

Number 2, Friday 23 February, 2024

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PD events

We have responded to feedback that teachers are finding it increasingly difficult to set aside a day for professional learning and have made our usual Term 1 PL opportunities available **online** and **on demand**. This means that you can register and view recorded sessions in your own time. These will be available throughout 2024 on the following topics:

- Inclusion of students who are blind
- Inclusion of students who have low vision
- Inclusion of students who have vision impairments and additional disabilities
- Preparing your school for a student who reads braille

Register via the [SVRC website](#).

In Term 2, we will have our hands-on PL days **at SVRC in Donvale**:

- April 30 – Inclusion of students with VI in PE – Emily White
- May 7 – Braille music with Jordie Howell and Sarah Kelly
- June 18 – Inclusion of students with VI in maths with Charlie Roberts

Please note that registrations for the above on-site PLs have not yet opened on our website. We are unable to provide an Art PL day, but have the 2023 Art4VIKids recordings available on demand.

Message from the Managers

Source: SVRC

What glorious Summer days and evenings we are enjoying in Donvale at present, although across the state and country many are experiencing storms, power outages and fires and of course our thoughts go out to those impacted.

First Aid Training

Here at SVRC many staff spent last Friday updating our CPR, First Aid and Anaphylaxis skills. Critical knowledge and skills were gained along with fun and laughter as we practiced our cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on rubber torsos and strapped up each other's broken limbs and snake bites.

New staff member

We are also excited to welcome Maz Bushby into the role of Administration as Lou heads back to the transcription team four days a week to utilise her highly valued and needed transcription skills.

Ozzie Dots Program

The School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory – Vision in Western Australia sponsored Di and Jannine to travel to WA to give a presentation on our wonderful Ozzie Dots Program. We look forward to the continued development of a strong partnership with the school staff at the School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory – Vision.

The Ozzie Dots program aims to support teaching and learning of braille literacy by exposure to contracted braille, tactual graphicacy, concept development, non-text sources of information and reading of engaging stories. The program aims to provide early success through predictability, repetition, and the opportunity to develop a personal library of complete editable print and braille files. If you are interested in purchasing the Ozzie Dots Program, please contact Deb Lewis at SVRC.

Support Skills Program

Source: Oliver H

Everyone needs a teacher when doing mathematics. It helps you know the formulas, how the rules work and what to do when you get stuck. The Support Skills program is just like that, but arguably more important as it sets you up for future life.

The Support Skills program offers a wide range of skills. These include:

- Learning how to move around and traverse the modern world.
- Find new technologies to assist you.
- Help you to talk about your vision and how to ask for help when you need it.
- Make new friends and meet people in your situation.
- Introduces you to new sports and activities for people with all vision types.
- How to play an instrument
- Making new creations in art and craft
- And much more!

Of course, some people don't need a math teacher to succeed, but it will certainly help you along the way and possibly get you better results. As a person with a minor vision impairment (I can't see small detail, especially text), I didn't need most of the technologies offered to me, but I certainly learnt many new tips and tricks and would highly recommend trying it.

Overall, the Support Skills Program is a great place to go. You will find new strategies to improve your learning and everyday life, allow you to meet other visually impaired people and most importantly, have fun.

Touch: Australia's first ever feature-length "motion picture without pictures"

Source: Blind Citizens Australia

A motion picture without pictures. A movie you don't need to see. When it comes to cinematic experiences, this has hit a whole other level!

TOUCH – an immersive cinematic experience by Mastercard in partnership with Westpac – follows the story of Ben, who along with two unlikely companions, gets trapped in the consciousness of his father, and must rifle through his memories.

Touch will premiere at Westpac OpenAir in Sydney on February 13 with [all ticket proceeds](#) donated to Blind Citizens Australia.

For more information visit [news.com.au article](#).

Exercise Book with Darker Lines

Source: Visiting Teachers

One of the VTs has recommended this type of exercise book for students with low vision as apparently the lines "are really dark" and they have line-widths in all sizes.

Brand: Olympic

Ref: D964

Example shown in the image: A4 Exercise Book with Margin; 9mm dotted thirds

Availability: They don't seem to be held at OfficeWorks, but they can be purchased at other stores/online.

