

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 20

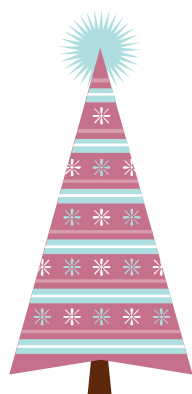
Monday 13th December 2010

This issue was edited by Lyn Robinson, Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

Professional Development Activities for Term 1, 2011

Professional Development Event 2010	Date
Pupil-free days - Professional learning activities by request. So far we have scheduled... Tuesday: Teaching braille, Preparing Etext and JAWS Wednesday: BrailleNote Basics, Braille Mathematics Please contact us to register for these activities	Wed 2 and Thurs 3 Feb
Educational support for blind students This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and visiting teachers who support students who utilize braille	Monday 14 February
Educational support for students with low vision - Prep to year 5 This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and visiting teachers who support students who have low vision (maximum participants: 60)	Tuesday 1 March
New visiting teacher - Orientation day - 9.30am to 3.00pm	Mon 7 March
Visiting teacher professional learning day - Term 1	Tues 8 March
Educational support for students with low vision - Year 6 to year 12 This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and visiting teachers who support secondary students who have low vision (maximum participants: 60)	Tuesday 22 March
Dot power Day of literacy-based activities for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tues 29 March

The yearly program is available at: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PLPannual.shtml>



And so as the year draws to a close
we would like to wish
all the readers
of the Bulletin a safe
and happy holiday.

Inside This Issue

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SPEVI DAY 10 OCTOBER 2011.... YOUR OPINION.

From your Victorian SPEVI Councillors Louise Curtain and Linda Doak

If the SPEVI Day next year was held in Geelong, would you attend?

This day has never been held in a regional area, but it has been suggested as an idea.

If you'd like to make comment please email, Louise at louise.curtin@visionaustralia.org or Linda on doak.linda.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thank you from Louise and Linda

Spectronics Blog

Here are some examples of the fantastic blogs at <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/>

- Apps for Literacy Support using Apple iPods and iPads
- Tips for creating successful social stories (see article in this edition of the bulletin)
- iPod Switcher for students with disabilities
- How to incorporate ACC in the classroom

New ABC Website

From Ramp Up <http://www.abc.net.au/rampup>

On December 3 the ABC will launch Ramp Up, a new website dedicated to everything about disability. It will include the latest news from the sector, drawn from across the ABC, as well as blogs, opinion articles and features that explore issues that affect people living with a disability.

They write: You'll even have a chance to comment on what you read via our threaded message boards. We want Ramp Up to be a place for discussion and debate to thrive. Ramp Up's core audience will be the estimated one-in-five of us who lives with a disability, their family and friends, people who work in the disability sector and anyone else who wants to be informed is welcome to join the conversation.

Provocative, celebratory, challenging, supportive and a little bit funny – Ramp Up will be the place to come and have your say. So on December 3 log on to www.abc.net.au/rampup and join the debate.

Look what's new for braille music readers!

From It's Vision Time Issue: 17 Term: 4, 2010

HAPPY FINGERS: Easy Songs for Braille Music Readers, Book 1. Dedicated to Louis Braille and Bettye Krolick, this new book presents the words and melody for ten public domain songs.

Permission for use is granted to all who promote braille music literacy. Sales in any format are strictly prohibited. These files are available as free downloads from www.ctdcreations.com.

Department of Education & Early Childhood Development Equipment Grants

Equipment grants are available to assist schools to purchase major items of essential, specialised equipment for students with mild visual impairments, who do not meet the eligibility requirements of the Program for Students with Disabilities. Applications must demonstrate that the equipment is essential to enable the student to access the curriculum. Please talk to your Visiting Teacher if you require more information.

The 2011 guidelines and application form are available from

www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/disability/programsupp.htm

Hints for the Holidays: Make Outings Less Stressful

1. Set Expectations before you leave home.

Let the kids know what to expect. "We are going to the doctor. We will wait in Dr Johnson's waiting room and then he will see you. If you have any questions I will be there with you so you don't need to feel worried. Then we are going to the supermarket and after that to the park to play."

2. Involve the kids in planning the day.

Let the kids make a few choices in the outing. That helps them feel part of the process and take some ownership of the decisions.

