

Dear Parent/Guardian,

For the past four years, students in Years 7-9 have participated in the REED program as part of Literacy. This is a reading for enjoyment program requiring students to read quietly for fifteen minutes. During the usual school cycle, this program runs each day except Thursday due to our assembly timetable. However, as we will be working on a slightly different timetable, we have decided for a change to how this program runs to continue this good habit.

At the end of each school day, students at 3.30 are encouraged to select a book for reading that is not being studied nor has been studied previously. This can be Fiction, Non-Fiction, Graphic Novel, Newspaper or Journal. The aim is for the students to have a clear end to their school day and prepare them for the next part of their own program. Books can be e-books. Through our library, we have eBooks available through Wheelers. Students go on to our library page, go to the drop-down box for Student Guides. Select Wheelers eBooks. Follow the instructions from there and you now have access to eBooks.

Students in Years 7-9 are part of Renaissance Accelerated Reader program at school. This program encourages students to read books within a targeted range of book levels and complete quizzes after finishing the book to determine their comprehension of the content.

An optional part of this program is completing quizzes so the student can see what they have remembered, how many words they have read and how their reading is improving. Research supports the idea of quiet reading for enjoyment to raise the literacy levels of students cross the board. Literacy is an aspect found in all areas of education and life. I have adjusted the quiz program to be able to be accessed from home. This maintains reading and literacy skills during school closure and enables your child's teacher to monitor their progress during these times.

Students have their own usernames and passwords.

Username - student ID OR student email (123456 or 123456@crcmelton.com.au)

Password - crcmelton

They will need a device to access the Renaissance Place link, which is below:

<https://auhosted4.renlearn.com.au/1482190/default.aspx>

After logging in, students will go to the Home page, where they will see tiles for Star Reading and Accelerated Reader.

Please ensure your child enters their student ID as one incorrect numeral can cause a problem for them. They have three opportunities to log in correctly before they are locked. If this occurs, please email me and I will fix the problem.

At home, you should be encouraging your student to be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes every day.

Parents:

- Have your child record what they are reading, pages read each day, their quiz scores, and their progress toward personalised goals on a student reading log. This helps you monitor their daily reading and helps them become accountable for their own practice.
- Encourage students to read Accelerated Reader Articles (the third tile on the student dashboard)

There are two further parts to this program which I will send out more information in the next week.

Things to Remember:

- Students should only take quizzes when they have finished reading the book.
- To ensure integrity of data, students should not be assisted or guided in answering questions. The quizzes are developed at the same level of difficulty as the book so students should be comfortable reading the questions independently.

- Encourage students to use different strategies while they read (especially lengthier, more difficult books) to help cement their understanding. This could include a reading log, chapter summaries, writing out plot timelines or storyboarding sequences from the book.
- Higher ability readers should be encouraged to read widely. They already *read well*, so the aim is to help them become *well read*. We encourage reading non-fiction texts, more challenging novels, newspapers, magazines and other materials in conjunction with AR books.

When it comes to reading and supporting children's literacy development, you may ask a myriad of questions.

- **What can I do to help my child?** Sit near them and pick up a book yourself. This is the perfect opportunity for you to take a mini break from the stresses of the day.
- **How do I eliminate the stress associated with reading at home?** Reading becomes a learned behaviour meaning we are not born readers. We encourage you to just sit and model reading. As time goes on, you will find both you and your child will become less stressed.
- **She/he says they hate reading ... what can I do about that?** Find something that your child likes. Usually when we hate reading, it is because we have not found something that interests us. However, another reason we hate reading is that we struggle. Please feel free to contact either myself or their English teacher for some advice.
- **What can I do to help when English is my second language and I cannot read well myself? Or I struggle to read myself. How can I help my child?**
- No one said you must read English books. However, this could be a great opportunity for your child to help you improve your English. No one is born as a specific language speaker or the ability to read. Take your time and read what you can. You can do no harm. We are always here to help you too. Feel free to contact me.

Remember at the core of reading is the relationship and bond between yourself and your child that is enhanced through reading together. It only takes ten minutes a day to build this relationship.

Most of all, it is through interactions with you, that children learn new vocabulary, seek clarification of new understandings, and learn to comprehend their expanding worlds. Talk is the key to reading and writing success. Talking about the books with your child has a significant effect on literacy learning in general.

Technical Specifications

Accelerated Reader is compatible with the following devices:

- Windows Computers
- MacBook
- iPads

Supported Web Browsers

- Windows – Internet Explorer 10.x–11.x1
- Chrome – five most recent versions
- Macintosh – Safari 7 and later, Firefox - five most recent versions
- Chrome – five most recent versions

Any questions in regards to this program, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Regards

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