The pictured example is available from:

- Melbourne Office Supplies – individual books for \$1.18 including GST
- Mega Office Supplies – pack of 20 for \$27.67 including GST



Tactile Ruler from Kmart

This 30cm tactile ruler is called the "bendable ruler" and features tactile millimeter marks and raised print labels. Kmart sells these for \$3.50.



tactileworld

Source: ANZAGG

There's a new Instagram account called [tactileworld](#) that documents tactile maps and models from around the world. There's a description given, along with the exact location of the model.

My Time – Parent and Carers Support Group

Source: MyTime

MyTime is for parents and carers of a child with a disability, chronic medical condition or other additional needs.

A new group has recently started in Warrandyte. If you are interested in finding out more information visit the [MyTime website](#) or contact Sue Batcheler Ph: 0413655659 Email: suzanneb@mytime.vic.com.au

Guide Dogs Family Camp (8 April-10 April)

Source: Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs Victoria's Family Camp is back in April 2024. This camp is designed to allow families to come together to increase their understanding of the skills required to support development of orientation and mobility and daily living activities, and to have a whole lot of fun!

Family Camp is an opportunity to:

- Network with other families who have a child with low vision or blindness.
- Learn more about how to encourage age-appropriate movement and mobility.
- Explore a range of aids, apps and activities that can assist with mobility.
- Hear from, and meet, professionals who can support/provide training for your family.
- Participate in fun activities as a family.

Family Camp is being held in a beautiful bush setting, with all meals and activities organised. As this is a school camp facility, families will have their own cabins equipped with bunk beds and ensuite bathrooms. Please be advised that participants will need to provide their own bedding (linen, pillows, blankets/sleeping bags etc).

For more information, go to the [Oasis Camp website](#).

When: Monday 8 April to Wednesday 10 April, 2024

Where: Oasis Camp Mount Evelyn, 66-72 Monbulk Road Mount Evelyn, VIC, 3796

Cost:

NDIS – For students with an NDIS plan the estimated cost is \$1,544. NDIS funding covers the service delivery of O&M and OT skills during the program and does not cover meals, accommodation or overnight costs.

This camp has been supported with thanks to The Barr Family Foundation.

Programs and Camps can be funded under a number of different line items. When applying to attend you will be asked to confirm how you will pay

1. Innovative Community Participation NDIS reference number: 04210012561 Unit cost item, specific to the program.

2. Community Participation Activities NDIS reference number 0901101256-3 Unit cost item, specific to the program.

To register for Family Camp, please visit the [Humanitix website](#) and fill in the application forms and details. Or contact Danielle Kruger via email: daniellek@guidedogsvictoria.com.au.

If you have any questions, please contact the friendly Customer Service Team on 1800 804 805.

Mobility Olympics Primary Camp, July 2024

Source: Guide Dogs Victoria

Date: July 1, 2024

On this three-day camp for primary school students living with low vision or blindness, participants will travel to a range of Olympic-themed activities around Melbourne, where they will try new experiences, navigate public transport and learn about problem-solving, self-advocacy and decision-making.

The estimated cost per participant is \$2,600.

Programs can be funded through a child's NDIS plan. NDIS funding covers the service delivery of Orientation and Mobility and Occupational Therapy skills, but does not cover meals, activities, accommodation or overnight costs.

To find out more visit the [Guide Dogs website](#). Detailed information for this event will be emailed to families closer to the date. If you would like to discuss any aspects of our planned programs or register your interest, please get in touch with our Customer Service team on 1800 804 805.

Master of Inclusive Education

Source: Next Sense, SPEVI

The Victorian Government is offering Master's places to teachers and regional workforce employees to complete postgraduate study in inclusive education. The scholarship program includes entry and graduation from the Master of Disability Studies, offered by Macquarie University, in affiliation with NextSense.

Application round 10 is **open until Sunday 17th March 2024**.

The Master of Inclusive Education and Graduate Certificate initiative offers 150 scholarships (75 per program) for teachers at Victorian government schools. This includes up to 2 per school per program for teachers working in specialist and supported inclusion schools, and one per school per program for all other schools. Teacher applicants must have full registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Recipients can choose from 9 contemporary, evidence-based online courses focusing on inclusive and specialist education or learning difficulties offered through 7 partner universities. Applicants will study part-time to complete a master degree over 4 years and the graduate certificate award in 2 years.

Further details about the Inclusive Education Scholarship program and applications can be found on the [Schools Vic website](#).

And Finally ...

Babies' eyes appear to be very large because normal infant development proceeds from the head down and newborn babies' eyes are already about 70% of their adult size. They will continue to grow and develop for the first two years of life.