3. Praise the kids for a job well done.

As you go through the day reinforce them for listening, following directions and being kind to others. This helps the kids to see they get attention for following rules, rather than breaking them.

4. Let the kids know if plans change.

When changes happen let the kids know and how it will affect their plans. This helps to gain their co-operation. E.g. "John, the library is not open today so we will go to Aunt Sarah's instead and go to the library tomorrow"

5. Plan for Delays.

Things often don't go as planned. Prepare for problems like hunger, boredom and delays. Pack some snacks and portable activities like games or books.

6. Let the kids be involved in the activity.

Kids are less likely to break rules if they are busy and feel important. E.g. In the supermarket have them help to locate groceries. Or if you need to fill forms in the doctor's office have the child help by saying the name, address etc for you to write down.

7. Be consistent.

If you have a reward system, make the rewards attainable, immediate and consistent.

If you say, "You get to play your game when we get home if you...". Be sure to reinforce them *only* if they accomplish this goal.

Inconsistency will cause them to expect rewards when they have not met their end of the deal.

8. Help the child to be successful.

Some children benefit from reading stories about things that are going to happen. This can help reduce anxiety in new situations, like visiting the dentist or joining the swimming club. Images from stories and success stories help the child see what is expected of them.

Judith Pratt,

Visiting Psychologist. SVRC

The February Bulletin will have an article on *Social Stories*, how to write them and how they can be used to help reduce a student's anxiety, prepare for a new experience, or as a way of rehearsing positive behaviours.

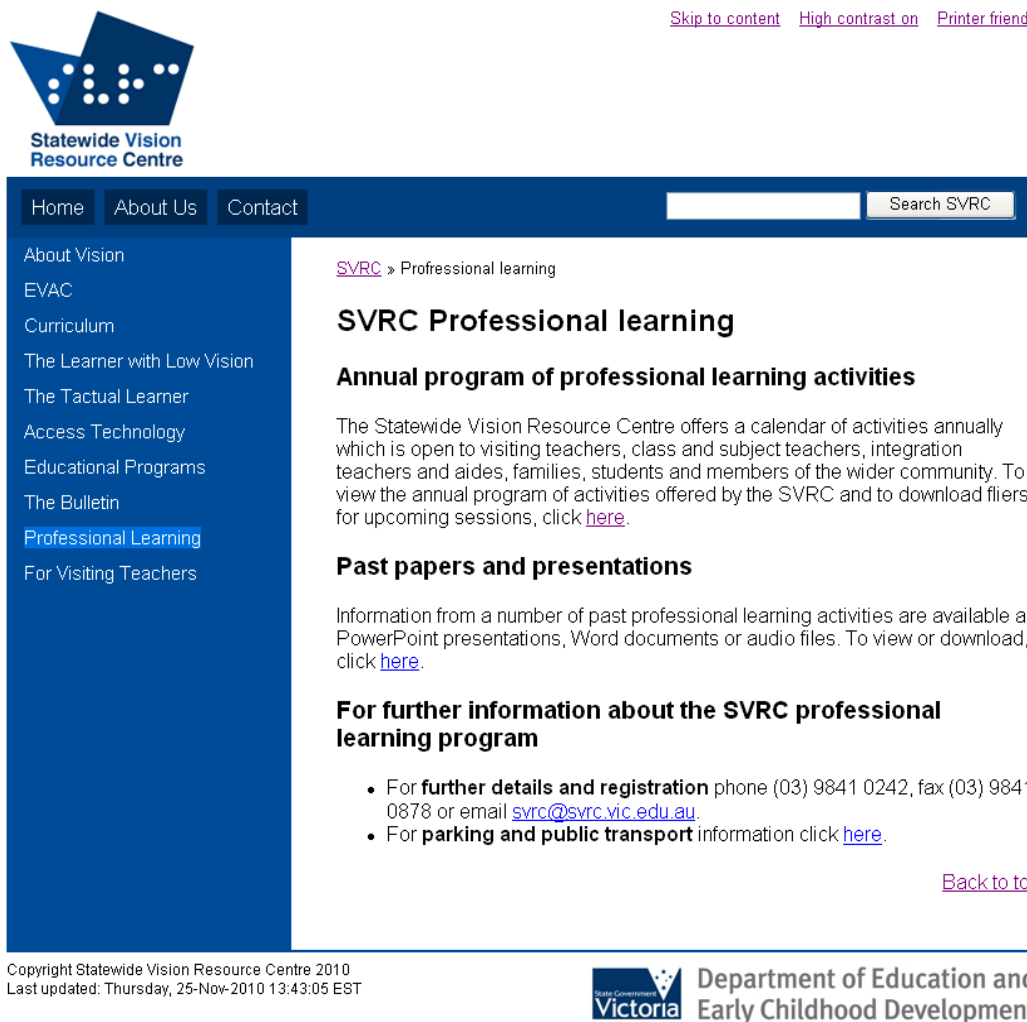
Have a great holiday!

