



St Thomas the Apostle Primary School

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CHIEF MINISTERS READING CHALLENGE

Dear Parents and Students,

About the Challenge

This year St Thomas the Apostle are participating in the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. Every year, tens of thousands of Preschool to Year 8 students across the ACT participate in the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. The hope of the challenge is that every young person in the ACT discovers the joy reading can bring. Once students discover this joy a whole world of adventures await them, and the knowledge they can attain is limitless.

To get the most out of the Challenge, students are encouraged to try choosing books from different genres, sharing their favourite books and stories with their classmates, and exceeding the 15 books set by the Challenge.

Prizes

- By participating in this challenge students can win book vouchers for our school library.
- The student who reads the most books in each year level will receive a book voucher for themselves.
- The class who reads the most books in infants (K-2) and upper primary (3-6) will have a class BBQ and a free play afternoon at the end of Term 3.

What is the Challenge?

The Challenge for students is to read **15** books of their own choice. Students are encouraged to choose their own books and can ask parents, teacher or librarian for suggestions. These can be any genre in picture books, novels, comic books, graphic novels, poetry, or non-fiction books, or books in a language other than English (in paper or electronic form). Students are encouraged to read books at their reading ability level. K-2 Students can read books themselves or with someone else. Students may list books that are read to them on their *Student Reading Record* (attached).

Steps to take

For Students

1. Read great books that interest you.
2. Read a minimum of 15 books before the 8th of September.
3. Each time you complete a book add it to your *Student Reading Record* (attached). Keep your *Student Reading Record* in a safe place. This could be at home or at school in a sleeve or folder to prevent it from getting damaged.

4. When you have finished reading a book, ask a parent, carer or teacher to initial/verify your entry.
5. When you have finished reading 15 books and have recorded them and had them verified, put your *Student Reading Record* in the tray at the desk in the library during lunch time or your class library time.
6. Take a new *Student Reading Record* from the tray on the desk in the library and go back to step 1. See how many times you can hand in a *Student Reading Record*.

For Parents

1. Encourage your child to READ READ READ!
2. Help your child choose books from different genres, books that will interest them, and books at their reading ability level.
3. Ask your child questions about the books they are reading.
4. Initial/verify your child's book entry on their *Student Reading Record*.

Reading tips

For Students

How to choose the best book?

- Look for topics that you are interested in
- Look at the front cover and illustrations in the book
- Read the blurb and the first page
- Look for other books by a favourite author
- Ask friends, family or teachers for recommendations

For Parents

Reading with older children

- Let your child choose their own books
- Visit and join your local public library
- Relax and enjoy reading time with your child

Reading with younger children

- Read the books together with funny voices, or take turns to read different characters
- Talk about your favourite parts of the books and which authors you like the most
- Try reading in different locations like the backyard, coffee shop, and lounge room floor
- Allow your child to choose how to read the book. They may like to do *echo reading* with you (parent reads and the child echoes back), *shared reading* with you (taking turns to read) or *independent reading* (read to you or to themselves).

For more information on finding books for the challenge please refer to this website

http://www.education.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/chief_ministers_reading_challenge/visit_your_library.

The challenge starts from today. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions about the challenge please do not hesitate to contact me at hayley.douglas@cg.catholic.edu.au.

Happy Reading.

Hayley Douglas
Teacher Librarian