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## Update 1 – January 2020

### Hello Challenge Coordinators

The Premier's Reading Challenge 2019 once again broke all previous participation records. We reached our highest ever number of participants with 132,362 students completing the Challenge.

Thank you for your efforts!

The New Year begins. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new schools and new contact people participating this year. Please contact me if you are in doubt about any aspect of the Challenge.

Thank you all very much for your great work in initiating, promoting, and managing reading and the Challenge at your school or library. Thank you also for your prompt replies to our email asking for updated contact information where required. Correct contact information is crucial for dispersal of updates and information regarding the Challenge.

Schools report that critical keys to a successful year of reading and the Challenge are frequent reminders of the months left to complete the Challenge (about 5 months at this point), pacing students through their reading and encouraging family support of reading.

Good luck with the year ahead and thanks for participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge again this year.

**Please note: DATA ENTRY IS OPEN FROM 6 JULY to 18 SEPTEMBER - you can enter classes or individual students at any time during this time.**

### **Mark A. Williams**

#### **Manager Premier's Challenges**

*Department for Education | Education Support Hub, Level 1, 8 Milner St Hindmarsh SA 5007*

**Mail to:** Department for Education | Premier's Challenges | Attention: Mark Williams, GPO Box 1152, Adelaide, SA 5001 Courier R11/37A

Phone: 8226 2006

Email: [marka.williams@sa.gov.au](mailto:marka.williams@sa.gov.au)

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## Website support

The Challenge [website](#) has lots of information, particularly: [Guidelines](#) and [The Links](#) for related initiatives. Keep the website on display or have a quick link on the desktop in the library / ICT suite for easy access.

## School annual reports

Schools are including Premier's Reading Challenge statistics and information in school annual reports and site literacy plans. Attached to Update 1 were two reports your school may find useful.

- *Participant award summary* shows how many students received each award and the gender breakdown for your school
- *School summary results* shows the number of students completing the Challenge each year at your school since the Challenge began in 2004 and breaks this down by the bands of schooling.

If you did not receive these reports, please contact me by emailing [prc@sa.gov.au](mailto:prc@sa.gov.au) to request them again.

## The Australian Curriculum

The Challenge features annotated booklists which are reviewed by a panel of librarians and teachers, to ensure quality literature. Whilst the purpose of the booklists in the Premier's Reading Challenge is for students to engage in reading, the Challenge lists are a great resource that can support teachers in literature selection for both shared text study and independent reading. These booklists can be useful in supporting teaching the literature strand of the Australian Curriculum: English.

Content that relates to the [cross curriculum priorities](#): *Sustainability, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia* and *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander* histories and cultures have also been categorised for teachers:

- **Aboriginal/ATSI content**
- **Asian content**
- **Sustainability (Environment) content**

In order to address the capabilities, the booklists have also been sorted.

## Student voice – Recommend-a-read

We are also asking students, families and communities to have their say about the PRC booklists! Send in your recommendations today for books that you would like to see listed on the booklists, and our Booklist Panel will consider them. Due to the volunteer nature of our Booklist Panel, however, we are unable to advise individual entries whether or not their recommendation has been accepted. Any additions to the booklist will be reflected at the next update (mid-year and January 2020).

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.

## Listmaker issues

So that Listmaker can successfully match what is catalogued in the school's database against what is in the booklist, books need to be correctly tagged. If there is any discrepancy, please email us a copy of the school's database and highlight books that were not included.

## Hall of fame Honour Roll

Students are awarded a hall of fame medal after 7 years of completing the Challenge and are then eligible to have their name added to the hall of fame honour roll. For this to occur, students must have indicated 'consent to print' on their student reading records. Please confirm that consent has been indicated during your data entry for the small number of students who will be eligible this year.

In many schools, consent may be covered by a general school consent form signed by parents or carers at the beginning of each year. Individual schools will be able to decide if they need extra consent from parents to cover this situation. All schools are asked to inform parents/carers about the hall of fame honour roll. Only the student's first and last name will be included. Neither the name of the school nor the year level of the student will be included for added security.

Each year, the student reading record has a line where students indicate which award they will receive this year. On the next line an adult can sign to indicate whether consent from a parent or guardian to print the student's name has been given either by the general school consent form or through a specific consent form from the school.

This should make it very easy for the person entering student data in July through September to be able to indicate electronically whether students receiving a hall of fame medal have given consent for their name to be printed. This will be done in the usual way on EDSAS for government schools, through the website for non-government schools and by Challenge staff for home education and individual students.

### Steps for school contact people prior to the Challenge finishing:

1. **Establish who** will receive a hall of fame medal, indicated on the student reading record.
2. **Inform parents/carers** that if their child is being awarded a hall of fame medal their name can appear on the website.
3. Establish at each school whether **parent consent** is already covered or if a specific consent form should be signed by the parent/carers. Please note – no consent forms are required to be sent in to DECD.
4. Have the student reading record of all hall of fame medal students **signed by an adult** to indicate the student's name can be printed on the website.
5. At data entry time, **tick the column** 'Consent to print name'.  
For DECD schools there is a button on the bottom toolbar called 'Add consent' in the 'Select student screen' in EDSAS. When the button is selected a 'Y'(es) will show up to the right of the student's name.  
For non-government schools a tick box is on both the 'New' and 'Existing' student screens.  
Details are included in the 2015 data entry Fact Sheets.
6. The **Hall of Fame Honour Roll** will appear on the Challenge website towards the end of the school year.

