

28<sup>th</sup> May 2009

## **MOUNT CLEAR STUDENTS TAKE THE PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE**

Thousands of Victorian Prep to Year 10 students across the state have taken up the Premier's challenge to read more books.

A massive 750,000 books have already been read for this year's Challenge.

Geoff Howard MP, Sate Member for Ballarat East, today visited Mt Clear Primary School to congratulate students and celebrate the school's participation in this year's Reading Challenge.

Grade 3 and 4 students were also treated to a presentation by popular children's author and Premiers Reading Challenge ambassador, David Metzenthen on writing, reading and enjoying books. The students at Mt Clear had read many of David's books and were thrilled to be able to ask questions of the author and have their books signed.

"It's terrific to see students at the school taking up the Challenge with such energy and enthusiasm," Mr Howard said.

"Reading is an essential life skill and the Challenge encourages students to discover the wonder and excitement of a good book."

The Challenge, now in its fifth year, aims to promote a love of reading and encourages students to read broadly.

Students in Years 3 to 10 are required to read 15 books or more by August 31.

For students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 the challenge is to read or 'experience' 30 books by August 31.

More than 117,000 Victorian students completed last year's challenge.

Students who complete the Challenge on August 31 will receive a signed certificate from Premier John Brumby.

For more information, visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc)