

Number 15, Friday 18 September 2020

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- **From SVRC:** SVRC – Report, Little Treehouse Books, Ozzie Dots activity books, Support Skills Try Day and Expressions of Interest 2021, 3D Printing: Nets, Professional Learning: Japanese Braille
- **From the field:** Remote Learning Activity, SCIVIS 2020 is Cancelled

## PD events at SVRC ONLINE: 2020

Wednesday Oct 7, 1-3.30pm [Braille in Japanese](#) – online workshop with Emma Hall. More information in this Bulletin

Tuesday Oct 20 [Preparing for inclusion of a student who reads braille](#) – free online PL in Term 4, 2020

Tuesday Nov 24 [Expo of technology for students with vision impairments](#) – our first online Expo!

You can register online. Click on the links to read more information and to register online. If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

**Note:** For upcoming professional learning at SVRC along with programs, registrations, visit the SVRC [professional learning page](#).

## SVRC helpline

Please call SVRC if you have questions about our provisions or inclusion of students with vision impairments, (03) 9841 0242.

## SVRC – Report

From: Marion Blazé (Acting Manager, SVRC)

SVRC has been very dependent on Australia Post for most of this year, with regional offices closed and the DX mail system out of operation. Thankfully, everything has arrived safely, if a bit later than expected. Please remember if you are posting technology to SVRC, that it must have a tracking number so that we can track its whereabouts.

We received lots of positive feedback from the Google Form evaluation of our most recent online professional learning activity. Nearly every participant said they preferred this being an online activity and would not have participated if it had been at SVRC. (I guess they don't know about our yummy lunches!!)

Opinions were mixed about the preference for a whole day activity or several short sessions, most saying they preferred devoting a whole day to this PL. The vast majority found every session "very relevant and useful".

Comments:

"Loved it."

"Hats off to everyone involved for a very interesting and informative day and especially to Marion as the host, for the way she kept everything running smoothly." (From Marion's Mum – joking!)

"This was an incredible PL session – so worthwhile."

"Overall excellent and engaging course."

"I wish I'd done this three years ago!"

"A fantastic program with all presentations highly relevant to inclusion of our students."

"So much knowledge gained. It was amazing."

"These children are so lucky to have such amazing people supporting them and able to pass on their knowledge so that everyone can assist."

To all of the above, I have to say – "Wow!"

## Coles Little Treehouse books in etext and braille

If you've been anywhere near Coles lately you'll have seen that there is a collection of very cute mini-books by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton – the "Coles Little Treehouse" books. Published this year by Pan Macmillan, "this material is a repurposing and compilation of certain titles in The Treehouse series. Characters have been extracted, and storylines condensed for this format."

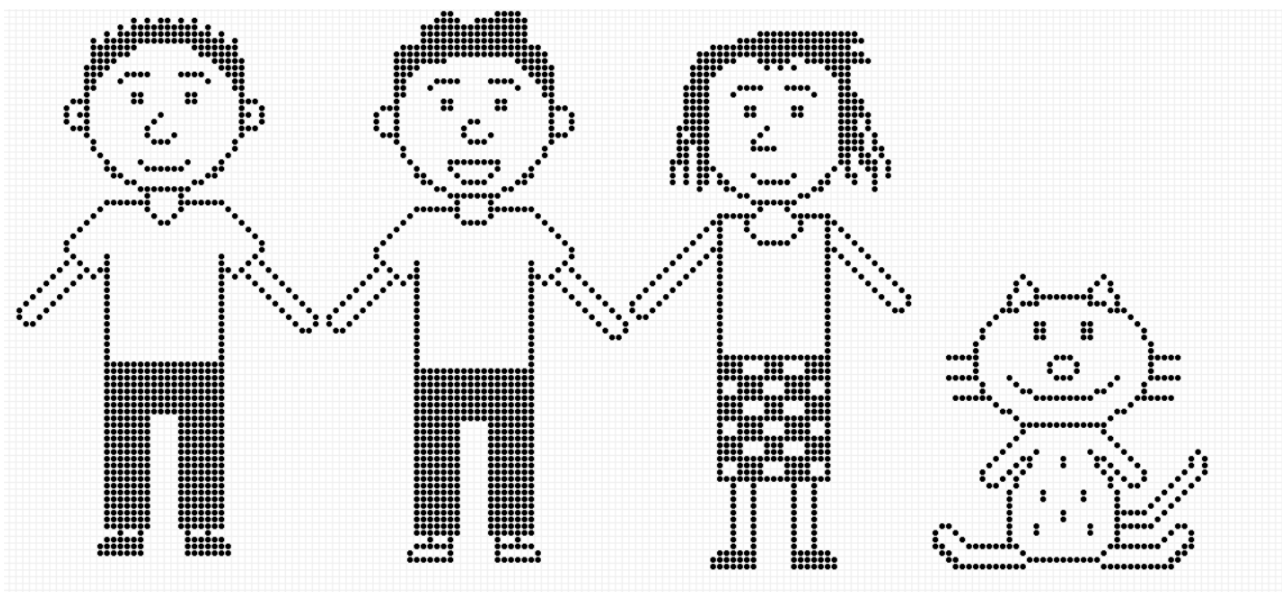
Leeanne Terry approached Coles and quickly received the entire collection – all 24 books – in the mail! Below is a photo of the 24 books along with Andy and two of the books so you can see how very small the books are.



And the books are VERY small ... and the print is very small ... actually it is about N8.

So we thought we'd have a go at making some of the books into accessible formats. Currently we have Books 1-6 available as a text-only Word document and Book 1 available as an illustrated braille book – with more on the way!

Below are some of the pictures that SVRC resident artist, Taryn Radley, has created for the braille version – Andy, Terry, Jill and Jill's favourite cat ... which becomes a "catnary" in Book 1.



If you'd like a copy in braille, text-only Word file or illustrated etext, please email Deb Lewis: [debra.lewis@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:debra.lewis@education.vic.gov.au) and have a belly laugh at the antics of Andy and Terry who write books from their treehouse!

## Ozzie Dots activity books!

SVRC Transcribers have been busy creating tactile activity books for young braille readers. Each book has 10 pages of fun activities, just in time for the school holidays!

### Maze books

Will magpie find all the worms? Will monkey find all the bananas? Will mouse find all the cheese? Follow the mazes with your crayon, pen or finger and you'll see! There are three maze books to enjoy!

Mouse Mazes

Monkey Mazes

Magpie Mazes

### Colouring books

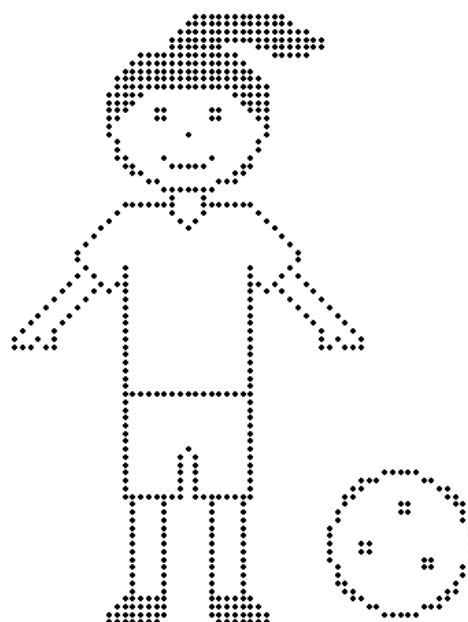
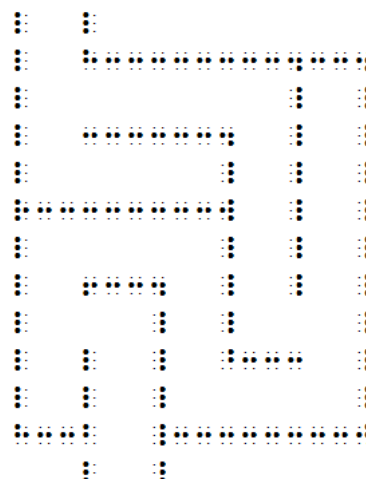
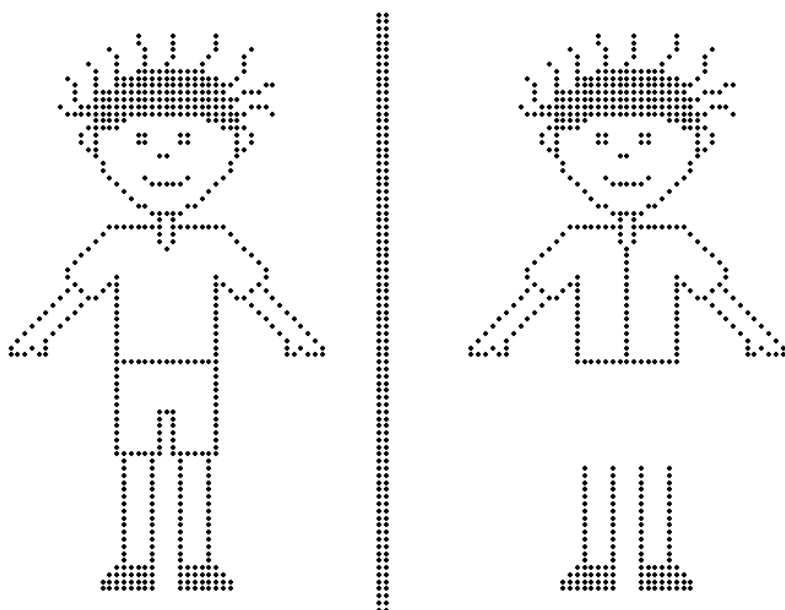
Two new books to colour with pen or crayon! You might recognise some of the pictures from the Ozzie Dots books!

Colour the animals

Colour the kids

### Spot the difference

There are two differences on each page for little fingers to find. Perhaps the noses are different, or it might be the hair. In the example below, the boy on the right is missing his shorts and he is wearing a shirt not a T-shirt.



### How to get your copies

If you'd like copies of some or all of these activity books, please email Deb Lewis:

[debra.lewis@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:debra.lewis@education.vic.gov.au)

Make sure to include your postal address so we can send to the right place ... and have some fun over the school holidays!

## Support Skills Try Day and Expressions of Interest for 2021

I can't believe we're planning for 2021 already! 2020 has been such a weird year. Support Skills Try Day will be another Different Event to add to the calendar!

We are inviting students who are interested in joining Support Skills in 2021 to try out the program this year ONLINE. We will also hold an online family information session on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Families who have joined the program during this unusual, online year are also invited to the online family information session.

After the Try Day, we encourage families to discuss whether the program will be suitable for your child's needs with the visiting teacher and school before making the commitment to bringing your child in once or twice per term in 2021.

### What is the [Support Skills Program](#)?

A program for students with vision impairments running on Fridays during the school term at Statewide Vision Resource Centre, Donvale (when not online). It provides high-quality education in the [Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Vision Impairments](#). We teach Assistive Technology, Vision Issues, Careers, Social and Communication Skills, Braille and Large Print Music, Physical Education, Creative Art, Braille Maths, Orientation and Mobility, Independent Living Skills, Research and Study Skills.

Students attend once or twice per term in groups of approximately 12. They love sharing tips, comparing notes and learning alongside peers who have similar life experiences. The 6-session program is carefully timetabled to cater for individual student needs and requests from students, families and visiting teachers.

