Hi everyone

We are getting into countdown mode for the end of reading for the Challenge on 4 September 2009. Hopefully this will go very smoothly and I will keep you updated on what is required.

Preparing for the end of the Challenge in 2009
On Tuesday 4 August you will receive an email which will list all students at your school who completed the Challenge in 2008 including the award they received so you will have a current list of what each student has achieved so far. You may like to display the list so teachers and students can check the awards. If you are made aware of any students who don’t appear to be listed as receiving the correct award please contact me as soon as possible and before you enter data this year.

Of course it won’t include students new to your school this year, but if you would like to check the records of any new students please email. The list will include students who have left your school this year but you do not need to do any follow-up with these students.

Completing the 2008 Challenge
There are five weeks remaining to encourage all students to finish the challenge for this year and for them to gain that sense of achievement from knowing they completed what they set out to do. It would be appreciated if you could especially encourage Aboriginal students in your school to finish the Challenge as part of the focus on increasing literacy skills of Aboriginal students.

Public Libraries
If you know of Home Education families who are participating in the challenge please remind them to send in the completed Student Reading Records by the 4 September 2009 as you see them coming through the library. All details of where to send the forms are on the Student Reading Record.

Children who have changed from a non-government school to a DECS school
If you are aware of children who have completed the challenge in previous years in a non-government school who now attend a DECS school, please email me their new EDID number so it can be added to the student’s record to make sure the correct award is given this year. This is very important to maintain continuity of their awards and will prevent having to follow this up after the awards are presented.

Children whose surname has changed
If you are aware of any child who has completed the Challenge in previous years whose surname has changed this year, please email me the changes so their records will match this year.

Students who have completed the Challenge for 2009 and have now left your school
If you have already collected a Student Reading Record from a child who has since left your school, you can either enter the record at your school and forward the award when it arrives, or pass on the Student Reading Record in plenty of time for the new school to be able to enter the record with all the children from the new school.

Key dates
4 September 2009 (Week 7, Term 3)
- Reading finishes for the 2009 Challenge
- All Student Reading Records given to School Contact Person
• Home Education Student Reading Records sent to the Project Manager

7 - 18 September 2009 (Weeks 8 and 9, Term 3)
• All student data entered into EDSAS for DECS schools and via the website for non-government schools
• Student Reading Records sent to the Project Manager ONLY if requested

November 2009
• Student awards - certificates, bronze, silver, gold, champion and legend medals arrive in schools for school presentations early in November
• Premier’s Reception for invited schools achieving outstanding numbers of students completing the Challenge will be held on Friday 20 November.

Preparation for Data Entry 2009
• Links to Fact Sheets with all instructions for data entry are available on the PRC website in the FOR STAFF/PARENTS section – click on the top drop down DATA ENTRY. Please follow the Fact Sheets carefully and don’t use last year’s fact sheets as there are some slight changes.
• It is recommended that you keep Student Reading Records in class groups as you collect them
• When you enter your total school enrolment numbers include all students Reception to Year 9 who could have reasonably completed the Challenge for 2009. For example, if there is a new enrolment some time during third term the student may not have time to complete the Challenge before week 7 so you would not be required to include the student in the total enrolment numbers.
• DECS schools can begin to enter data through EDSAS any time this term. Please ignore the Consent and Remove Consent button that you may notice this year – this information is NOT required.

New for this year
• DECS school contact people will receive an email two days after you enter data confirming that data has come through to the PRC database.
• Adding your school site number on the Total School Enrolment screen. (If you have already begun to add data, please go back and check that the school site number is entered on the enrolment screen – step 2 following the Fact Sheet.)
• Non-government schools can begin to enter data once you have received your logon and password. Input of data will be through a link on the website in the FOR STAFF section. Each PRC school contact person in non-government schools will be emailed a username and password during the week ending 7 September 2007. For security reasons, the login and password will be sent to you in two separate emails. As soon as you receive your username and password you can begin to enter data following the steps on the fact sheet.
• Work in small batches of 50 or so students and submit quite often using the completed PRC button to make sure the data saves. You can check what has been saved by running a report.

