

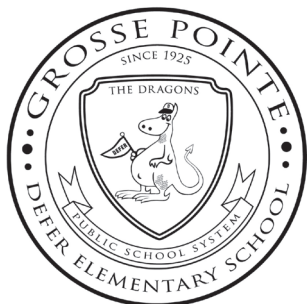
DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

MARCH 6, 2014

Defer Elementary



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Defer Elementary School
 15425 Kercheval
 Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
 Phone: 313-432-4000
 Fax: 313-432-4002

www.gpschools.org/defer

Dear Defer Families,

March is National Reading Month! Defer is celebrating again this year with One Book/One School. Our entire school and school community is enjoying a shared reading experience around the award winning book - *The Cricket in Times Square*. Each family received one copy of the book to read together at home each week in March. At school, we kicked off the experience with a school-wide assembly on Monday, March 3rd. During the month there will be a number of activities including trivia questions every Tuesday during morning announcements.

Reading to your child is an easy way to improve your child's chances at school. Studies show that children who are read aloud to by an adult have a head start when it comes to language and literacy skills. And even more importantly, the bond between child and parent is strengthened with the pleasure of spending time and sharing the enjoyment of a good book.

Below is our reading schedule for this experience.

March 3 - March 7	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
March 10 - March 14	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
March 17 - March 21	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12
March 24 - March 28	Chapters 13, 14, 15

Possible questions to discuss while reading at home:

1. What has happened in the story so far?
 Have students retell part of the story that you just read together.
2. What do you think might happen next?
3. How does the character feel right now? Why does he/she feel that way?
4. What problem(s) does the character face?
5. What do you see in your mind as we read together?
6. What questions do you have about the story?

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Three Areas of Intervention

The Defer staff is committed to continuous improvement. How do we meet the needs of our students? How do we maximize student learning? How do we support struggling learners? Those are just some of the questions we ask ourselves daily and our efforts continuously focus around them.

So, what are some of the interventions going on right now for our learners? Let's take a look at three that are helping our students.

Homework Club

This opportunity is available to students identified by their teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5. Every Monday and Thursday from 3:45 to 4:30 a team of five Defer staff members along with Pierce JNHS students and a NHS student from South work with individual students to help with homework, drill on math facts, practice reading for fluency, and help do Math boxes. It is a joy to watch students as they greet their families at 4:30 and are excited to share all they accomplished during Homework Club!

Lunch and Learn

Some students struggle completing homework and being prepared for that day's instruction. Now every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday we have found a way to support these students. Mrs. Stein, our 4/5 Magnet assistant, works with these children during lunch hour helping them to complete work and be ready for learning.

Fact Practice

One of our school goals is Math Fact mastery. A big measure of success in Math is based on the ability to know your math facts as well as you know your name. Students struggling in this area in grade 3 have the opportunity to work with Mrs. Lynch in the computer lab twice a week to gain mastery. Our goal is to put Mrs. Lynch out of business and her numbers are decreasing every day. Starting this week the same opportunity is being offered to our 4th and 5th graders struggling in this area.

Remaining 2014 Market Day Pick Ups:

- Mar 19
- Apr 23
- May 21
- June 11



Market Day[®]

MARCH 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 End of Marking Period 1/2 Day - AM only PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	12	13	14 PTO Donuts w/ Dad 8:00 a.m. - Gym	15
16	17	18	19 Market Day	20	21 Report cards sent home PTO Bingo Night 6 - 8 p.m.	22
23	24	25 Safety/Service @ Pierce Auditorium	26 Parent Teacher Conferences - Evening	27 Parent Teacher Conferences - AM, PM & Evening NO SCHOOL	28	29
30	31					



APRIL 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	9	10 Volunteer Appreciation Tea 8:00 a.m. - Gym	11	12
13	14	15	16 Market Day	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Spring Break Classes Resume 4/28						
27	28	29	30 Safety/Service Swimming @ Pierce 3:50p.m. - 5:15 p.m.			



CLASSROOM NEWS



5th GRADE PARTS OF SPEECH SKIT

Students worked together to show how all parts of speech must work together to form an interesting and complete sentence. Mrs. Mestdagh's fifth graders performed their Valentine version of the skit to parents and other classes before the February break.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART 2014

We would like to thank our Defer students for their hard work participating in our annual 2014 **Jump Rope for Heart** event!!!

Thank you to our amazing Defer families that donated a total of **\$2,459** in pledges to the American Heart Association to fight heart disease. A grateful thank you goes out to **Bronwyn Addy** and her family for being Defer's top fundraiser.

