DATA ENTRY OPEN – from 6 July to 19 September. Please note – Catholic and Independent schools will have their passwords and usernames sent in Week 9 (22 – 26 June), to be accessible from 7 July.

There is still plenty of time to encourage your readers to complete the Challenge
The closing date for reading for this year is approaching, however there is still time for your students to complete the Challenge. That’s around four books a month if students haven’t started yet and remember that they can include books on their library borrowing sheets, prescribed texts, class reads, research articles and so forth.

Congratulate all of your students who have already completed their reading for the Challenge, but encourage them to keep reading. Thanks to all staff, students and families for your ongoing energy in supporting our South Australian students to read.

Animal Month
Hoping that you are taking up the opportunity to celebrate May as Animal Month by:
- reading books on the Challenge lists that have been RSPCA approved
- referring students and families to read books from our PRC Animal Category
- checking out RSPCA’s fun facts
- participation in the ‘Million Paws’ event which was on 17 May, supporting the RSPCA. http://www.millionpawswalk.com.au/sa
- encouraging students to take part in our colourful canine competition, using this form to attach to entries.
- inviting the RSPCA visit your school for free (donations of pet food / fundraising activities appreciated) http://www.rspcasa.org.au/get-involved/education/

New books added for April Update
Following the Children's Book Council announcement of shortlisted and notable books, we will be updating our booklists to include new books for April 2015. PRC Listmaker will also be updated, scheduled to be completed by 1 June.

Series
If one book from a series is on the Premier’s Reading Challenge booklists, all books from that series are classified as being on the lists.

Sometimes books in series span two year levels. This is due to content in the books which caters better for one level of reading or another, for example: ‘Geronimo Stilton’. Please remember that students are able to read from above or below their level, with teachers’ discretion and/or can include books as their free choice reads.

Books that are not part of a series are included on the Challenge booklists on an individual basis. If an author has one book included, other books written by them are not automatically included on the lists.

Reader for Life – champion award
The Reader for Life champion award, a gold stamped certificate with a yellow band and personalised and signed by the Premier for 12 years’ participation, is to be presented for the first time in 2015. It can be included in the portfolio of achievements that many upper primary and secondary school students keep. The 137 students who attained the reader for life gold award in 2014 are the first cohort of students who are eligible for this award.

News/School and Library Visits
Walkerville Primary School Juliet Haslam
Burnside Library school holiday performance Sue Harris
Hahndorf PS Sue Harris
Redeemer Lutheran (Nuriootpa) Sue Harris
As a follow up to school visits, we request receipt of a short article and photo for our website with signed consent forms if student faces are visible.

Thank you to all schools that have had an Ambassador’s visit. Seeing the excitement on students' faces when an Ambassador speaks is, for me, a feature of the Challenge. Please place a request if you would like to have an Ambassador in Term 3 or for Presentations in Term 4.

Upcoming news – tune into the Love2Read website for great ideas on reading. The Reading Hour is back for 2015: Tuesday 18 August from 6 – 7 pm. Encourage your school community to set this time aside to read.

All schools who have 100% of their students complete the Challenge in 2015 will be entered into a draw to win a collection of 12 books for their school library.

Completion of the Challenge
Please be aware of students who might benefit from support in completing the Challenge. It is really gratifying to see all students who completed the Challenge receive their award. Enlist the aid of parents, support staff, colleagues and students to enable every possible student to complete their Challenge. Don’t forget that any ‘read alouds’ (class novels, shared reading etc.) and prescribed texts are eligible and can be included as reading for students.

Aboriginal Students
Schools are urged to encourage and support Aboriginal students to participate in and complete the Challenge, in line with State and National strategies. Aboriginal students completing the Challenge increased from 2013 by 3.4%, to 3 880 students in 2014. Let’s aim to improve on this and increase completion in 2015.

Again, thank you for your fantastic efforts in supporting your students with the Challenge in 2015. I am indebted to you for the work that you do in your site/s in promoting and supporting reading and the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Jones
Manager - Premier’s Reading Challenge
Numeracy and Literacy Level 2 West, 31 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Courier: R11/9A Phone: 8226 2006 Fax: 8226 2005 Email: carmel.jones@sa.gov.au