



Soroptimist International
of Europe in action:
"Children read books for
children who need books"

Bookathlon

Starting 8
september 2017

Dear teachers at *(name school)*,

As educators, you know better than anyone that being able to read is a prerequisite for education, personal development and a career, but

Children in many developing countries and refugee camps do not have the opportunity to learn how to read. To address this problem and to raise awareness of the importance of literacy, UNESCO has declared 8 September UN Literacy Day. Soroptimists are showing their support for this cause through so-called Bookathlons under the motto, Children read books for children who need books.

We are hoping that your school will participate in this initiative by organizing a reading Bookathlon with children from forms ___ through ___ at your school starting from Friday 8 September 2017.

Through sponsorships for their reading, the children will collect funds for other children who have no access to books. To inform and inspire the children and their parents, we have a leaflet available to share with the donors. If you are willing to take part in this initiative and to allow us to use your school as a venue, we will organize the rest, including snacks and the audience. Let us promote literacy together!

The proceeds will help fund the cooperation between the My Book Buddy Foundation and Soroptimist International of Europe which offers special libraries to schoolchildren who otherwise have little access to reading books. My Book Buddy has come up with a format which they have already successfully implemented in a number of developing countries. These bookcases are crafted by locals and stocked with locally purchased books in the children's mother tongue. Teachers are trained how to set up the lending system.

Soroptimists* in*(your country)* are currently dealing with the demand for school libraries at a number of schools in Africa and Asia. In this system the children can borrow the books to read at home, thus allowing other members of their families to read along with them. Please find more information at <https://www.sie-mybookbuddy.org>. And who knows: it might be fun to cultivate a closer contact between the children at your school and the schools with the libraries they had sponsored!

We have drafted a letter and a list of sponsors which you can send to the parents. The choice of suitable books is all yours. We sincerely hope you will join us to help promote literacy!

Should you require more information, please send an email to*(person sending letter, from club...)*

Yours sincerely

* Soroptimists in *(your country)* are part of an international service organization of professional women who strive to improve the lives of women and children throughout the world. Our mission is to enhance the status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. If you would like to read more, please go to:..... *(put your own soroptimist website here)*. *(or add your own club/union leaflet)*