The American Heart Association's thank you prizes should be at Defer sometime early April.

STAY STRONG & HEALTHY!!

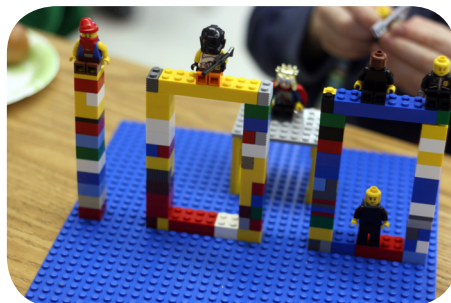
Keep moving and jumping! Thank you again Defer students!

Ms. Raab, Mr. C & Mr. Senska



WACKY WEDNESDAY IN MRS. RICHARD'S CLASS

Mrs. Richard's kindergarten class celebrated Wacky Wednesday in their classroom this Wednesday. Everyone wore their WACKY, SILLY SOCKS!! They had time to relax and read lots of Dr. Seuss stories including *Wacky Wednesday*, *The Foot Book*, *Fox In Socks*, and many other fun Dr. Seuss books!



First graders celebrate the 100th day of school!

SAFETY/SERVICE

In February, Defer Safety/Service celebrated their work at Lakeshore Lanes for a bowling extravaganza. It was wonderful. Everyone bowled two games and enjoyed pizza and pop. We have some very good bowlers at Defer; our top bowlers were Abraham Abouljoud with a 95 for the boys and Nia Rahman with a 82 for the girls.

Thank you to Mrs. Kaiser, Mrs. Lynch, Ms. Panzenhagen, Mrs. Cielieska, Mrs. Lapensee, Ms. Kozicki, and Mr. Sendra for transporting us to Lakeshore Lanes. A special thanks to all of them for joining us and making sure everyone was on their best behavior to represent Defer Elementary School.

Mr. Alan continues to get our water ready every morning for hot cocoa to “Warm the Safeties.” Thank you, they really need this cold winter!! If you see a Safety/Service doing a good job, please tell them

Thank you,
Helen Srebernak



Member of the Month - February

Safety: Vincent Ward

Service: Paloma Beacham

LIBRARY NEWS

We now have 10 iPad minis for our students in library to use! Thanks to our Defer PTO through the yearly Book Fairs and the generosity of those wishing to honor Pam Moorhead we were able to make this wonderful technology purchase. All students at Defer will benefit from their use in the library.

Just to keep you updated, here are a few of the projects students have been working on in the library:

- Fifth graders researched a famous person for Black History Month & used Tagxedo to make a digital picture using keywords from their research. Check out the bulletin board across from the library!
- Fourth graders created their own fiction book covers & jackets.
- Third graders became Dictionary Detectives as they raced to look up words, using Guide Words, and alphabetical order.
- Second graders have been studying Story Elements- characters, setting, and problems -through lots of our new books.
- Kindergarteners and First graders have been exploring different cultures through fiction and non-fiction books.

Be sure to try some of the Media Specialists' Digital Picks from our monthly newsletter brochure!

- Cheryl Quinlan, Defer Library Media Specialist

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT (PBIS)

The PBIS program, begun at Defer in 2008, continues to be at the heart of learning at Defer. All children know the expectations and know that by following our PBIS procedures we are creating a respectful, responsible, and safe school environment in which all students can learn and thrive. Each month we celebrate the successes of our students in a school-wide PBIS party and February was no exception!

Our February party was centered around a mystery theme. Students selected an activity around this theme and sessions that afternoon included, but were not limited to: using a microscope, watching an episode of Inspector Gadget, learning how to write in code, watching the movie Spy Kids, creating invisible ink three different ways, and using your thumbprint to create a piece of art. The party allowed for students to select their session and so celebrations in each room included students from all different grades. Ask your child about their adventure and ask your child if they are off to a good start with their PBIS behaviors during the month of March!

Parent Teacher Conferences

March 26th - Evening

March 27th - AM, PM & Evening

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON 3/27

Report Cards distributed Friday, March 21st

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council sponsored a “Hoodie Day” on Friday, February 14th. Defer School showed strong participation and raised **\$268.36** for Prader Willi research, a genetic disease that can lead to obesity in children. We are so thankful for all of the support and had fun “hooding it” in the process.

