

# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS



April 14, 2016  
Karen Sullivan  
Defer Principal

## Southeast Michigan Green Schools Initiative

Public Act 301 (2010) updated and revised P.A. 146 (2006), which established the Michigan Green Schools program. A public or private school in Michigan may apply to be designated a "Green School" by submitting the appropriate information to the county/intermediate school district in which the school is located. The intent of the Michigan Green Schools Program is to encourage students to participate in activities which help them learn about preserving natural resources, protect the environment, and promote energy efficiency and savings.

A school is eligible to receive a *Green, Emerald or Evergreen* school environmental stewardship designation when the school coordinator or students submits proper written documentation describing how the school has performed in a minimum of 10 energy saving and environmental activities.

At Defer the Green Squad leaders in grades 3 and 4 spearhead this work under the direction of two Defer parents, Sue Parlangeli and Kelly Woolums. Upon submitting our application last month we received the following email from the Southeastern Michigan Green School committee:

*I received and reviewed your Michigan Green School activity verification. Congratulations! Because of the hard work from the teachers, students and parents, Defer Elementary School has received the 2016 Michigan Evergreen School designation, by completing at least 20 energy saving and environmental tasks. The efforts you made to complete the tasks are very impressive. I especially enjoyed learning about the outstanding participation in Defer's Green Squad and your Earth Day activities. I urge Defer Elementary School to continue with the energy saving and environmental tasks and hope you encourage others to follow.*

*Thank you for the well written and organized documentation, I very much appreciate it*

*Thank you,*

*Nancy Gregor*

Congratulations to the Defer students and community. Defer has attained the highest recognition for their work around energy saving and environmental concerns – Evergreen School!



Tovx.com

### Defer Behavior Pledge

**Today I will DO my best to BE my best**

**I will be respectful**

**I will practice responsibility**

**I will always be safe**

**I will show my Dragon pride.**

### Seven Habits

**Be Proactive**

**Begin with the End in mind**

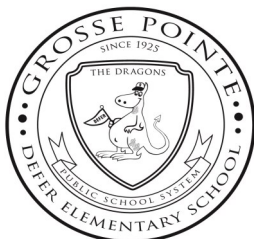
**Put first things first**

**Think Win-Win**

**Seek first to understand, then to be understood**

**Synergize– together is better**

**Sharpen the Saw**



Defer Elementary School  
15425 Kercheval  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Phone: 313-432-4000

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[www.gpschools.org/defer](http://www.gpschools.org/defer)

## Volunteer Appreciation Tea



National Volunteer Week began in 1974 as a way to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers. Since then, the original emphasis on celebration has widened; the week has become a nationwide effort to urge people to get out and volunteer in their communities. Every April, charities and communities reinforce the week's official theme by recognizing volunteers and fostering a culture of service.

The Defer Staff and students would like to recognize all of our volunteers on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the school gym. We appreciate all the families that drive on field trips, volunteer in the clinic or lunchroom, make copies for the staff, assist in classroom parties, read to students, teach Lunch Enrichment classes, and help out in a myriad of ways each week at Defer. We appreciate you!

Join us for coffee, muffins, donuts, and fruit as our Defer 4/5 Choir performs for your entertainment. This is our *small* way of showing all our volunteers how much we appreciate what you do for our

Defer Dragons!



## Disability Awareness

Defer's fourth grade students had a very unique opportunity last week. The Grosse Pointe School District offers a full-day experience in which students are immersed in a learning opportunity about a variety of disabilities. Students operate a wheel chair and try to maneuver in the hallways and in and out of the bathroom. Students learned how hard it is read if you have dyslexia or what happens when you lose your voice box. They surveyed the Defer building to determine its accessibility for those with a handicap. Each experience helped these students not only gain a better understanding but to feel empathy for others. At the end of the day students reflected on their experiences and the following are a few of their thoughts about Disability Awareness Day.

### *Disability awareness*

- ◆ *Another thing I learned is that being handicapped is very tiring and that it is hard. I learned that dyslexia is not only the words change, but the pictures change too. It is not funny that people have disabilities. Gabby*
- ◆ *My hands hurt and I wanted to get up and stretch . At first I thought it would be fun but now I know it can also be hard to operate a wheelchair. Lina*
- ◆ *I learned that it is not fun to be in a wheelchair, here's why; first, you don't even feel your legs. Second, moving around gives you blisters and last, you have to go on a ramp to get in the school. That's why being in a wheelchair is no fun. (so don't break your legs on purpose!). I learned that reading braille is hard. Quincy*
- ◆ *I loved Disability Awareness Day mostly because I learned how many people can have a disability and it is tons. There are so many disabilities in the world. Gabriel*
- ◆ *I learned that people with dyslexia see weird, backwards. Sometimes they see colors differently and sometimes they need a little more time on tests. I also learned that the white cane helps people that are blind. It helps so they don't bump into stuff. Blind people also use braille so they can read and leader dogs that can lead them. This is what I learned. Collin*
- ◆ *I learned that being in a wheelchair is not that fun. It is hard to move around corners. It also gives you blisters. Its hard to get in and out of rooms. I also learned it can be tiring to be in a wheelchair. Liam*
- ◆ *Disability Awareness Day was a fun experience for me! I learned that people with disabilities sometimes shake nonstop. They put us in their shoes and we used a shaking pen. This was a cool experience for me because we had to write out names and even draw a picture with the pen. I know that it isn't fun for people with that disability. Lauren*



# Jump Rope for Heart 2016



We would like to thank our Defer students for their hard work participating in our annual 2016 Jump Rope for Heart event!!!

Thank you to our Defer families that pledged a total of \$1,633 in donations to the American Heart Association to fight heart disease.

A grateful thank you to Meaghan Connaire's family and friends that pledge the top donation to the American Heart Association from Defer. The American Heart Association's thank you prizes have been handed out in April.



**Stay STRONG and Healthy!**

Keep moving and jumping, Ms. Raab, Mr. C and Mr. Williams

## **SAFETY/SERVICE**

In March, Defer Safety/Service marched across the street to the Pierce Auditorium to watch the movie "Home". We enjoyed popcorn and water generously supplied by the PTO.

Spring is finally here and hot cocoa to "Warm the Safeties" is finally over.

PTO, Thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

If you see a Safety/Service doing a good job, please tell them.

Thank you,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-March

**Safety: Sophia M.**

**Service: Casey M.**



## April Specials

Each day all of the Defer students attend a Specials class. They include: Art, Library/Spanish (3rd-5th), Music, Education. Below is a birds-eye view into one aspect of each grade's upcoming work this month and a great starter with your child--no matter what grade(s). We will look forward to including Music next month when Mrs. Moses returns from her leave.

### ART

Kindergarten	Kindergarten artists will be making pinch pots with texture. They will be available for pick up during parent teacher conferences
1st	1st grade artists are creating clay fish with texture
2nd	2nd grade artists are making pinch pot planters. Students will add facial features to a clay pinch
3rd	3rd grade artists are building fabulous clay frogs.
4th	4th grade artists are creating clay wizards complete with glass marble accessories.
5th	5th grade arts are making a clay container (pot, dish, vase, cup) using the coil building method.

### LIBRARY

Kindergarten	Kindergartners are comparing fiction and nonfiction books. For poetry month, they will be learning nursery rhymes and simple poems.
1st	1st graders are locating books about geese in the library and finding facts for a class book.
2nd	
3rd	This is the new library rotation, and 3rd graders will be starting a dictionary detective unit.
4th	4th graders will be learning about online databases on our library reference page.
5th	5th graders will be locating sources for their research project.

### PE

Kindergarten	Kinders will be working on eye hand coordination in our life time sports of tennis and golf.
1st	1st graders will be learning how to hit an indoor tennis ball and playing Elephant ball.
2nd	2nd graders will be moving toward using a tennis racket and a putter with our two units
3rd	3rd graders will be participating in doubles for tennis. They will also be creating their own golf holes for mini golf.
4th	4th graders will be advancing to playing a round robin tennis tourney using their skills. Mini golf is also on the schedule.
5th	5th graders know that staying active is important for their learning and health. Tennis and golf are life-time sports that they can enjoy.

# April 2016

					1	2
3	4	5 Writing Assembly Wear Defer T-shirts	6 Disability Awareness 4th Grade	7	8	9
10	11	12 PTO Meeting 7 pm in Library	13 Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:00 pm	14 <b>No School</b> Parent/Teacher Con- ferences AM, PM, Eve	15	16
17	18 Opera Assembly AM Wear Defer T-shirts	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Volunteer Appreciation Tea 8:00 am in the gym Safety Serv. Pierce Pool	29	30

# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Staff Appreciation Week	3 PTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Library	4 Staff Luncheon PTO	5 Instrumental Concert 7 pm in the gym	6	7
8	9	10 Vocal Music Concert Grades, K,2,4 and Choir 7:00 pm Pierce Auditorium	11	12 Town Hall Meeting 6:00 pm in the Library	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Safety/Service Party Windmill Pointe	20 AM students only PM Staff Development	21
22	23	24 Spring Social Art Fair	25	26	27 Field Day!	28
29	30	31				

# MS. BERGERON'S 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS PRESENT...

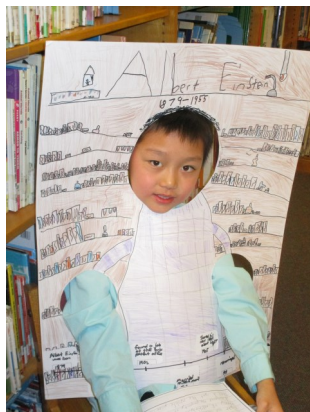
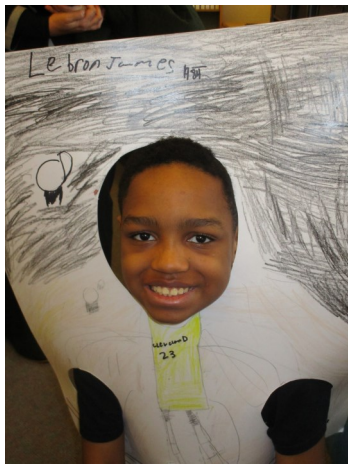
## THE LIVING WAX MUSEUM 2016





MRS. ECKERT AND MRS. DENISON 3RD GRADERS

PRESENT LIVING BIO BUDDIES





# DEFER PTO

Providing Support to Students, Teachers and Parents at Defer Elementary since 1924

A\*P\*R\*I\*L ~ 2015-2016

## BREATHING FIRE:

### DEFER PTO BOARD

**Renee Palazzolo**  
President

**Becca Ozar**  
Vice President

**Emily Summerfield**  
Treasurer

**Ryan/Mary Beth Coffey**  
Secretaries

**Christina Michaud**  
Communications

**Aaron Oestreich**  
Fundraising

**Kevin Ozar**  
Membership

**Kelley McLean**  
School Board Observer

**Heather Wiegand**  
Volunteers

Happy Spring.

I hope you had a wonderful Spring Break. Well, as I write this letter it certainly does not feel like spring yet. Let's hope it gets here soon.

Before break I hope you were able to attend our second Donuts with your Dragon. Thank you to Kim Rhodes for organizing this event and getting all those delicious donuts.

This month is our second Book Fair the week of April 11-15. A huge thank you to Mary Beth Coffey and Becca Ozar for running the wonderful book fairs.

Our next PTO meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Members. This is an important meeting where all PTO members can vote for the new Defer PTO Board for the 2016-2017 school year. The proposed slate of the new Board members is included in this newsletter. So please consider attending next Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Have a great day.

Renee Palazzolo

(PTO President)

[reneepalazzolo@gmail.com](mailto:reneepalazzolo@gmail.com)

### Defer Elementary

15425 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Park, MI

48230

Office: (313) 432-4000

### Book Fair

April 11 – April 15

Various times: see page 3

Defer Library

### PTO Meeting

Tuesday, April 12

7:00pm

Defer library

Everyone welcome.

### Spring Social

Tuesday, May 24

6-8pm

Defer playground

Food, Inflatables, Wally's!!

