

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

April, 2015

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This year, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will be transitioning to new statewide assessments beginning in mid-April. These new assessments, called the **Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP)**, will measure *current student knowledge*. In past years, grades 3-8 assessments were given in the fall (MEAP) and measured a *student's knowledge from the previous year*.

The M-STEP will assess student learning in Michigan's standards in mathematics, English language arts (ELA), science, and social studies. This transition is necessary to meet state and federal education guidelines regarding assessment and accountability, as well as to ensure that our statewide assessments better reflect what students know and are able to do.

We want your child's experience to be relaxed, healthy, and stress-free. Your positive and supportive manner and outlook going into these assessments will have a tremendous impact on your child's experience, too.

In order for you to better understand and prepare your child for the new M-STEP, here are some things you may like to know:

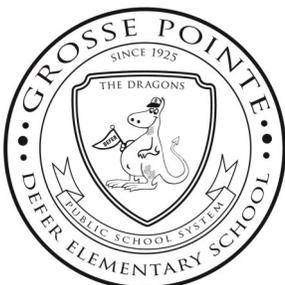
Grade Assessed	Content Assessed	Assessment Date
3rd Grade	ELA (English, Language Arts)	May 19, 20
	Math	May 27, 28
4th Grade	ELA	April 28, 29
	Math	May 5, 6
	Science	May 7
5th Grade	ELA	April 14, 15
	Math	April 21, 22
	Social Studies	April 23

This year, students will experience some new test components in the M-STEP mathematics and ELA assessments that will measure deeper critical thinking skills. These new test components and items include: Constructed response (CR): Students will be asked to produce a grade appropriate written response to some test questions to demonstrate a clearer understanding of the content standards being assessed.

- Classroom Activity (CA) component: There will be a teacher-led 30-minute scripted lesson that introduces student to the topic of the Performance Task (see below). This component is NOT SCORED, but will help students to have an understanding of the theme being presented in the Performance Task.
- Performance Task (PT) component: For mathematics and ELA, students will experience a new test component that is theme-based and asks them to answer more than one question related to a source, or several sources/document(s). PTs are specifically designed to assess students' depth of content knowledge.

Information for Defer 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade student families:

- The M-STEP is a paper and pencil test.
- It will be important for students to be present and on time during the testing schedule, however there are make-up days built into the testing schedule to provide for students that are absent.
- Students should get plenty of rest on nights prior to testing, eat a healthy breakfast, and bring a *can-*



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PBIS
Responsibility Pyramid

Please make the *Responsibility Pyramid* a part of your discussions with your child. Many of these are expectations at school but in the upper grades these are student responsibilities that you can help support each day at home. *Is your child showing you their planner? Is it filled in? Is your child completing their homework? Is the homework completion a part of their data/leadership binder?*

Your support goes a long way!

Responsibility Pyramid

K-Personal Area Neat

1st - Desk and Locker Organized

2nd - Desk and Locker Organized, DOT

3rd - Desk and Locker Neat, Planner Written, Homework Completed

4th & 5th - Desk and Locker Neat, Planner Written, Homework Complete, Switch Materials

Reminder - Students receiving eight or more Responsibility cards (Purple) in a month are not eligible to attend the Reward Party.

Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

April 30th—8:00 am

Booker T. Washington once said, “A volunteer is a person who is a light to others, doing well and willingly the tasks at hand—namely, being aware of another’s needs and doing something about it.” National Volunteer Week has embodied the energy and power volunteers evoke on a daily basis as they lead by example—not only encouraging the people they help, but motivating others to serve as well.

The Defer staff would like to recognize all the volunteers that help every day in so many ways to make our school a joyful place of learning. Whether you volunteer in the clinic or classrooms, drive on a field trip, make phone calls, work at a PTO event, or cut out materials for teachers at home— we thank you! YOU make a big difference in our school. We’d like to invite everyone who volunteers in any way to join our staff on Wednesday, April 30th at 8:00 am in the gym for muffins, doughnuts and fruit. Our Defer Choir will be performing in honor of all the parent and adult volunteers at 8:10 am. Please join us and give us the opportunity to share our appreciation for all you do to support education at Defer School.

Momentum!!!