### Dates:

By October 9<sup>th</sup>: Register to Try the Program with a group online during 2020

By October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Register for Family Information Day

November 13<sup>th</sup>: Support Skills Family Information Day Online

During term 4: Students try the program by joining age-matched groups

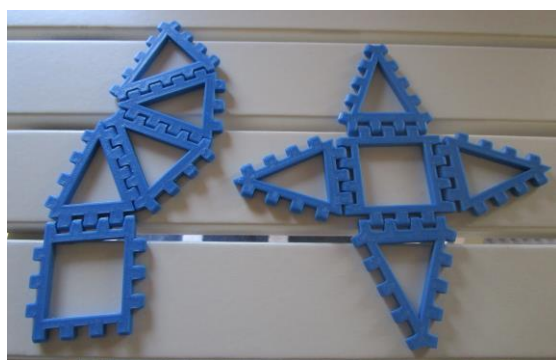
To register your interest or find out more, email: [statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au)

## 3D Printing: Nets

We have some new 3D printing designs of nets for 3D shapes. So far there are:

- Cube (2 versions)
- Square based pyramid (2 versions)
- Rectangular prism
- Cylinder

If you'd like to try out the nets with your students and provide feedback on them, please get in touch. Below are photos of the two square based pyramids, in 3D shape form and laid out in 2D net form.



## Professional Learning: Japanese Braille

Are you supporting a braille-reading student learning Japanese? Sign up to our Professional Learning session on Japanese braille.

When: Wednesday 7th October (via Zoom) Sign up now via [Eventbrite](#)

There will be two parts to this professional learning session.

1. Introduction to Braille (1pm-1:30pm)
2. Japanese Braille (1:30pm -3:30pm)

The first part, Introduction to Braille, is aimed at people who have no knowledge of braille or how it works. It will go over the basics of the Unified English Braille (UEB) code and is designed as a short introduction for those who wish to participate in the Japanese Braille session, but have no understanding of braille. This session will run for approximately 30 mins.

The second part, Japanese Braille, is aimed at anyone who is supporting a braille reading student learning Japanese and wants to go "in-depth" into the Japanese braille code. Teachers, Education Support Staff, Visiting Teachers and Parents are welcome. We will look specifically at what the Japanese braille code is and how it is used in the braille transcription of Japanese print scripts, including Kanji, Hiragana and Romaji. You will be guided through reading Japanese in braille and how to differentiate between UEB and the Japanese braille code. There will also be information on how to request Japanese braille textbooks and worksheets from SVRC. This session will run for approximately 2 hours.

Are you interested in Professional Learning on other Foreign Languages? Let us know!

## **Remote Learning Activity – from Jeni Blake, VT SEVR**

The task set for the Year 12 was to produce a short video of advice that they could give to a younger person in their school about their educational journey. This was an opportunity to give a frank and heartfelt response to the lessons they had learnt along the way to Year 12. It is much more powerful coming from their peers and seniors than their teachers.

This activity could be modified to help our Year 6/7 students transition or "buddy" up an older low vision student with a younger one.

## **SCIVIS 2020 is cancelled**

From Dan: Due to the low number of participants that have registered for SCIVIS, we regret that we will not be able to run the SCIVIS program this year. If you have any questions, please reach out to [camps@spacecamp.com](mailto:camps@spacecamp.com).

We are very sorry for this. Space Camp has tried to make this work. But with the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial situation at Space Camp it is not feasible. If you were a scholarship winner in 2020, your scholarship will be held over to 2021, if the program is held. If you are a graduating senior, then you may attend next year, if your college studies and/or employment allows.

Space Camp is very excited for SCIVIS 2021!!!

Our Motto will be: Finally SCIVIS is better than 20/20. SCIVIS 2021!!!

See you next year!

## **SVRC News**

Bring on the school holidays and Term 4! Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday and that Term 4 is almost back to normal.

## **And finally...**

Stay safe and well and here's hoping we'll be able to travel more than 5km soon!