B1(Fully blind / light perception), B2, and B3. Participants in the B1 competition are required to wear blindfolds to prevent any unfairness.

It Takes Two to Tango

Actually, paraclimbing for the visually impaired is more like a competition for two. There are sight guides supporting under the wall for visually impaired athletes.

Sight Guides describe each section to their climber by shouting under the wall or through some form of headset. Teamwork between the two is one of the most important elements of the sport. Unless the sight guide delivers the correct information in time, the climbing difficulty will skyrocket. This is why we call paraclimbing of the visually impaired 'the game for two'.



Have a look at the [Adaptive Climbing Victoria website](#) to see what's happening in Victoria

PTV 4 ME!

What is the program about?

Orientation and Mobility Specialists Marnie Roth, Confident Steps and Paula Foote are seeking expressions of interest from teenagers with a vision impairment (or their parent or carer) to attend a bespoke public transport skill development program.

Each program will be limited to **4 students** to maximise the learning experience and allow us to cater to individual needs. Students will build on their current travel skills and take them on the next step towards safely using PTV in Melbourne CBD.

If you

- have some independent travel skills in your community
- have building independence as one of your goals
- want to build confidence to travel in more dynamic areas

This could be the program for you!

Subject to interest levels, 2 programs will be run in January.

Program 1 – January 10, 12 & 14

Program 2 – January 17, 19 & 21

This program will be billed under Capacity Building from your NDIS funding for plan managed or self-managed participants.

How can you get involved?

Call Marnie or Paula to register your interest. Paula 0417 366 843; Marnie 0423 783 760

Email Marnie: marnie@confidentsteps.com.au; Paula: paula@mdb.com.au

School Holiday Fun

Source: Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria

School Holiday Fun Friday January 20, 2023

Drawing through Movement & Slippery Slime Making

Join us at Vision Australia, 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong from 10am to 12pm for some great fun!

The very creative Amy Barber will be running this super fun workshop for young people with vision loss (4-16 years). Break the boredom and go wild drawing while moving your body to music and then make that perfect slime you have always dreamed of! These sensory experiences aim to encourage social engagement, physical activity, body awareness and proprioception (sense of self-movement and body position) all while having an absolute ball! Siblings are welcome.

Contact Miriam on 9822 8876 or email miriam@blindsports.org.au

School Holiday Fun Wednesday January 25, 2023

Bounce Away! Trampolining for kids with vision loss

Join us at Essendon Fields BOUNCE (Hanger 4, 236 Wirraway Road) from 9.45am to 11.30am for some great fun!

Each participant with vision loss will need a support adult with them whilst trampolining. Warning – Bounce is very noisy. Age range: 5-18 years (you need to be over 110cm to participate in all the activities). Siblings are welcome.

Optional Lunch: Friction Cafe. Shop 12/30 English Street, Essendon Fields (Kids menu, delicious St Ali Coffee)

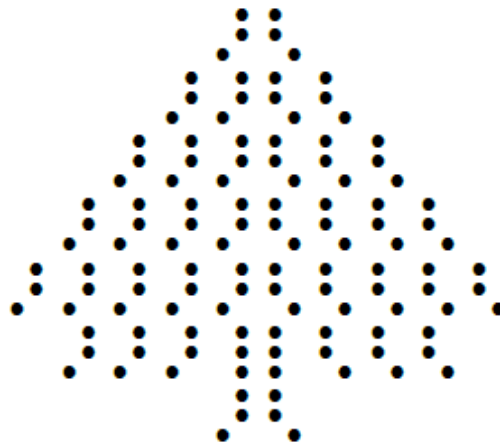
Contact Miriam on 9822 8876 or email miriam@blindsports.org.au

Draw a Christmas Tree With Your Perkins

Source: "So What About Drawing" Instructions for Drawing Using a Braille Writer by Marie Porter

Decorate your own Christmas cards or make tactile pictures for your family and friends!

1. Space four, AR, GH.
2. Space three, AR twice, GH twice.
3. Space twice, AR 3 times, GH 3 times.
4. Space, AR 4 times, GH 4 times.
5. Write AR 5 times, GH 5 times.
6. Space, AR 3 times, dots 4-5-6, l, GH 3 times.
7. Space four, AR, GH.



Christmas Tree

This frilly Christmas tree is drawn using 7 lines down, 10 spaces across.

The contraction AR and GH form the top of the tree and begin the flaring out of the branches to the left and right.

The next 4 lines continue the basic triangular shape of the tree with the branching out of each line.

Line 6 brings the branching in on each side and the dots 4-5-6 and the letter l suggest a trunk.

Line 7 completes the tree and flares out the trunk a bit.

This is an easy tree to draw and a pretty one to look at.

And finally ...

Thanks for reading the Bulletin in 2022!