Welcome to all school and public library contact people for 2009
There will be regular email updates approximately twice a term to keep you informed about the Challenge. It would be appreciated if you could pass on relevant information to staff, students or the school community.

New initiatives for 2009

• There is a new look for the Premier’s Reading Challenge website and logo and you may also have seen the TV advertisement (now on the website under the Premier’s message).
• KIDSPACE is a new interactive section on the website just for students.
• 336 new titles have been added to the booklists including new graphic novels.
• For the first time you can search by series on the website. Soon there will be series lists that can be printed.
• Adelaide United Football Club, our first ambassador team, have started their school soccer clinics where they also promote the Premier’s Reading Challenge and Premier’s be active Challenge.
• PRC Listmaker has been developed further and the latest version is 2009.3 which has been available on the website since the beginning of March.
• PRC Listmaker can now be used with Softlink Oliver – instructions are on the website.

Thank you to all Zoomerang survey respondents in November/December 2008 who contributed so much useful feedback to inform decisions for 2009 and beyond.

Fast Facts for 2008
Total number of students completing the challenge – 107 223
Total number of boys 49 per cent
Total number of girls 51 per cent
Total number of schools 757
Total certificates 25 525
Total bronze medals 24 822
Total silver medals 23 035
Total gold medals 18 546
Total champion medals 15 295

Posters and Information Pack
All information packs have arrived in schools and public libraries. Please check with others at your worksite if you have not seen it yet.

Website
The website has a whole new look. It is a good idea to keep the website on display or have a quick link on the desktop in the library or ICT suite so students, teachers and parents have easy access.

Please promote the new KIDSPACE section to the school community. It is hoped that students will get involved in the blogs – a new topic will be posted each week. Students are invited to add ideas for future blog topics and to provide book reviews.
NEWS/SCHOOL AND LIBRARY VISITS

- PRC launch at Brighton Primary School
- Ambassador Janeen Brian - Celebrity Storyteller at Summer in the Square

NEWS/POPULAR BOOKS

- The popular books from 2008 overall and by year level.

If you would like activities/celebrations from your school or public library to appear on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website please email me a sentence or two and a photo so the ideas can be shared with others.

PRC Display
If you are visiting or passing the Education Centre at 31 Flinders Street during March you may like to have a look at the Premier’s Reading Challenge display in The Gallery on the ground floor.

Booklists
Reader’s Cup – if your area is involved in Reader’s Cup and the books you have chosen are NOT already on the Premier’s Reading Challenge booklists but you would like them to be, please contact me as soon as possible. They will be included on the website and booklists from the beginning of term 2.

If you are looking for the ‘Printing Booklists’ option on the website it is in the Booklists section.

Please note that Stephenie Meyer’s name has been misspelt. The Twilight series have been added to the booklists but please note that they are in the mature category, recommended for high school students.

Banners
New Premier’s Reading Challenge banners are being organised to reflect our ‘new look’. There are two which are constantly borrowed by schools which are almost 2 metres wide and can be used for notice board displays or held up at assemblies or parades.

Is this style still popular or would you prefer a freestanding upright banner? Please let me know your preference by email as soon as possible.

Participation in Premier’s Reading Challenges in other states and territories

Guideline 17. Students who have completed a Reading Challenge in another Australian state or territory can have their previous years’ records acknowledged. Please contact the Project Manager, Premier’s Reading Challenge to organise this.

Could you please let students and families know about this guideline?

Student Guidelines
The Premier’s Reading Challenge guidelines have been written in student friendly language. They are on the website in FOR STAFF/PARENTS in the guidelines section.

Student Reading Records from Past Years
I have been asked by a number of people lately if there is any reason to keep the Student Reading Records from previous years. I advise putting them away carefully as archives just in case they are ever needed. As time goes on it is more difficult for teachers or parents or students to remember when they first started the Challenge or whether they did it in a certain year. We have our records but if they can be backed up by school records in those situations it can be very useful.

Ambassadors
One of our ambassadors, netballer Rebecca Sanders, is now living in Vietnam. We are hoping to continue our ‘Contact an ambassador via email’ program and it may particularly suit a school which likes students to email or even an Access Asia school. Please email me if you are interested in this option.

Thank you for the ambassador requests. I will begin organising visits very soon. Please remember Adelaide United visits need to be requested through the AUFC website.


Keys to success in PRC at school level
• Enthusiastic school contact people.
• Supportive classroom teachers and English teachers at high school.
• Encouragement from the school community for PRC to be seen as a whole school activity to benefit literacy.
• High schools find it most successful when English teachers incorporate PRC into the English curriculum.
• It is easier for everyone if children to fill in their Student Reading Records as they go.

MS Readathon
In 2009 the MS Readathon will be officially celebrating 30 years of encouraging children to have fun reading to change the lives of Australians living with multiple sclerosis (MS). It is free for children to register online at http://www.msreadathon.org.au/ or registration forms can be found at local schools and libraries. There is more information about MS Readathon on the LINKS section of the PRC website. The books students are reading for the Premier's Reading Challenge can also be included in MS Readathon which will again take place in June.

Kaleen Watt continues in her role in Project Administration for the Premier's Reading Challenge.

I hope your Premier's Reading Challenge year goes really well for you, your school and your public library.

Kind regards

Alle

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