The first year of the reader for life – gold award (R4Lg)

www.prc.sa.edu.au

Update 4 April 2014

Many thanks again for your wonderful efforts and support of the Challenge in your school/library! Already, we are just over 4 months from completing reading of 12 books for the Challenge for 2014!

NEW!! Please promote KIDSPACE and the brand new TEENSPACE to students – monthly winners of Rate-a-reads will win a book prize. Students can also post blogs, in either section, discussing their reading and books and check out who won the book prize each month (and particularly what they read!), from February to September.

Rate-a-read: March Winner
Kate, from Seymour College
Well done, Kate!!!
Check out her review on the website!

Don’t forget to promote the ‘like’ button attached to books – students can vote on books they like and also leave a review for other students to read what they liked about the book.

Have a look at the TOP 10 LIKES for 2013. Evenly spread with likes from R-2, 3-5, 6-9 with a total of 4 363 likes in the Top 10 alone.

NEW!! STUDENT VOICE INITIATIVE:
Recommend-a-Read

We are also asking students, families and communities to have their say in the Challenge booklists! Send in your recommendations today for books that you would like to see listed on the booklists, and our Panel will consider them. Please encourage students and families to submit their recommendations for books not on our booklists – encourage them to look at the criteria.

To support good review writing and to refine the teaching of review writing, check out the following and share amongst your colleagues.

At this site:

You will find this paper on review writing:

Also, encourage students to post blogs, sharing their thoughts about books.

DATA ENTRY OPEN – from 7th July to 19th September (you can enter in batches)

All schools with 100% of their students completing the Challenge in 2014 will be entered into a draw to win a collection of 12 books for their school library.

SCHOOL AND LIBRARY VISITS

• Sue Harris completed a regional tour and visited Ceduna Area School (Primary), Crossways Lutheran School, Streaky Bay Area School, Koonibba Aboriginal School, Penong Primary School, Ceduna Area School (Middle School) and Miltaburra Area School
• Mem Fox visited St Brigid’s Catholic School and Elizabeth Downs Primary School
• Bec Morse visited Immanuel Primary School
• Travis Moran visited St Ignatius’ College
• Phil Cummings visited Nicolson Ave Primary School, Whyalla

Thanks to everyone who has shared their Challenge celebrations on the website. We love to share your ideas for everyone to access.
New books added for April Update
Following the Children's Book Council announcement of shortlisted and notable books, we are updating our booklists to include them. This should be up by 16th May. PRC Listmaker will also be updated as soon as possible.

Hall of Fame Honour Roll
The Hall of Fame Honour Roll is to be updated to include new students from 2013 and should be live by Friday the 16th May.

“Mature” category
Don't forget that we have separated the “Mature” category from the 6 – 9 booklists to avoid confusion. The books in this age group are recommended for students in years 9 to 12. You can also purchase spine stickers with ‘Mature’ printed on them to mark these books in your library, to assist in easy identification for staff and students (we are in the process of removing the ‘6 – 9’ tag on the Mature stickers).
It is recommended that you keep Mature books separate from the other PRC booklists books.

‘Teachers’ Pet Reads’
Students will become excited about reading when teachers show that they themselves are excited about reading. This enables them to believe in the value of reading and can motivate them to become interested in it. So, while we are promoting the many benefits of reading to our students, it is great for teachers to model good reading habits and their enjoyment of reading by participating in ‘Teachers’ Pet Reads’. Similar to student rate-a-reads, they can help busy teachers to choose good books to enjoy in their spare time, or to share with their students.
Send in a short review - please note: the content you are providing will be going onto the web for all to see. Please provide the title/name you wish to identify yourself by. You might like to also promote this feature to parents in your school community.

The Australian Curriculum and the Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Challenge’s annotated booklists are a great resource that can support teachers in literature selection for both shared text study and independent reading. The booklists can also be useful in supporting teaching the Literature strand of the Australian Curriculum: English.

We have linked the Premier's Reading Challenge to the ACARA website for easy reference to the Australian Curriculum. Please go to the Links tab on the Staff/Teachers page.

General Capabilities
To support teachers with teaching the general capabilities, suggested relevant or related categories from the Challenge booklists are listed. Please explore the link between the General Capabilities, their organising elements, learning continuum and the Premier's Reading Challenge.
These can be found in the Teachers/Staff tab on the Staff/Teachers page, click General Capabilities:

Cross Curriculum Priorities
The categories “Environment”, “Asian Content” and “Aboriginal Content” are part of the student booklists. To support teachers in with the Cross Curriculum Priorities, we have categorised the booklists for teachers in each of the Cross Curriculum Priorities into R – 2, 3 – 5, 6 – 9 and Mature (9 – 12) year levels.
These can be found in the Teachers/Staff tab on the Staff/Teachers page, click Cross Curriculum Content:
http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/prc/pages/books/ccp/

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students
Schools are urged to encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to participate in and complete the Challenge, in line with State and National strategies. Numbers of Aboriginal students completing the Challenge increased from 3 616 to 3 750 in 2012, which is a 3.7% rise. Let's support even greater completion in 2014!

RSPCA and the Challenge
The Premier's Reading Challenge has recently collaborated with RSPCA South Australia and is delighted to announce that we now have a link to them, through our website. Students and families can soon check out books on the Challenge lists that have been approved by RSPCA South Australia. Upcoming news: Animal Month is on for the month of May and the major event for RSPCA is the Million Paws Walk on the 18th. We will be featuring our Animals book category for May, and RSPCA will be supplying some very interesting ‘Furry Facts’ throughout – stay tuned!

Numeracy and Literacy Strategy
Great start – Strong Foundations – Powerful learners : A Numeracy and Literacy Strategy from Birth - 18 is being progressively implemented in early childhood settings, preschools, schools and the wider community from 2013, with short, medium and longer-term goals to be achieved over the next five years.

Actions that the Challenge can support the Numeracy and Literacy Strategy include:
- strengthening learning partnerships between families and communities and schools:
keep your school community informed about progress throughout the Challenge – publish finishing date and time remaining frequently in newsletters and the school calendar

invite your school community into the school for assemblies and other celebrations about reading and the Challenge (Book Week is coming up from Saturday 16 August - Friday 22 August with the theme – connect to reading)

encourage parents and families in supporting their child’s reading – at home or coming into the school to assist in reading

see if any community members might come into the school to motivate your students to read and complete the Challenge – local personalities, librarians, authors, etc.

providing families with a range of information, resources and learning opportunities so they can be partners in helping their children to develop their language and learning skills

inform your school community about the remodelled Challenge website with specific mention of the Parent and Families tab, which is a great resource for them about reading as a family and the Challenge

encourage parents and families to submit Recommend-a-Read – books that are not on our lists can also be recommended by parents/families and students (refer to information mentioned earlier in this update)

encourage parents and families to be involved in Rate-a-Read – supporting their child in writing a book review for a monthly book prize (refer to information mentioned earlier in this update).

Also, you might like to hyperlink the Challenge booklists on your school’s intranet or website and promote it to families. We have requests for the booklists and this is a great way to encourage family involvement in reading.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions about the Challenge,

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