



Department of  
Education and Training

## *Media Statement*

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

08/04/09

### **South West students solve summer reading mystery**

South West students spent their holidays solving mysteries, embarking on adventures, casting spells and meeting handsome princes – all by entering the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge.

With 87 per cent of students at the school completing the challenge, Kirup Primary School won a \$5,000 prize for having the highest percentage of students participating in the challenge in the State.

St Mary's School, in Boyup Brook, also performed well, with 57.6 per cent of students participating in the challenge.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said about 6,400 students completed the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge between December 2008 and February 2009.

"Congratulations to Kirup Primary and St Mary's School for their wonderful efforts in the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge," Ms O'Neill said.

"Reading gives students a chance to practice their comprehension skills and keep their minds active, so we often find that students who are top performers at school are those who enjoy reading at home.

"Enjoying what we read can't be underestimated. For children and parents, it's the 'fun factor' that motivates us to gain confidence with reading and leap headfirst into the many new worlds that reading offers."

To enter the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge, children from Kindergarten to Year 3 were asked to read (or be read to) at least 10 hours during the holidays.

Children in Years 4 to 7 were challenged to read (or be read to) at least 15 hours during the same period.

Books, newspapers, magazines and talking books all counted toward the challenge.

For the first time, parents were able to take up the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge and compete for prizes including a Sony Handycam and tickets to a Members Equity Stadium event.

“Congratulations must also go to all the parents who took part in the challenge for setting such a great example to their children, showing that reading is a skill for life – not just at school or in the office,” Ms O’Neill said.

As rewards for students’ efforts, more than 700 prizes have been drawn including Wooldridges book vouchers, iPod shuffles, signed Fremantle Football Club football and guernsey, a signed Perth Glory guernsey, Walt Disney BOLT merchandise and movie vouchers.

The Premier’s Summer Reading Challenge is sponsored by Wooldridges, Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Australia and Members Equity Bank.

For more information, visit [www.det.wa.edu.au/readingchallenge](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/readingchallenge)

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