Welcome back to a new school year and the eleventh year of the Premier’s Reading Challenge in South Australia.

I am challenging South Australian students from Reception to Year 12 to read 12 books by 5 September 2014.

Also, for the first time, there will be a reader for life gold award presented to students who have completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge eleven times.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues to grow remarkably, with over 126 700 students completing the Challenge in 2013 from 688 schools and also from home education and individual student families. This is an increase of more than 2 470 students or over 1.9% from 2012.

Over 95% of all schools had students completing the Challenge. This is an outstanding achievement and I thank you all for your time and efforts in supporting children and their families to complete the Challenge.

I congratulate all participating schools on these fantastic results.

For the few schools not participating, it is never too late to begin and I strongly encourage you to join in the Challenge.

The Challenge is fortunate to have twenty two high profile and enthusiastic South Australian ambassadors who inspire students to enjoy reading and achieve their goals. Adelaide United Football Club, Link Lightning Basketball Club, Port Adelaide Football Club, Adelaide Football Club, Scorpions SA and Thunderbirds Netball Club have also thrown their support behind the Challenge and Premier’s be active Challenge as the ambassador teams.

All of the ambassadors volunteer their time to the program and visit many schools to inspire students to read.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues to be an important initiative that supports the State Government’s commitment to increase the literacy skills of young South Australians and encourage them to enjoy reading.

All information about the Challenge is on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website at www.prc.sa.edu.au, phone 8226 2006 or email prc@sa.gov.au. A school contact person is requested to coordinate your school’s participation on behalf of all teachers and students at your school.

I encourage all students to discover the world of reading with the Premier’s Reading Challenge, and I wish you every success in 2014.

Jay Weatherill
PREMIER