Let's keep it going!!!!

During the week of March 23rd parents, students, and teachers had a chance to meet for conferences. Students shared their data/leadership notebooks as well as a variety of work samples. Parents worked with students and teachers to celebrate successes and set new goals for the remainder of the school year. The partnership between home and school is critical to all learning and we appreciate the continued support of the Defer parents.

We have nine very important weeks of school left this school year. We have much yet to accomplish and much yet to learn. Students and families need to keep the positive momentum they have going and to finish the school year **STRONG!!!** Students need to continue to read every night and complete all homework. Talk it over with your child – let them know that you have high expectations for them and that you will be there to support them every day.

The next nine weeks holds special learning at all grades. In addition to reading, writing, and computing every day here's just a *peak* at some of the special learning coming up!

Kindergarten – Animal Unit in Science, Reading Informational Text

1st grade – Plant Unit in Science, Writing Stories with strong beginnings, middles, and endings

2nd grade – Learning Cursive handwriting, History unit in Social Studies

3rd grade - Mastering times tables, researching and creating a *Living Biography Museum*

4th grade – The ins and outs of electricity, Reading unit on non-fiction

5th grade – The systems of the human body, Historical Fiction unit in Reading



Library News

Spring Break was great – and now that we are back, we have a chance to read all the new books from the book fair! A special thank you to Mrs. Coffey and Mrs. Ozar for once again organizing such a successful book fair with our great Defer parents! Lots of new fiction and nonfiction books have been added to our library collection.

The new library rotation has started for grades 3-5. Third graders are starting an animal research project; Fourth graders will be creating a 20 Question-style game after researching a topic of their choice; and Fifth graders are evaluating websites for authenticity and reliability.

Mrs. Quinlan, Defer Library Media Specialist

Silent Ball Rules!!!

March PBIS Reward Party

The 5th grade staff once again ran what has become a yearly tradition at Defer – the *school-wide SILENT BALL* competition. The March PBIS Reward Party started in classrooms as all students played a round of Silent Ball. In grades 3, 4, and 5 two finalists from each class continued the competition in the gym. Mr. Senska began this competition by introducing the competitors from each class while their class wildly cheered them on! Next the competing students sat on folding chairs in the center of the gym while everyone listened to Mr. Senska explain the rules of the game. Mr. Harris served as the front-line judge and witnessed many examples of great sportsmanship.

Game on! The competition was exciting from start to finish! Mr. Senska led the crowd in *doing the wave* as he kept a running commentary of the events as they unfolded in front of the crowd. After some spectacular tosses and catches it came down to two finalists – Ben Domzalski (5th grade) and Jack Lynch (4th grade). In the end Jack won out and Ben was the first to congratulate him! Good sportsmanship marked this fun party from start to finish!

Jack won the coveted Koosh Ball trophy and belt and enters the *Hall of Winners* following Doug Tengler ('14), Liam Kaiser ('13), and Ryan Downey ('12). Congratulations Jack!!!

The competition didn't end there, however. As students started to line-up to leave we announced a new competition – *Teacher SILENT BALL!* The crowd went wild! Soon all the staff was sitting in a circle facing off for the big competition! The ball whirled back and forth among the competitors and in the end Mrs. Osborne won!

But who were the real winners – all the students and staff at Defer! The Defer Dragons are a mighty team that know how to learn together and how to have fun together!



Disability Awareness

4th grade

On March 31st our 4th graders participated in a very unique program. Students spent the day learning about a variety of disabilities and experiencing how they affect you. 4th graders navigated their way in wheelchairs, were blindfolded and used a cane to walk around obstacles, saw how difficult reading is for a person with dyslexia, and studied how some devices help those with a hearing impairment. It was an incredible learning experience for all of our students.

A special thanks goes out to all the parents – both pass and present – for making this opportunity possible and to Michelle Kramer who orchestrated the entire volunteer effort.



2015 ILLUMINATE—Camp Invention

Camp Invention is where BIG ideas become the next BIG thing! Join us as we celebrate our 25th year of reinventing summer fun!

In partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame, Grosse Pointe Public Schools is pleased to offer the nationally-acclaimed Camp Invention program to children entering grades one through six.