### Example of a school newsletter article or note to parents/carers of students who will be awarded a hall of fame medal.

*(Please adapt this for your school.)*

#### **Premier's Reading Challenge**

Students have until 4 September 2020 to complete their reading for the Premier's Reading Challenge and to hand in their student reading records to .....

If your son/daughter has completed the Challenge for seven years, a hall of fame medal will be awarded in November. In recognition of this outstanding achievement your child's name can be included in the Premier's Reading Challenge hall of fame honour roll on the website. *The school consent form you signed at the beginning of the year will cover permission to consent for your child's first and last name to be printed. Neither the school nor year level will be included for security reasons. (OR)... For your child's name to be included please sign the consent form which your child will bring home and then return it to .....*

Thank you

## Whole school participation

Some suggestions to encourage greater involvement from all students:

- Place a *hyperlink to the booklists* on the school's intranet/webpage so that students and parents can access the booklists anytime.
- Place the *student reading records* appropriate for older students on the *school's intranet/webpage* so that they can download and complete. They can then email completed reading records to you (or their teacher) for verification, then be filed and stored electronically.
- Let the students meet at recess / lunch for '*Book Groups*' - provide some nibbles and a cosy room (inviting in winter!) Model how to run a book group discussion – then let them own and run it.
- Some secondary students are very enthused about the Challenge and receiving the medals, but are not enthused about public recognition - if this is a barrier, *don't have the assembly* or do it differently.
- Organise library lessons with yourself or guest teachers to read aloud to the class - get a really good book and put on a bit of a show. See if your English teachers might conduct an oral '*Reading Aloud is Allowed*' competition that would have students perform texts with prizes for the winners.
- Chat to your *English faculty* – encourage them to embed the Challenge in their programs (literature strand) as this seems to add weight and validity to reading for some students.
- Print out our *generic certificates* from the website - award for outstanding readers, books read, etc.
- Challenge students to read a book *from each category*.
- Put in an *ambassador* or ambassador team request at no cost by submitting a request form through our website.
- Develop a Challenge or reading-based *research project* in the senior years such as: the impact of the Challenge in the school, investigating writing a short story (the craft of writing), developing promotion of reading, tutoring / teaching to younger students, etc.

Please email to share your celebrations with everyone on the [website](#).

## Ambassador visits

Many visits are planned in the second term in response to the requests submitted through the website. Please note: for team requests for their programs, please go to their websites. The ambassadors volunteer their time to the project and they may not always be able to meet your requests. In the case of the interstate-based ambassador, please bear in mind that there is minimal opportunity to make any school visit. If your request is not able to be met, please put in another for either later in the year or for 2021.

Also, please note that the Adelaide Crows are no longer able to accept school visit requests due to training commitments.

## 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. A total of 4,801 students identifying as Aboriginal completed the Challenge in 2019, which is a 1% increase from 2018. Let's support even greater completion in 2020!

## EALD students (Students with English as an additional language or dialect)

Community Liaison Officers from a range of cultures are available to help support EALD students' involvement. They can explain to the members of various communities so that parents and caregivers can encourage and support their children.

Brochures are available to download in 24 languages plus English. Students can also read their 'own choice' books for the Challenge in languages other than English for Reception - Year 9. Years 10 – 12 have no lists as all books are 'own choice'.

## Banners

Banners are available for your school promotion of the Challenge: [Banner booking](#) .

## Awards

If you have any more queries about awards from 2019, please [contact me](#) as soon as possible.

## Families

Some schools may like to consider getting parents more involved in reading and the Challenge, perhaps by them helping at the school or family level. Keep promoting the Challenge in newsletters, to encourage parents to get their children participating. Place the finish date and any other relevant information on the school calendar.

Also, you might like to hyperlink the Challenge booklists on your school's intranet or website and promote them to families. This is a great way to encourage family involvement in reading.

## Participation in a Reading Challenge in other states and territories

Would you please let students and families who have arrived at your school from interstate know about [Guideline 9.4](#)?

## Booklists

We have added 246 new books for 2020, with the Premier's Reading Challenge booklist now reaching 7,386 books in total. We have listed them in PDF format, and excel versions are available on request.

## Series rule

**All books in a series are included in the Challenge.** Please be mindful that some series span one or more levels due to the content in different books within the series. Please encourage students to read a range of books rather than reading extensively from one series. Series Lists are available: '[Printing Booklists](#)'.

## Inspire SA News

Inspire SA is promoting science through the community with school aged children. As we did in 2019, the Premier's Reading Challenge will work with Inspire SA to promote STEM. Stay tuned for an exciting contest shortly.

Please [contact me](#) if you have any ideas or strategies that you would like to share to further develop and promote the Challenge. If not all classes in your school are involved, perhaps buddy with them to support their participation.

Enjoy reading and the Premier's Reading Challenge.