Thanks to a new partnership with Polycom, VSSEC can now offer programs for students and teachers through video conferencing. VSSEC has developed a range of programs specifically for this mode of delivery. These programs are based on the latest research-based strategies for effective science teaching and learning. They expose students to experts; encourage hands-on, minds-on learning; and incorporate teacher professional learning.

**Foldables in Science (K-7)**

**Group size:** Max 10 teachers  
**Duration:** 1 hour  
**Cost:** $40 plus GST per group

Foldables are multi-dimensional graphic organizers that can be used for skills reinforcement, practice and/or information organizing. They also provide a kinaesthetic tool for organizing and analysing learning. The program will demonstrate the use of foldables to create a science project. VSSEC staff will demonstrate how students can use online and school resources to plan a Mission to Mars. The video conference will allow teachers to experiment with different types of foldables and the underlying pedagogy behind them.

**Primary Science Experiments**

**Group size:** Max 10 teachers  
**Duration:** 1 hour  
**Cost:** $20 plus GST per session (plus cost of science boxes)

This videoconference interactively discusses the science and pedagogy behind VSSEC’s Science Boxes for Primary Schools (one box will be covered per session). VSSEC staff demonstrate the equipment used in the experiments; discuss effective classroom presentation and strategies for engaging students; and answer teachers questions.

VSSEC has developed seven Science Boxes that have been very successfully used in the Primary Science Outreach program for more than two years. Each box contains enough equipment for one class of 24 students and much of the equipment is reusable. The topics explore scientific method in a way that is appropriate for grades 4 to 6.

1. Light (using UV sensitive beads)  
2. Getting Dirty on Mars (soil analysis)  
3. Floating and Sinking  
4. Electrostatics  
5. Electric Circuits  
6. States of Matter  
7. Mystery Science (critical thinking)