It's an exciting, weeklong summer adventure with lessons that explore connections between science, technology, engineering and innovation. Children will work together to seek solutions to real-world problems, turn ordinary into extraordinary and sharpen critical 21st century learning skills while rotating through several fascinating modules.

In the *KartWheel™* module, children let their engineering skills glide them across the finish line as they build, enhance and upgrade their very own freestyle racing cart. Boys and girls will explore what it means to prototype a product from scratch as they become an entrepreneur during the *Design Studio: Illuminate™* module. In the *I Can Invent: Next Level Gamers™* module, participants will take apart broken or unused appliances using real tools to create a physical video game model in the 3rd dimension! Finally, in the *Inducted™* module, personalized video challenges from National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees are introduced along with hands-on activities like constructing super-structure mega-towers, assembling out-of-this-world space rockets and so much more!

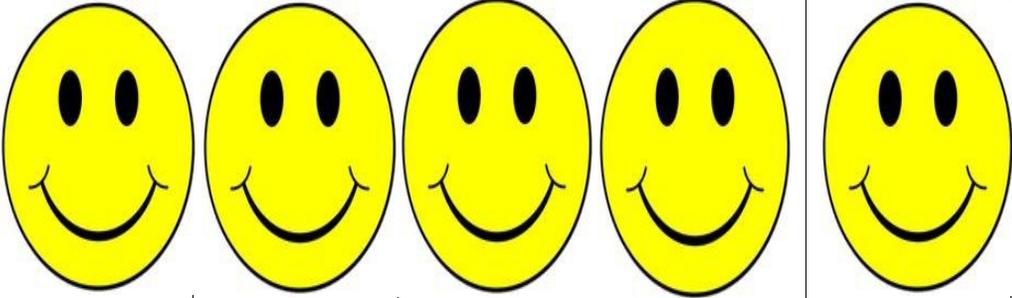
Local educators will facilitate program modules and enthusiastic high school and college students will serve as Leadership Interns ensuring that one staff member is in place for every eight children.

Register on or before March 20, 2015 to receive \$25 OFF the base price of \$260. Every registration includes a complimentary Camp Invention t-shirt. Availability is limited, so visit www.campinvention.org or call 800.968.4332 to

secure your child's spot today!



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Spring Break Begins	4
			Scholastic Book Fair 3/26-4/1			
5						11
12	13	14 PTO Meeting 7 pm	15	16	17 School Instrumental Concert	18
19	20	21	22	23 Instrumental Concert 7 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29 Safety Service Swim 3:50-5:15 pm	30		

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 PTO Teacher Appreciation Lunch	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 PTO Meeting In Library	13	14 Spring Vocal Concert	15 AM school only	16
17	18	19 PTO Spring Social	20	21	22 Field Day	23
24	25 Memorial Day No School	26	27	28	29	30
31						

DEFER
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

APRIL:
2014-2015

P.T.O.
DRAGON
TAILS



90 YEARS

UPCOMING
PTO
EVENTS:

Tuesday, May 12
PTO Meeting in library 7pm

Tuesday, May 19
90TH Birthday Party & Rhubarb Bake off



Happy Birthday!

Friday, May 22
Defer Field Day

Parents

"CHILDREN LEARN MORE FROM WHAT YOU ARE THAN WHAT YOU TEACH."

-W.E.B. DuBois

DRAGON SPEAK:

Your PTO is working to put building blocks in place that will enable it to lead effectively on your behalf. These building blocks include new organizational bylaws, a needs survey, a slate of future leaders, and initiatives that are aimed at growing our educational community.

A desire to be your voice, to lead strongly, and to support an exceptional education for our children is driving these initiatives but, to reach optimum efficiency, we need YOU, for you are the foundation of the Defer community.

There are three simple things we need from you at this moment. One, please complete the survey you were sent recently. These results will help the PTO direct its efforts, align resources accordingly, and in keeping with your will. How can we lead for you if we don't know your will?

Second, our annual meeting will occur on April 14th. At that time, you will have an opportunity to VOTE for next year's slate of PTO leaders, and new organizational bylaws. We hope you will choose to make your voice heard.

