Dear Parent/Guardian

As patron of the 2012 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge, and on behalf of the former Premiers John Cain, Joan Kirner, Jeff Kennett, Steve Bracks and John Brumby, I am delighted to invite your children to participate in the eighth annual Premiers’ Reading Challenge.

Since 2005 the Challenge has promoted the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and encouraged families and parents to be more involved with supporting children’s reading in and beyond school.

This year is the National Year of Reading, so it’s a perfect time for students to be inspired by the Challenge and to discover the magical power of books. It is an ideal opportunity for parents and families to share in these discoveries too.

Parents with children who are new to the Challenge will soon find out that this program provides an easy and fun way for students in years Prep to 10 to record their reading as they try to reach the set reading targets.

Those of you with children who have participated in previous Challenges will know that, as well as the personal rewards reading brings, there are also certificates of achievement for students who reach their reading targets.

Also returning in 2012 are the Challenge Ambassadors. These well-known authors, illustrators and children’s entertainers will again visit schools around the State to promote reading. I am pleased to announce that one of the Ambassadors will design this year’s certificate, which will be promoted as a collector’s edition.

More information about the Premiers’ Reading Challenge can be found on the official website at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc. The website provides comprehensive information about key dates, answers to frequently asked questions by parents and students, guidelines for schools and, of course, the 2012 Challenge booklists.

This year the Challenge booklists have been expanded and I encourage you to search them with your children to find much-loved treasures as well as new releases. There are thousands of books from which to choose, including fiction, non-fiction, plays, poetry, short stories and graphic novels.

Along with former Premiers of Victoria, I encourage your children to participate in what promises to be a bigger and better Challenge than ever before.

Regards

Ted Baillieu MLA
Premier of Victoria