

Number 3, Friday 8 March, 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 and 3, we will have our hands-on PL days **at SVRC in Donvale**:

- May 7 – Braille music with Jordie Howell and Sarah Kelly. [Register here](#).
- June 18 – Inclusion of students with VI in maths with Charlie Roberts. [Register here](#).
- TBA Term 3 – Inclusion of students with VI in PE – Emily White (registrations not yet open)

We are unable to provide an Art PL day, but have the 2023 Art4VIKids recordings available on demand.

Message from the Manager

Source: Jane Barker, SVRC

Listening to the radio as I headed home one afternoon, I was fortunate enough to listen to "Surfers without sight loving the waves." This was a story of a 6-week NSW surfing program organised by Vision Australia and led by Matt Formston, an Australian Professional Para Surfer and four-time world champion. The story reinforced that with the right adaptations all sports can be inclusive of students with vision impairment. SVRC Support Skills programs includes sport in their program each week to give our students the opportunity to have a go. This year our students rated, Judo or Taekwondo, Gymnastics and Circus Skills in the top three of their wish lists. If you know someone that could support SVRC with running any of these sports the students and teachers would be thrilled to hear from you.

Don't forget to celebrate International Women's Day today Friday 8 March – the theme this year is **Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress**.

Onsite SVRC Professional Learning, Term 2, 2024

Source: Marion Blaze, SVRC

SVRC is offering three exciting professional learning events in Term 2 and 3 this year. Please note that unlike all our other PL activities, these ones are actually at Statewide Vision Resource Centre in Donvale. You can register on Eventbrite through the [SVRC website](#).

May 7 – Teaching and learning with braille music – facilitated by Jordie Howell & Sarah Kelly
9.30am to 1pm
Cost \$55 (BYO lunch, morning tea provided)

June 18 – Including students who are blind or have low vision in mathematics – facilitated by Charlie Roberts
8.45am to 3.25pm
Cost \$88 (BYO lunch, morning tea provided)

TBA Term 3 – Inclusion of students with vision impairments in PE – facilitated by Emily White, PhD
8.45am to 3.45pm
Cost \$88 (BYO lunch, morning tea provided)

Tech Tid Bit

Source: Di Bennett, SVRC

Braille Sense users

Word Processor Settings

In the word process press **Enter + E** to enter the settings dialogue.

Navigate down to **Automatic Save Interval**

Press the **Spacebar** to change the increment of time for saving, you might want this to be every 5 minutes.

Apply settings to all documents make sure YES is selected, if not use the **Spacebar** to change.

Move to the **New Document Name** it's default is NONAME change this to date and time.

Math Code set to **UEB**

Finally tab to confirm button and press **Enter**.

Use the Space and Dots 4, 5 to tab forward through options.

Use Space and Dots 1, 2 to backwards tab through options.

Use Space and Dot 4 to move down a list.

Use Space and Dot 1 to move up a list.

Hint: the right-hand side keys move you forward through items and the left hand side moves you backwards through items.

By using the braille keys instead of the cursor keys beside the braille display students keep their fingers on the braille keys making navigation quicker. However, when reading large chunks of text on the display it is best to use the right scroll button and have it set to scroll the display. If you want to scroll by paragraph then have the left scroll button set to scroll by paragraph in the global options menu; **Space + O**, then press L until you get to left scroll buttons and use space bar to set to scroll by paragraph then press **Enter** to confirm.

Introduction to sculpting workshop

Source: Blind Sport and Recreation Victoria

Blind Sport and Recreation Victoria are offering two more places at their intimate clay sculpture workshop for anyone 13 years and above (not adults though) to join two of Australia's leading sculptors in their studio on Saturday the 16th of March. The cost is \$20 per person to attend.

Location: Fitzroy North.

Places are strictly limited. Please RSVP to Miriam by Monday the 4th of March, 2024, by emailing miriam@blindsports.org.au or telephone (03) 9822 8876.

Variety Bikes for Kids – Grant Round NOW OPEN!

Source: Variety – the Children's Charity Victoria

Applications are now open for the Variety Bikes for Kids grant round.

We are taking applications from individual, community groups and Schools to support Victorian kids with Standard Bikes.

Every child deserves the chance to experience the joy of riding a bike! Through the generous support of our donors, we now have the opportunity to make this a reality for hundreds of children.

For more information visit the [Variety website](#).

Applications close March 15, 2024

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to kidssupport@varietyvic.org.au or visit the [Variety fundraising page](#).

And Finally ...

Braille Blooper: This lift button was spotted on a shopping centre lift. There are two braille cells showing dots 3, 4, 5, 6 then dots 1, 4, 6. The dots appear above an arrow pointing down. Can you work out what the braille is meant to say?