Lastly, have FUN! There is so much going on in honor of our 90th year, and as the school year begins to draw to a close. Please take advantage of these wonderful opportunities to celebrate, and deepen your connection to this fabulous Defer community.

Michele Hodges
 PTO President



Rhubarb Bake-off



In honor of our 90th Birthday and remembering our roots of being a rhubarb farm, please join us in entering our “**Rhubarb Bake Off.**”

Individuals, teams, children and/or adults are welcome to enter.

Please email Holly Ryan (hryan6@yahoo.com) if interested.

Rhubarb Fun Facts: <http://www.savor-the-rhubarb.com/rhubarb-trivia.html>



You're Invited...



Save the date:

Tuesday, May 19th

on the lawn

Ice cream, food, entertainment

Volunteers are needed. Please follow link:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C044AEAB22A7FE3-spring1/5804872

Thank you to the many of you
Defer's 90th Birthday Party



Thank you to those who volunteered for the many events Defer has hosted in the past few months. From the book fair to the disability workshop and everything in between. We really do appreciate you.

Defer is GREAT because of people like you!

THANKS!



Many have asked,
“How do I sign up for Yahoo blasts from the PTO?”

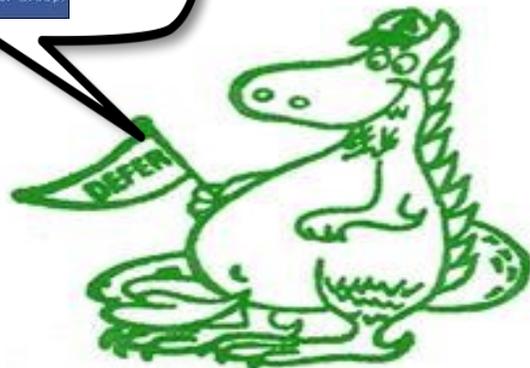
It’s super simple.

Send an email request to:

deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

That’s it!!

George says,
“Be sure to ‘like’
Defer Elementary
PTO
on Facebook!”





**Defer Red Curtain Singers
opened the evening**

**Thanks
for the
Memories...

Vaudeville
Night**



An elephant and gorilla??



**G.P. Lakeshore
Barbershop Chorus brought some
old time tunes**



Defer Families having fun



Amazing Acrobats



Unreal Unicyclists



**"Ernie", the
petrified puppy**



Your hosts

Register by May 1 for Kindergarten

To be eligible to attend a Fun Transition to Kindergarten event at your neighborhood school! This gives us a snapshot of your child's learning needs. Each registered child that attends this event will be awarded a learning backpack with goodies to support summer learning!



Register today for Kindergarten

Register at the Administration Building
389 St. Clair, GP • 313-432-3083
No appointment necessary 8-4, Monday-Friday