New Website Feedback

Message from Deb Lewis, who has been updating the SVRC website...

We held a feedback competition for the updated SVRC website and we had a lot of interesting comment – thanks everyone. A couple of users couldn't find a document or two and there was a smattering of folk who found typos and a few broken links but overall the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

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Statewide Vision Resource Centre

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SVRC Professional learning

Annual program of professional learning activities

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre offers a calendar of activities annually which is open to visiting teachers, class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, families, students and members of the wider community. To view the annual program of activities offered by the SVRC and to download fliers for upcoming sessions, click [here](#).

Past papers and presentations

Information from a number of past professional learning activities are available as PowerPoint presentations, Word documents or audio files. To view or download, click [here](#).

For further information about the SVRC professional learning program

- For **further details and registration** phone (03) 9841 0242, fax (03) 9841 0878 or email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au.
- For **parking and public transport** information click [here](#).

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State Government Victoria Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

In the first instance, I'd like to thank **Cameron Phillips** who has designed our new-look website – and been easy to work with and amenable to adapting things as the project unfolded. In his spare time, Cam also produces a great deal of the large print and etext (when he is not busy on the website!)

I'd like to award the "thank you for the feedback" memory stick to Lyn Robinson who spent quite some time providing comment and making suggestions – many thanks Lyn.

Meanwhile, further suggestions to improve the site will continue to be happily received! I hope you continue to enjoy the new-look website and it continues to meet your information needs.

And for interesting and useful pages try:

- Professional development calendar for 2011: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PLPannual.shtml>
- Expanded Core Curriculum: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CEcc.shtml>
- Forms, bold lined paper etc: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/VT.shtml>
- Reference (Cheat) Sheets: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/RS.shtml>

Accessible Computer Game

Release of BG BRAINIAC 1.0:

Ian Humphreys from Spoonbill Software is releasing his 17th game in the Blind Gamers Series, BG Brainiac 1.0, a blind accessible game. BG Brainiac is Spoonbill Software's version of a game you may know as Concentration. It is blind accessible but graphics allow sighted players to also play along with blind players. If you would like a copy of this game or any of Ian's other games, visit: www.spoonbillsoftware.com.au and follow the instructions to download the games. They are free.

December JVIB

The December 2010 issue of JVIB is available online! You may view the Table of Contents of the issue by going to: <http://www.jvib.org>. This month's articles and features include:

- Phonological Awareness of Young Children with Visual Impairments -- Deborah D. Hatton, Karen A. Erickson, and Donna Brostek Lee
- Effective Teaching Strategies: Case Studies from the Alphabetic Braille and Contracted Braille Study -- Lizbeth Barclay, Stephanie A. Herlich, and Sharon Zell Sacks
- Error Analysis of Brailled Instructional Materials Produced by Public School Personnel in Texas -- Tina Herzberg
- **Research Report**
Looking for Power: The Difficulties and Possibilities of Finding Participants for Braille Research -- Tessa Wright
- Plus Editor's Page; Letter to the Editor, Response to an Article on the Status of Transition-Aged Youths with Visual Impairments-- Daria W. Rice; COSB Commentary, The Expanded Core Curriculum and the Reauthorization of IDEA: Reality or Rhetoric? -- Sharon Zell Sacks and Steven M. Rothstein

Staff and Student News



Congratulations

Scholarship and Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Daniel, Eastern Region student, for receiving his school's Scholarship and Citizenship Award at a recent school presentation night. The following presentation was made by the Upwey High School Council President, Mr Geoffrey Bruce.

“Daniel is a visually impaired student who has made outstanding contributions to his community and is an inspiration to the school. He is a member of the Victorian Blind Cricket Association and the Victorian Goal Ball Association's Men's Team for the 2010 and 2009 National Championships. He was the winner of the Leader Free Press 2009 Junior Sports Star and was nominated for the January 2011 Australian Blind Cricket Team Training camp for those in contention for the selection for the Australian Team to play Pakistan in Adelaide in February 2011. Daniel was Rookie of the Year 2009. He is also a public advocate who was nominated for the 2010 National Disability Awards. Daniel has presented twice at Statewide Vision Resource Centre's Professional days for teachers of the blind and vision impaired students. He mentors young blind and visually impaired students. He was chosen to be the face of Guide Dogs 2010 funding campaign culminating with a Major Donor Lunch at the Melbourne Aquarium. He is a lobbyist to local MPs, seeking initiatives to increase current participation rates in sporting activities for the blind and vision impaired students. He is also a Member of the Knox/Maroonah/Yarra Ranges Bus review Committee advocating for improved public transport for all citizens.”

Thank-you to Rod for passing on this information.

Student tops State in Technology

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) tests are conducted annually in Australia with seventy five percent of Victorian schools undertaking ICAS testing in the subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling and Computer Skills.

Earlier in the year Shaun sat the test at his secondary school in the area of computer skills. In July he was sent an ICAS certificate with a mark of a 'High Distinction'. Shaun and his family were thrilled with his impressive result and thought that would be the end of the story. However in early November his school notified Shaun that all the Victorian results had been tallied and that he would be awarded the top award; he had topped the state! A formal medal presentation was held on 23rd November at Melbourne Park Function Centre when ninety two medal winners, representing the highest scores in each subjects and within their year level were formally presented with their award. Shaun was a medal winner in the field of Computer Skills.



Educational Assessment Australia is an education group of the University of NSW Global Pty Limited, a not-for-profit provider of education, training and consulting services and a wholly owned enterprise of the University of New South Wales (UNSW). It specialises in large-scale measurement and assessment programs including the **International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)**.

For more information visit the following link: http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/about_icas

Congratulations to Shaun and many thanks to Judith for forwarding us this good news story!

Pictured above is Shaun with his award at the presentation night.

Braille Certificates Awarded

Congratulations to the following people from Caroline Springs College who have completed the SVRC Braille Correspondence Course:

- Vicki Russo
- Julie Sneddon
- Claudette Petruccelli

Congratulations and Farewell to Support Skills Graduates

Our first group of SVRC **Support Skills Graduates** are moving on... Group D this year (the older group of students) has been a great source of challenge (in a good way) and entertainment (also in a good way) and now they are embarking on VCE and all the trials and tribulations that this will bring...

So we wish all the very best to Allan (Gippsland), Daniel (Eastern), Jake (Eastern), James (CEO), Kylie (Southern), Lachlan (Southern), Shaun (Independent), Nathaniel (Hume) and Tusi (Southern).

Farewell also to Declan, who has moved house, and Naomi, who is moving to New Zealand.

We hope to hear back from you when you have news – so please stay in touch.

And from all the staff of the Statewide Vision Resource Centre – congratulations and farewell!!!



Pictured right: this term students in all groups have been working on plaster of Paris fruit – this is Group A's "Fruit Bowl".

Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Deb Lewis, Judith Pratt and Kym Gribble.

If you have something you would like included in "The Bulletin" please forward it to Lyn Robinson lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au

To Read the Bulletin Online: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Abulletin.shtml>

Pupil-Free Days 2011



Workshops for visiting teachers, teachers, aides

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Parking: Lower carpark, next door at the Donvale Sports Complex

The workshops are arranged into different sessions so
come to one or come to all

No charge for these programs and RSVP is essential!

Wednesday 2 February 2011

9.15-12.15 Teaching braille - Beyond the braille code...

1.15-3.00 Etext - Preparing documents (including exam material)
for students with vision impairments

3.15-4.00 JAWS for beginners

Thursday 3 February 2011

9.00-10.30 BrailleNote basics

11.00-3.00 Braille Mathematics

Tea and coffee will be available -
please make your own arrangements for lunch.

BYO laptop and/or BrailleNote if available

For the annual SVRC Professional learning program visit:

www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PLPannual.shtml

Enquiries and RSVP to svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au / 9841 0242.