Dear Families,

Can you imagine going through life with the literacy skills of a six-year old? Sadly, this is a reality for many Indigenous Australians living in remote communities today. Being able to read is fundamental to learning and opens doors to the future.

As part of Indigenous Literacy Day on **WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER**, we are taking part in **Great Book Swap Challenge**, a fundraising event for Indigenous Literacy.

Our school can help buy books and literacy resources for Indigenous children living in remote communities and make their future a reality by getting involved in the **2016 Great Book Swap Challenge** and fundraising. The Challenge is supported by The Children’s Book Council of Australia and National Literacy & Numeracy Week.

**The Great Book Swap Challenge** fundraising event involves our school community, students, staff and parents swapping books with one another. Adults and children will be invited to bring a book they would like to swap. This will be placed into the box in your child’s classrooms or at the office, for adults. Children will have the opportunity to swap books on this day. Adults will get their chance to swap books after school between 3:00-4:00 pm or until stocks run out. We invite a $2 donation for the opportunity to swap a book. For further information view the link and film on the Indigenous Literacy Foundation website. Any further questions please see Cathy McKenzie or our student leaders.

Thank you for your continued support,

Cathy McKenzie and the staff at St Thomas More.
The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is an initiative and charity of The Australian Book Industry drawing on its diverse range of expertise, skills and resources. It works with the support of the Australian Publishers Association, the Australian Booksellers Association and the Australian Society of Authors.

The Foundation employs an Indigenous Literacy Program Manager who is based in Darwin and who works closely with communities around Australia. Funds raised by the Foundation help purchase and supply culturally appropriate books and literacy resources for over 200 remote communities around Australia. Communities select and order books from a range of book lists selected by our Program Manager in consultation with a team of literacy experts. Books are then ordered and sent to schools, libraries, early learning centres including crèches, women's and youth drop-in centres in remote communities, with the assistance of the Australian Booksellers Association and from publishers and distributors.

The Foundation's core aim and objectives

- To raise literacy levels and thus improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions.
- To advocate to raise awareness of literacy issues within the Australian community.
- To raise funds to equip Indigenous Australians living in remote communities with books and the support they need to become literate.

The Foundation’s major fundraising campaign in 2016 is Indigenous Literacy Day on Wednesday 7th September 2015.

History

The Foundation first began in 2004 when educator and bookshop owner, Suzy Wilson (Riverbend Books in Queensland) set up a Challenge in partnership with The Fred Hollows Foundation and Ian Thorpe’s Foundation for Youth Trust, to raise money for Indigenous literacy. Suzy wanted to help people in remote Indigenous communities where there is little access to books and where children often grow up with little or no ability to read. She posed the question, ‘Can you imagine a world without books and reading?’