NEW IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2011 PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

Thursday 19 August, 2010

With the 2010 Premier’s Reading Challenge set to close in less than two weeks, preparations are already underway for the 2011 Challenge – which will have a number of major additions – in response to student and teacher suggestions.

Since the Premier’s Reading Challenge inception in 2001, NSW students have read more than 20 million books.

The Challenge requires students in Years 3 to 9 to read 20 books with at least 15 books coming from the Challenge reading list chosen by a panel of experts. Students in Years K to 2 must experience 30 books to achieve the Challenge.

More than 2.5 million books have been read this year as part of the Challenge.

Premier Kristina Keneally today reminded students to finish their reading lists before the 2010 Challenge ends on September 1, 2010.

She also encouraged them to enter the 2011 Challenge – which will feature a new ‘Hooked on Reading’ e-zine for students.

The ‘Hooked on Reading’ digital magazine will be published quarterly on the 2011 website and will include messages from the Premier, articles from students and teachers and regular content from authors.

The 2011 Challenge will also include an online poll for students to vote for their favourite book on the reading list and an online form for students to suggest a book for inclusion in the following year’s Challenge.

“Nearly 120,000 students completed the Challenge by mid-August with many more expected to finish in the next fortnight,” Ms Keneally said.

“With two weeks remaining, students who have completed the Challenge have already logged on to the Premier’s Reading Challenge website to record their achievements.

“It’s great to see so many NSW students developing a love of reading and taking part in the biggest reading challenge in Australia.

“NSW was the first State to introduce an initiative of this kind and we are seeing the benefits through improved literacy as more students than ever before are choosing to read.

“As the 2010 Challenge draws to a close, I encourage all students to keep reading throughout the remainder of the year in preparation for the 2011 event.”

About the Premier’s Reading Challenge:

The Premier’s Reading Challenge was established by the NSW Government to engage students in reading so they continue to read through their middle years of schooling and choose to read for leisure into adulthood.

It is part of a continuing commitment by the NSW Government to improving the reading and writing abilities of students in their earliest years of learning and beyond.
Since its inception, more than 20 million books have been read for the Challenge.

The Challenge requires students in Years 3 to 9 to read 20 books over a year. At least 15 of the 20 books that students read come from a list chosen by a panel of experts. Students in Years K to 2 must experience 30 books to achieve the Challenge.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is an initiative of the NSW Government with principal support from the Dymocks Children’s Charities, supporting partner, OPSM, and media partner, *The Sun-Herald*.