Open up your world with the Premier’s Reading Challenge

The first year of the Premier’s Reading Challenge legend medal

Welcome back to all school and public library contact people for second term 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 and the school community.

New initiatives for second term 2009

- KIDSPACE is a new interactive section on the website for students to blog from the beginning of 2009 and a new facility has been added this term so students can publish book reviews online made easy by the proforma.
- 17 new titles have been added to the booklists from the Children’s Book Council shortlist and requested Book Cup titles. The list is available at http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/prc/pages/books/printbooklist/
  The ‘Changed and Deleted Items’ list is also available here.
- In 2009, for the first time you can search by series on the website. This term you can print the booklists by series and there is also a list of all the series in alphabetical order that can be printed on the Printing Booklists page: http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/prc/pages/books/printbooklist/
- Adelaide United Football Club, our first ambassador team, will be continuing its school soccer clinics where both the Premier’s Reading Challenge and Premier’s be active Challenge are promoted.
- PRC Listmaker has been updated with the new books and the latest version is 2009.5. It is working well with Amlib.
- PRC Listmaker can now be used with Softlink Oliver – instructions are on the website.

Posters and Brochures
There are still copies available if you would like to request some more.

Website
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 where a new topic will be posted each week. Students are invited to add ideas for future blog topics.

Students can now provide book reviews via a dropdown menu under the KIDSPACE section. This could be done as an individual activity or something a class would like to be involved in, knowing the reviews will be published on the PRC website. Students can share reviews and read those sent in by others. The best reviews will receive a book prize each month. Please note that no surnames or schools will be published on the website.

NEWS/SCHOOL AND LIBRARY VISITS

- Adelaide United hits Jamestown
- The Challenge is launched at Reidy Park
- Gavin Wanganeen visits the Youth Education Centre at Cavan
NEWS/POPULAR BOOKS
• The popular books from 2008 overall and by year level.

NEWS/IDEAS FROM SCHOOLS
• The Great Sheep Run at Brighton Primary School
• Reading Rocks at St Ann’s Special School
• Beachport Primary School – Book Activity Idea

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.

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

Popular Books 2009
In the Booklist section of the website there is a list of:
• Popular Books by Year Level - Reception to Year 9
• 50 Popular Books for Reception to Year 9
Each year a different sample of schools is selected to send in their Student Reading Records and all these books are entered into the database so lists of popular books can be established.

PRC Banner Bookings – free use of the Premier’s Reading Challenge display banners
Banner booking times are still available for 2009 for schools and public libraries and can be booked by downloading the form in the FOR STAFF section of the PRC website.

NAPLAN results and PRC
In the results for the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in 2008, DECS students completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge statistically outperformed those who did not. The results were based on 24 640 students who participated in both the NAPLAN test and the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) in 2008 in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. This is represented in the graph, where the difference between the mean scores for PRC and the non-PRC students demonstrates a difference in reading ability of approximately 7 months for year 3 students, 6 months for year 5 students, 3 months for year 7 students and 9 months for year 9 students. These trends are supported by the results in the previous four years’ state Literacy and Numeracy (LAN) tests for Premier’s Reading Challenge participants.

Further results for years 3, 5 and 7 demonstrated that the PRC is attracting students from all ability levels, not just those who are in the upper bands for reading. In year 9 there are more students participating from the upper bands which may account for some of the difference for Year 9 students.

Feedback from the online survey at the end of 2008
Did you know that:
• awards can be listed in class groups if a class is designated at the time of data entry?
• if the year 3 to year 5 books are not challenging enough, a student may read from the year 6 to Year 9 list with guidance?
• every book has a short annotation on the website?
• students and teachers can email ideas of books to be considered for next year’s booklist
• students who cannot yet read can still participate in the Challenge by having the books read to
  them?
• many students say they do not use the website? There is a lot on the website to interest students
  including the book search functions (by author, title, category and series), annotations, Kidspace
  blog and now book reviews.
• students said they were encouraged to participate by the people around them, particularly teachers
  and teacher librarians. Thank you!

One comment from the survey by an adult expressed an interesting viewpoint: ‘Premier’s Reading
Challenge is just the vehicle which gives the opportunity to encourage students with a literacy activity.’

Comeout 18-30 May 2009
There is information about the Literature Program on the last page of this email. The Dromkeen Exhibition
will be amazing and would provide a very interesting venue for teacher librarian hubgroups.

Still relevant from Update 1, 2009 ………

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

Guideline 1: 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.

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. Many visits are being organised for this term. Please remember
Adelaide United visits need to be requested through the AUFC website.

I hope your Premier’s Reading Challenge year continues well for you, your school and your public library.

Kind regards

Alle

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Come Out 09 Literature Connections
Book now to make the most of these fantastic opportunities!  www.comeout.com.au

Places are still available for the Books & Bites performances for students and teachers.

The following Meet the Author Workshops also have spaces available:
Author Team A          Author Team B
Debra Abela              Michael Bauer
Duncan Ball              David Cornish
Phil Cummings            Narelle Oliver

The Picturing Words exhibition put on by the Adelaide Festival Centre (SA) & The Dromkeen Collection (VIC) is free for students and teachers.
School groups are encouraged to book.
Contact Artspace Ph: 8216 8850
Artspace@adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au
Picturing Words teachers’ notes are available at www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

Page One – Act One created by centrED (Adelaide Festival Centre’s Education Program) are dramatisation sessions designed for school groups visiting the exhibition. Price $4 ($2 Dis)To book: phone BASS Special Events on 8205 2220 or fax 8211 8620.
Extended learning resources are available at www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

Come Out Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers

Picturing Words
Overview: Taking a behind- the- scenes look at the work of some of Australia’s finest illustrators including their preliminary sketches and drawings which reveal the creative stages and processes that lead to finished picture books.
Focus: Literature
Program Links: Picturing Words, Books & Bites
Presenter: Kaye Keck, Director of the Dromkeen Collection Art Gallery
Year level focus: 9 – 12
Date & Time: Thurs 7 May 9.30am – 12 pm
Venue: Artspace, Adelaide Festival Centre
To book: Contact the Come Out Box Office
Phone the 8267 4027

Complete the PD form and fax to: 8267 4027

For further information please contact:

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Colliding Worlds  18 - 30 May 2009
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