



The Math & Science Exploratory School

Middle School 447

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Dear New MS 447 Community Members,

Welcome to MS 447! We're excited to announce our School-wide Summer Reading program. At the start of school each year, the students and staff of MS 447 participate in school-wide book club meetings. This summer, all MS 447 students and teachers will read ***Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town***, by Warren St. John. This book tells the true story of how a group of teenage refugees from all over the world come together in a small town in the U.S. to form a dynamic soccer team. We think reading this book will tie in well with the soccer competitions taking place during the Summer Olympics in Paris! In addition to soccer, other topics in this book include what it means to be a refugee; ways communities can be welcoming and inclusive; and how being part of a team connects people.

The School-wide Book Club Committee will have a table set up at the orientation event to distribute a copy of *Outcasts United* and an introductory packet for each student. Books cost **\$8.00 each** (this reflects a 30% discount from our vendor). We invite families to make a **\$2.00 donation** to help defray the cost of books for families that may not be able to afford it. Please note, all students will receive a copy of *Outcasts United* to borrow, if unable to pay. You may choose for your student to purchase and read the book on an e-reader or take out a copy from the public library.

We'll be thinking about how the stories of the refugees connect to our own lives, and how we can use the lessons of their experiences to motivate and inspire us to make our school and world more welcoming places. It will be a great way for students and teachers to get to know each other after a fun summer, and *kick off* a successful school year!

Thanks for your support and participation, and have a great summer!

MS 447's Schoolwide Book Club Committee

Outcasts United: MS 447 School-wide Summer Reading Book

*Please enclose **\$8.00 payment** or more to donate (cash or check payable to MS 447).*

Student Name (First and last name. Please print clearly): _____

- Check here if you are **purchasing** the book and adding a donation. \$_____. Thank you!!
- Please check here if you will **borrow** a copy of the book and **return it in good condition**, instead.
- Check and sign here if your child will purchase this book on an **e-reader or audiobook**, and will not need a copy. _____ (Parent signature)
- Please let us know if your child needs a **translated version**. Language? _____.