

Number 16, Friday 16 September, 2020

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PD events at SVRC ONLINE: 2020

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 on (03) 9841 0242.

Term 4 at SVRC

From: Kim Foley, SVRC Assistant Principal/Manager

I would like to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal/Manager of SVRC. I feel privileged to be offered the opportunity to manage and lead SVRC over the next two years. Many of you have journeyed alongside me through my career as a Visiting Teacher (Vision), Visiting Teacher (Vision) Team Leader and North East Victoria Region Visiting Teacher Manager. I look forward to continuing those professional relationships and seek to develop new ones with the extended blind and low vision community. I will respect and continue to support all that makes SVRC unique and a special place to work and invite conversations and feedback on how we can continue to grow and meet the changing needs of children, families and schools.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of SVRC and the blind and low vision community, to thank Marion for her leadership and management of SVRC over the last few years. Marion's extensive experience in the blind and low vision field is highly valued throughout the teaching, student, and family communities. She is an extremely skilled and knowledgeable practitioner and we warmly welcome her back as an EVAC Senior Education Officer.

On Wednesday 7 October, SVRC hosted a Japanese Braille professional learning opportunity for twenty four participants. Emma Hall, one of our experienced transcribers, designed and presented via ZOOM. The participants included secondary teachers who teach Japanese and braille transcribers from Victoria and interstate. We learnt that Japanese print uses three types of writing, that Japanese braille code does not identify the individual types of writing, and how to read a braille Japanese textbook. Thank you to Emma for all the research and time devoted to organising this professional learning opportunity. Examples of the feedback from the session;

"Thank you for this PD. It is very timely for my students."

"Thank you very much for this. It has been really useful. I learnt a lot."

SVRC are continuing to host fortnightly Community of Practice Zoom meetings with Visiting Teachers (Vision). This week Visiting Teachers were asked to complete a feedback survey on all SVRC service provision. Visiting Teachers were allocated meeting rooms so they could complete the survey in a small group situation. The feedback data will be distributed to the Visiting Teachers and will assist in guiding future SVRC planning, programming and service provision.

Our next Community of Practice will be at 3pm on Tuesday 27 October. SVRC, in partnership with Guide Dogs Victoria, will jointly launch a new referral system for Orientation and Mobility services. If you are not receiving emails about these meetings, please email me – kim.foley@education.vic.gov.au.

As with every other term this year, Term Four promises to be quite different and challenging for everyone. SVRC will continue to deliver the same level of service provision with a skeleton staff working onsite most days and remaining staff working remotely. However, if you are planning to visit SVRC, please phone ahead of time to ensure that staff will be there to support you.

Support Skills Family Information Day Online

Friday November 13th

9:30 - 12:00

Please register ASAP

Each year we usually run a Try Day for students to come to SVRC to try the program, meet staff and other students. Families spend the morning hearing about the program, viewing some sessions, meeting other families and asking questions. This year our Try the Program Day will become a Family Information Day Online. Students are invited to try the program by joining one of our online Support Skills sessions on another Friday this year.

Support Skills requires a commitment by students and families to miss one or two days per term of regular school and work, and travel to us in Donvale. We know that approximately 80 families find the program extremely valuable and are happy to make that commitment. We encourage families and students to find out about the program and discuss it with each other and their Visiting Teacher or school before enrolling.

Program:

Welcome: Kim Foley, Assistant Principal, Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Introduction: Lea Nagel, Education Programs

Subject Presentations (videos): Support Skills Teaching Staff

Programming, Individual Timetables: Di Bennett, Education Programs

Getting the most out of the Program: Lea Nagel

Parent discussion: Lea Nagel, Di Bennett and Geoff Bowen, Psychologist

Student text books for 2021

Do you have a student who requires materials in alternative format for 2021, and in particular learning materials in braille?

Transcription staff need your help!

The Transcription Team are hoping to begin production of all of the larger text books in the next few weeks so that your students can have their alternative format materials ready to go when they are!

The subjects we are keen to receive requests for, as soon as possible, include:

- Maths text books
- Foreign language text books and other materials
- Music texts and other resources
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology text books
- Other secondary text books required in braille OR etext with tactile diagrams
- Anything required for "Head Start" (offered by schools for students in Years 10 and 11 as the transition to VCE studies)

At your earliest convenience we need:

1. the name of the text book (e.g. Pearson Maths 7 for the Victorian Curriculum 2nd edition)
2. the ISBN of the text book (and possibly the pdfs which you can often obtain from the teacher – if files are needed, we'll let you know)
3. the chapter order and the dates required – if you only have these for term 4, 2020 and term 1, 2021, that is a very good start 😊
4. a list of the sections that your student will be working from – for example, the Maths teacher often selects particular questions for students in their class. Ideally, the list would look a bit like the one above (e.g. Exercise 2A, Questions 4, 5, 6g-l etc). This will assist us to provide the work that the student and teacher require.

