Welcome back to all school and public library contact people for PRC for 2008
Theme for 2008 – Reading takes you to amazing places.

New initiatives for 2008
Thank you to all Zoomerang survey respondents in November/December 2007 who contributed so much useful feedback to inform decisions for 2008 and beyond.

- 424 new titles have been added to the booklists including new graphic novels
- There is a new look for the front page of the website which includes ‘Quick links’
- Book ID numbers are no longer required on book stickers or on Student Reading Records
- Encouragement of staff and students to explore the Premier’s Reading Challenge website
- Promotion of reading books in languages other than English
- Encouragement to support Aboriginal students to complete the challenge
- A new ambassador – award winning children’s author, Janeen Brian

The next three medals which will follow on from gold are:
- Premier’s Reading Challenge Champion Medal from 2008
- Premier’s Reading Challenge Legend Medal from 2009
- Premier’s Reading Challenge Hall of Fame Medal 2010

Fast Facts for 2007
Total number of students completing the challenge – 100,971
Total certificates – 28,268
Total bronze medals – 28,228
Total silver medals – 23,438
Total gold medals – 21,037
Total books read – well over 2 million

Posters and Information Pack
All information packs have arrived in schools. Please check with your principal if you have not seen it yet.

Keys to success in PRC at school level (from the survey feedback)
- enthusiastic school contact people
- supportive classroom teachers and English teachers at high school
- encouragement from the school community for PRC to be seen as a whole school activity to benefit literacy
- high schools find it most successful when English teachers incorporate PRC into the English curriculum
- although the Challenge can be time consuming people said it was worth it to see the change in reading habits and other benefits (The time is very much appreciated, thank you – Alle)
- It is vital for children to fill in their Student Reading Records as they go for sanity of school contact person
Website
The website has had a ‘renewal’ – I hope you find it more functional and any ideas for further improvements would be appreciated. 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.

NEWS/LITERACY and NUMERACY IDEAS
- Seaclliff Primary School – powerpoint of favourite books

NEWS/IDEAS FROM SCHOOLS
- PRC launch at Brighton Primary School
- Warradale Bookrappers - how to involve students in the management of PRC
- Bookworms at Echunga Primary School (including a worm cake!)

NEWS/SCHOOL AND LIBRARY VISITS
- Launch at Loreto

If you would like activities/celebrations from your school 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 and PRC Listmaker
- New books have been ‘searchable’ on the website since 18 February 2008. If you were searching before this time they would not have shown up although the printable booklists have been correct since 4 February, 2008.
- Inadvertently, Gillian Rubinstein’s name has been misspelt (Rubenstein) so searching by author and using PRC Listmaker will not include her books. Please don’t take any stickers off – the books are still on the list and will be visible on the website and PRC Listmaker after the extra books are added in April.
- No books have been deleted this year. If for some reason PRC Listmaker does NOT list a book you had a sticker on last year it is most likely still on the list. PRC Listmaker seems to pick up most titles, but usually not all of them. Just leave the sticker on the book.
- There is a different process this year for AMLIB and PRC Listmaker – please just follow the directions.
- The popular books from 2007 overall and by year level, the links are on the website in NEWS/POPULAR BOOKS.
- No book ID numbers are required on the Student Reading Records this year. This should make it considerably easier for schools as you won’t need to put the number on the stickers either. It will also simplify the ‘series’ guideline – you can put a sticker on every Aussie Bite or Harry Potter etc without having to check on a number from another book in that series.
- New books in Reception to Year 2 – 136
  New books in Year 3 to Year 5 – 132
  New books in Year 6 to Year 9 – 156
- Many new books have been added in the diary category to build up the numbers - some not really current.
  Most new books are very current and may be useful as a buying guide for libraries.
  Older books have been left on the booklist list at the request from schools so stickers don’t have to be removed.
- One book on the list is so new it is not published yet but watch out for it in 2008 – Yassen by Anthony Horowitz which is the next book in the Alex Rider series after Snakehead
- Please remember that any of the students ‘own choice’ books can be read in languages other than English.

Ambassadors
- A new facility on the website is to be able to email the Ambassador request form or it can be printed and faxed.
- Please let me know if you would like a replacement ambassador poster from previous years.
• One of our ambassadors, netballer Rebecca Sanders, is now living in Vietnam. We are hoping to have our first ‘Contact an ambassador via email’ and it may particularly suit a school who is involved with an email program or an Access Asia school.

• We will be partnering with the e-Teacher program again this year to have ‘virtual ambassador visits’ via Centra in second term. So far they are planned for the APY lands and Wakefield District. If there are any more requests please let me know by this Friday, 29 February when I will be meeting with the e-Teachers.

**International Book day is on Thursday 6 March.**
If you are doing anything at your school to celebrate this event could you please let me know?

**MS Readathon**
The books students are reading for the Premier’s Reading Challenge can also be included in other literacy programs such as MS Readathon. There is more information about MS Readathon on the LINKS section or the PRC website.

Kaleen Watt continues in her role as the Administration Officer for the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

I hope your Premier’s Reading Challenge year goes really well for you and your school.

Kind regards

Alle

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