Reminders

# **Proposed Slate for PTO Board Positions 2016-2017**



**President: Becca Ozar**

**Vice President: Heather Wiegand**

**Secretary:**

**Treasurer: Emily Summerfield**

**Communications: Christina Michaud**

**Membership: Lindy Holloway**

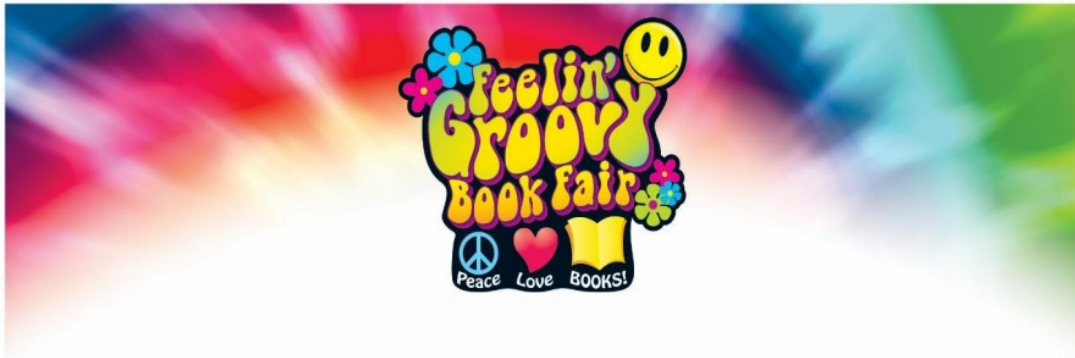
**Hospitality: Kim Rhodes**

**Volunteer Coordinator: Brooke Macuga**

**Fundraising: Kelly Warnick**

**School Board Observer: Kelley McLean**

**Your vote counts. Please plan to attend the PTO meeting Tuesday,  
April 12.**



## Defer's Spring Book Fair Hours

**Each class will visit the book fair during their regular scheduled library time.**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12<sup>th</sup> – After school hours 3:30-5:00pm**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> – During conferences 5:00-8:00pm**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> – During conferences 9:00-12:00pm**

**1:00-3:00pm**

**5:00-8:00pm**

**We are looking for more volunteers during conferences.**

**Please visit: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48acae2babf49-spring1>**

**If we do not have volunteers, we will unfortunately not be open.**



# Defer Annual Spring Social



**Tuesday, May 24**

**6-8pm on the Defer playground**

**Please plan to join your Defer friends for a celebration of spring.**

**Enjoy food, inflatables, music, student artwork & more.**



**The Wally's fire truck will be on hand for frozen custard, too.**



# Digital Picks for April 2016

Vol. 4 Number 7

Selected by the elementary library media specialists for the families of Grosse Pointe Public Schools



**OverDrive** Borrow eBooks and audiobooks using your library card. Compatible with Android/iOS/Mac/Kindle/Nook tablets. Stream or download books to your computer, tablet or smartphone. Borrow up to 10 title at a time and receive email notification when holds are ready. Choose from over 10,000 fiction and non-fiction titles for all ages.



**Zinio** Use your library card and download and read free, full-color magazines on your tablet or smartphone. Hundreds of local, national, and international titles are available.



**Freegal Music:** Free (and legal!) access to nearly 9 million songs! Use your library card and download and listen to three free songs per week on your smartphone or tablet, or download songs to your computer and transfer them to your device.



## GREAT WEBSITES FOR KIDS

**American Library Association's Great Websites for Kids!!!** Librarians have gathered websites across all subject areas from reputable and authoritative sources intended for students of all ages.



**DK find out!** Certified kidSAFE to be children-friendly and content is appropriate. This is a companion website to the best-selling series of non-fiction books by Dorling Kindersley. This interactive website encourages students to discover all their interests and uncover some new ones!!!

### Elementary Library Media Specialists

- ★ Danielle Gostomski: Kerby, Mason, Richard
- ★ Amy Hermon: Maire, Mason, Monteith, Trombly
- ★ Sherry Martin: Ferry, Mason, Poupard
- ★ Cheryl Quinlan: Defer, Monteith
- ★ Rachel Walpole: Richard, Trombly