| Exercise | Questions |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2A Understanding fractions | 4, 5, 6g-l, 7g-l, 8-10, 12c-e, 13-18, 20, 21 |
| 2B Equivalent fractions | 2, 3, 4f-o, 5, 7, 9-13, 15, 16e-h, 17, 18d-i, 19, 21, 22, 24-27 |
| 2C Adding and subtracting fractions | 3j-r, 5-9, 11, 12, 14, 16-22 |
| 2D Multiplying fractions | 1f-g, 2b-d, 3f-l, 4b-d, 5g-o, 6-9, 11d-f, 13, 14g-l, 15-20 |
| 2E Dividing fractions | 5, 6g-r, 7, 8d-l, 9d-i, 10, 13-25 |
| 2F Powers and square roots | 1e-h, 2e-h, 3e-h, 4e-h, 5-8, 9e-h, 10, 11d-h, 12-16, 18, 20-23 |
| 2G Understanding ratios | 2, 4, 6, 7c, d, 8, 9c, 10, 11, 12f-l, 13-19 |
| 2H Working with ratios | 1g-l, 2, 3e-l, 7-9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-22 |

Parts of Chapter to include/exclude:

Are you ready? - No
 Relevant examples - Yes
 Exercises - Those specified in question sheet, yes
 Start Thinking - No
 Key Ideas - Yes
 Chapter Review - All except NAPLAN questions

5. a completed Request Form which can be downloaded from the SVRC website: <https://svrc.vic.edu.au/transcription-services/submit-a-request/>

Please note: If your student is working from an online Maths program (e.g. Maths Pathways), please supply these files as PDFs.

If you have questions, suggestions or feedback, please be in contact with Deb Lewis debra.lewis@education.vic.gov.au

The Transcription Team thank you in advance for your assistance.

Microscopes for students with low vision

From: Lea Nagel

Q: How do we make microscope accessible for our student with low vision?

A: I've seen some great microscope work done for students with low vision. The school may already have microscopes that you connect to a computer – often for the teacher's demo, and sometimes for students. You can view and screenshot the resulting image.

In the past for a student with very low vision I have printed the image in colour and used a spur wheel to highlight important features, then provided labels in a key. It could be a time to think about using braille for labelling, depending on how much detail the student is able to see.

If the student has issues seeing colour they won't be able to make out features just by differences in colour. If the features in the image are clear in a black and white version, it may be useable by a student with colour issues.

RVI Space Science Program

Are you interested in outer space? Do you want to become involved in real astronomy research? Do you want to learn about college life from a University mentor? Are you excited about the prospect of learning from space scientists? Then join The Ohio State University (OSU) / Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB) Space Science Mentorship Program!

This new completely virtual after-school program is a collaboration between The Ohio State University and the Ohio State School for the Blind. We connect OSU mentors with BVI students who are interested in astronomy and space science. The mentors are undergraduate and graduate student volunteers from the OSU Department of Astronomy, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and the Department of Physics. They will be paired with BVI students in grades 7 through 12 from anywhere in the world to work on space science projects and provide guidance on college life. Home-schooled students are also welcome to participate!

As the program's main activity, mentors and their students will participate in a citizen science project, allowing the students to contribute to real scientific research! The program will use sonified data so that the students can analyze it entirely through sound. Mentors and students will also attend astronomy lectures given by OSU faculty and post-docs and participate in weekly meetings with their mentor and with the entire program cohort.

To register, please visit the virtual after-school activity registration page, scroll to the bottom and click "Register Now". Please note that parental supervision is required for all meetings, which will take place on Zoom from 4-5pm ET every week on Tuesday. The program began on September 15 and will conclude on December 9. Registrations will stay open until we reach maximum student capacity.

Spot the Dots

From: Braille House, via the Australian Braille Authority Facebook Page

Braille House invites you to "spot the dots" in October.

Instructions:

- * Find Braille in your community
- * Snap a picture of it on your camera
- * Upload it to Instagram, Twitter or Facebook
- * Hashtag #BHSpotTheDots and join the fun
- * Share your pictures with your friends
- * Donate to help Braille House produce more Braille

You may not notice it every day, but Braille is in your community to help people who are blind or have low vision to live life to the fullest. We want you to find Braille near your house and share it with others to highlight the importance of this 6 dot code called Braille. It could be anywhere like on the footpath, in an elevator, on an ATM, on packaging or even on a sign.

Every photo uploaded with the hashtag gets one entry in the draw to win a picnic pack for 2 worth over \$150 courtesy of Epic Assist. www.epicassist.org

Find out more about Braille House at www.braillehouse.org.au

SVRC News

As already mentioned in this issue, there have been some staffing changes at SVRC. Kim Foley has been appointed as the Assistant Principal/Manager of SVRC. Marion Blaze has returned to her role as EVAC Senior Education Officer. We will farewell Sam Oxley, who has been working on the EVAC team, as she returns to her role as a Visiting Teacher (Vision) with NEVR.

And finally...

A story from former transcriber Toni: Today I was reading an article where “brailled” was spelt “brailed”. I had the thought, is brail a word? And so, here is my braille fact. Brails are:

1. small lines which are part of rigging on a sailing ship
 2. small fishing nets
- and NOT embossed dots