The Great Big Science Read!
During the month of June, Premier’s Reading Challenge promoted the reading of science books with Science Outside the Square (Royal Institution of Australia), The Little Big Book Club and The Big Book Club. Congratulations to the competition winners who have won science books and are listed in the NEWS section of the PRC website.

Generic Certificate for Premier's Reading Challenge Activities may be useful in Term 3 and 4
A certificate has been designed to use for activities associated with the Premier's Reading Challenge. It must be noted that this certificate is NOT to be used as the official Premier’s Reading Challenge certificate. The official certificate will continue to be awarded by the Premier in November to students achieving the Challenge for the first time. This generic certificate might be presented, for example, by a principal, a classroom teacher, a public librarian, a literacy coordinator or a teacher librarian in recognition of achievement associated with the Premier’s Reading Challenge. It could be presented to a student, a teacher or even a parent for recognition of supporting the Challenge.

The certificate is available on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website in FOR STAFF and then click on the dropdown GENERIC CERTIFICATE.
Many schools have created their own certificates to cover a variety of situations and you are still most welcome to use these.
PRC Banner Bookings – free use of the Premier’s Reading Challenge NEW display banners

Two styles of new banners have arrived which have been designed using ‘the new look’ for the Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2009. Your school or public library can borrow either style. There is:

- a horizontal banner which can be used for wall displays or used to hold in a procession and is suitable for outside use
- a vertical freestanding ‘pull-up’ style banner.

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 – look for banner in the drop-down menu.

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 KIDSPACE section to your community. It is hoped that students will get involved in the blogs where a new topic will be posted each week until the end of the Challenge in September. Students are invited to add ideas for future blog topics.

Students can now provide book reviews via a dropdown menu under the KIDSPACE section. The book prize winners for May, June and July are on the website. Please note that no surnames are published on the website. August will be the last chance to enter book reviews and win a book prize for 2009.

NEWS

- Premier’s Reading Challenge Annual Report 2008
  - Executive Summary
  - Full report (will take a while to load)
- Mem Fox Visits Naracoorte and Penola
- Adelaide United FC – Schools Beach Tournament
- The Great Big Science Read! Competition Winners
- Book Review Winners for May, June and July
- Children’s Book Council Zoo Safari on Sunday 23 August 2009

NEWS/SCHOOL AND LIBRARY VISITS

- Hampstead Primary School – Che Cockatoo-Collins
- Madison Park Schools- Mark Bickley
- Salisbury Schools – Mark Bickley
- St Joseph’s School, Kingswood – Janeen Brian

NEWS/IDEAS FROM SCHOOLS

- St Joseph’s School, Port Lincoln – Ambassador display

NEWS/LITERACY and NUMERACY IDEAS

- Solomontown PS Reading Events

NEWS/NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

- Pennington Junior Primary School

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.

Ambassadors

Thank you for the ambassador requests. More visits are organised for this term and plans are being made for presentations in Term 4. Please remember Adelaide United visits need to be requested through the AUFC website. http://www.adelaideunited.com.au/default.aspx?s=schooldays

Adelaide United Football Club – PRC Ambassador Team: Schools Beach Tournament

High Schools are invited to join the Reds this November during PE Week for the 2009 Schools Beach Tournament. Details and the application form are available on the Adelaide United website.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 31 August – 6 September 2009

Literacies and Numeracies in a Globalised World
2009 Literacy & Numeracy Expo - 31 August & 1 September at the Education Development Centre. 
www.nlhw.sa.edu.au for all details.

I hope the Premier’s Reading Challenge year continues to go well for you, your school and your public library and that you have an enjoyable Children’s Book Week.

Kind regards

Alle

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