Defer Elementary - 15425 Kercheval, GPP

Principal Karen Sullivan - 313-432-4000

Ferry Elementary - 748 Raslyn, GPW

Principal Gloria Hinz - 313-432-4100

Kerby Elementary - 285 Kerby, GPF

Principal Sara Delgado - 313-432-4200

Maire Elementary - 740 Cadiux, GP

Principal Sanja Franchett - 313-432-4300

Mason Elementary - 1640 Vernier, GPW

Principal Elaine Middlekauff - 313-432-4400

Monteith Elementary - 1275 Cook, GPW

Principal Keith Howell - 313-432-4500

Poupard Elementary - 20655 Lennon, HW

Principal Penny Stocks - 313-432-4800

Richard Elementary - 176 McKinley, GPF

Principal Mary MacDonald-Barrett - 313-432-4900

Trombly Elementary - 820 Beaconsfield, GPP

Principal Walt Fitzpatrick - 313-432-5000

Brownell Middle School - 260 Chalfonte, GPF

Principal Mike Dib - 313-432-3900

Parcells Middle School - 20600 Mack, GPW

Principal Dan Hartley - 313-432-4600

Pierce Middle School - 15430 Kercheval, GPP

Principal Chris Clark - 313-432-4700

Community Campus - 17006 Mack Ave., GPP

Kathy Dykstra - 313-432-5704

Barnes Early Childhood - 20090 Morningside, GPW

Director Student Services Stefanie Hayes - 432-3800

SERVE Volunteer Program - 313-432-3770

North High School - 707 Vernier, GPW

Principal Kate Murray - 313-432-3200

South High School - 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., GPF

Principal Moussa Hamka - 313-432-3500

All enrollment forms online
www.gpschools.org

THE
VILLAGE
DOWNTOWN
GROSSE POINTE

Paint the Window Contest

**Saturday
May 9**

2015

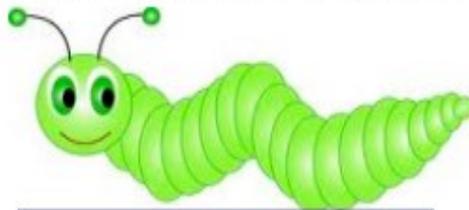


The Village of Grosse Pointe comes alive with creative paintings of BUGS!
All Grosse Pointe elementary school-aged children may sign up to participate in our 27th annual Paint the Window Contest!

All paintings will be 18 in. X 24 in. running horizontally. Window assignments will be mailed by May 3rd.

“It’s a Bug’s life!”

The contest is open to all children attending a public or private Grosse Pointe elementary school (K-5, and at least 5 years old). The contest is limited to 200 entrants, so window assignments will be made on a first come first served basis as reservation forms are received.



Prizes will be awarded
Saturday, May 9th
at 4:00 pm
on The Village Plaza

Entry forms & rules are available at
EL's Boutique
17110 Kercheval
Entry forms must be received by Friday, April 18
313-571-3044



Mr. William Rands



Fine Art For Kids
Hala Besmar

Digital Picks

*From your School Library
Media Specialists*



Please enjoy this month's educational, informational, and entertaining websites and apps—“digital picks” suggested by your Elementary School Media Specialists. We hope you find our reviews helpful, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

APP: **“Youtube Kids”** (iOS 5 and up + Android 1.6 and up; FREE)



Kid-friendly curated video viewer with some parental controls available. Parents can set timers and can disable the search feature. A colored progress bar indicates how much time remains. Only a parental code allows kids to continue watching. There are still ads that are directed towards a younger audience. Videos are fun, some are educational, some may be a little creepy.

Website: **“Tinkercad”** www.tinkercad.com



This app is a 3D design and modeling tool. Users can create 3D designs which are compatible with all 3D printers currently on the market. Designs can also be uploaded to a 3D printer site and shipped to your home. There is also a blog to post and swap ideas.

APP: **“Pixel Press Floors”** (iPad FREE—\$1.99) ages 9+



“Pixel Press Floors” allows kids to turn their pencil and paper drawings into video games. Basic design and engineering skills are encouraged. Kids create blueprints that transform into games they can play and modify. Kids can post their creations in the arcade for others to play.

APP: **“Cargo Bot”** (iOS 5 and up; FREE) ages 8+



This educational app introduces kids to basic computer coding using a puzzle which increases in difficulty. Kids create code to direct a robotic arm and are encouraged to find the best solution to the puzzle.

Website : **“Common Sense Media”** www.commonsensemedia.org/



An excellent resource for parents! This website reviews all types of media (movies, tv, books, websites) for ages 2-4, 5-7, 8-9, tweens, and 13+. Family guides, parent resources and blogs! Best lists of recommended educational apps, online games, movies, tv and books available.

Media Specialists

Jeanne Dolson Poupard
 Amy Hermon Maire, Mason, Monteith, Trombly
 Sherry Martin Ferry, Mason, Poupard
 Anne Maurer Kerby, Mason, Richard
 Cheryl Quinlan Defer, Monteith
 Rachel Walpole Richard, Trombly

S.A.V.E A LIFE 5K

04.25.2015. GROSSE POINTE NORTH

With Kids'
Superhero
Mini-Mile

HOW CAN ONE PERSON S.A.V.E. THE WORLD?



LESS

MORE



S.A.V.E.



ACT LOCALLY. THINK
GLOBALLY.



3 REASONS TO RUN / WALK



OBSTACLE
COURSE, BOUNCE
HOUSE AND MORE



DRESS
THE PART

PROCEEDS BENEFIT



www.signmeup.com/105346