Mrs. Halpin

Student Council Advisor



Non-Digital Picks

From your School Library
Media Specialists



March is Reading Month and, while there are lots of wonderful digital reading programs (*RazKids*, *Tumblebooks*), sometimes nothing but a real, old-fashioned, turn-the pages and smell-the-ink book will do. Here's an armful of sure-fire favorites from your GPPS elementary library media specialists. Happy reading!

PICTURE BOOKS

You Will Be My Friend! (Peter Brown) Lucy Bear is back and determined to make a new friend. She tries hard. Misadventures ensue. Making friends is not as easy as Lucy thought!

Verdi (Janell Cannon) Young python Verdi is determined to keep his youthful yellow color and sporty stripes, rather than grow green and slow like his staid elders.

Miss Rumphius (Barbara Cooney) Growing up in Maine, Alice Rumphius ("the Lupine Lady") dreamed of seeing the world and making it even more beautiful.

This is Not My Hat (Jon Klassen) A small fish is confident that he can get away with stealing a big fish's blue bowler hat. 2013 Caldecott Medal.

Look-Alikes (Joan Steiner) Visual puzzles present familiar city scenes meticulously constructed in miniature from an unlikely array of everyday objects, from candles to crackers.

EASY READERS

"Henry and Mudge" (Cynthia Rylant) Adventure with a small boy and his large dog! Rylant also wrote the *Mr. Putter and Tabby* and *Poppleton* series.

"Elephant and Piggie" (Mo Willems) The mismatched friendship of worrier Gerald and cheerful Piggie endures rain, bullies, nesting birds, surprises, and dance lessons. Numerous Geisel Medals and Honors.

CHAPTER BOOKS

Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventure (Kate DiCamillo) Ten-year-old Flora befriends a squirrel whose encounter with the Ulysses Super Suction vacuum cleaner gives him unexpected superpowers. 2014 Newbery Medal.

Fortunately, the Milk (Neil Gaiman) Picking up milk for his children's breakfast cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild adventure through time and space.

Lily's Crossing (Patricia Reilly Giff) Lily and Albert, a refugee from war-torn Hungary, become good friends in the summer of 1944, but Lily tells a lie that may cost Albert his life. 1998 Newbery Honor.

Clementine (Sara Pennypacker) Third-grader Clementine, with a keen eye and a knack for getting into well-intentioned trouble, tells the story of her "not so good of a week."

The Westing Game (Ellen Raskin) Join Sam Westing's 16 quirky heirs as they try to solve the mystery of his death and his equally mysterious will. 1979 Newbery Medal.

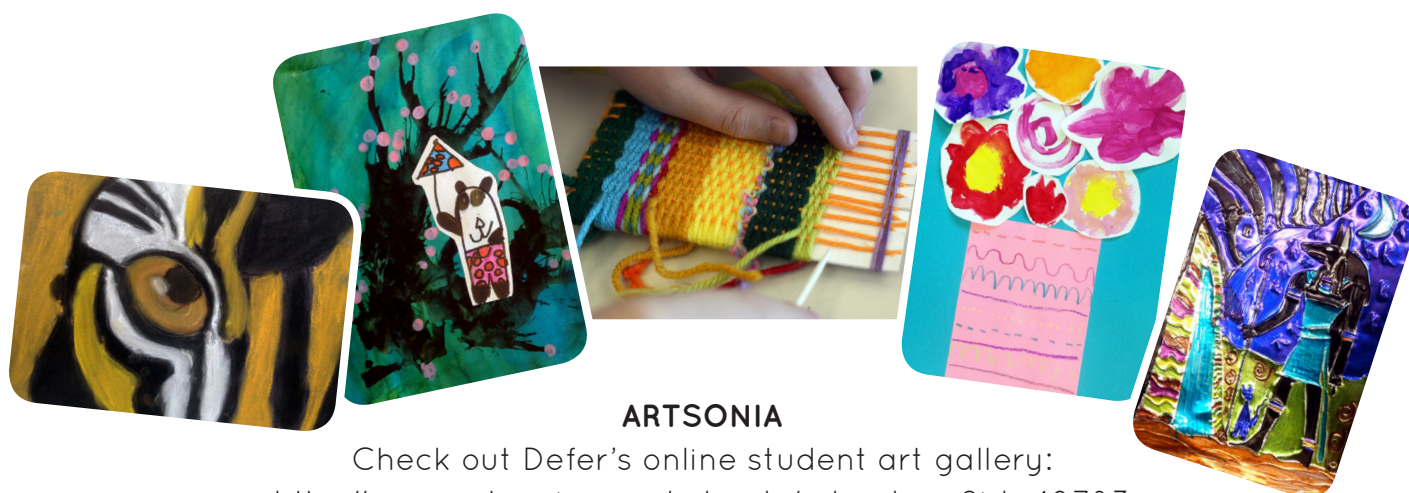
CAMP INVENTION EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT

Creativity and brainstorming are the building blocks to your child's future! Camp Invention® emphasizes those skills and more. Parcels Middle School is proud to be among the select schools in Michigan that will serve as a host site during the week of June 23 – June 27, 2014. **Register by March 28, 2014, and save \$25 off of the base registration rate!** Families that register 3 or more siblings will receive \$50 off, per child. You can secure your child's reservation with only a \$50 deposit. Our camp fills every year, so don't miss out.

At camp, children will create exciting new games and transform ordinary household items into extraordinary inventions during this weeklong summer adventure for students entering grades 1-6. Children will participate daily in five activity-oriented modules focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math.) This year's module is Morphed. Children will spend their time building original prototypes, creating a personalized motor-powered vehicle and taking apart electronics to construct a pinball machine.

Debra Duffey, a teacher at Parcels Middle School, will direct the camp and local teachers will teach the five modules. High school and college students will serve as camp counselors. The camp features a low staff-to-participant ratio of 1:8.

The camp fee includes a free T-shirt. Registration for each camp is limited to 110 children, so register early. In addition to registering online, you may also register at 1-800-968-4332, via fax at 330-849-8528 or by mail at Camp Invention, 3701 Highland Park NW, North Canton, OH 44720. For more information, visit the Web site at www.campinvention.org or contact Michigan's Regional Coordinator, Patricia Holmes, at pholmes@INVENT.ORG or 800-968-4332 ext. 6890 or contact Camp Director, Debra Duffey, at debra.duffey@gpschools.org or 313-432-5341.



ARTSONIA

Check out Defer's online student art gallery:
<http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=40783>

www.deferart.com

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!



On Line Registration is coming to GPPSS elementary schools in 2014

Is your e-mail current with the school district? Like our secondary schools, the elementary schools are moving to a mandatory online pre-registration for all Grosse Pointe Public School students next school year. Your “access key” for the online pre-registration will be coming to you this summer via your current e-mail that is on file with the school district.

If you need to update your e-mail with the school district, log in to ParentPortal and click on “My Information” in the upper right corner.

You can also e-mail ParentConnect@gpschools.org from your email we have on file, or call 313-432-3131 from the phone number in our records so we can verify who you are, and provide:

- your name
- child's name
- present school name and
- your old and new e-mail address as soon as possible.

We are asking families to do this as soon as possible to ensure you receive registration communications in a timely manner. However, we always seek to have your most current contact information on file in case of emergency.

If you do not have an email address or access to a computer, please know that our school computer labs will be open and stations are available at the administration building, 389 St. Clair Avenue, to complete the online registration process.

Thank you for helping with this.

DEFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2013-2014

MARCH
Volume 10, Issue 5

P.T.O. DRAGON TAILS



UPCOMING PTO EVENTS:

March 11
Records Day/ No school in PM

March 11
PTO Meeting @ 7pm in library

March 14
Donuts with Dad 8-8:20am

March 19
Market Day

March 21
Report Cards Distributed

March 26/27
Parent Teacher Conferences

March 27
No school due to conferences

While we try
to teach our
children all
about life,

Our children
teach us
what life is all
about.

~Angela
Schwindt

DRAGON SPEAK:

Hello Defer Families,

I hope all of you had a very enjoyable mid-winter break last week and are now rejuvenated to push on until spring. Your PTO is in a rejuvenation process as a committee is currently working to update our mission statement, bylaws and procedures. It is our intention, through a lot of effort, to complete these processes in time for our annual meeting later this spring (time/place to be announced of course).

As usual, your PTO continues to put forth the staffing, support and financing for several enriching activities:

- We hope all who participated in Muffins with Mom thoroughly enjoyed their morning
- We very much want to see you at Donuts with Dad on March 14th, please come and meet other fathers, uncles or grandfathers
- Our fundraising chairs are organizing a fun new event called Bingo Night Family Friday March 21 please mark your calendars and join us!
- Lunchtime Enrichment has been enjoyed by dozens of Defer students who have participated in a great variety of learning activities (and avoided the cold weather)

I want to publicly thank Principal Sullivan for her efforts in ensuring that PTO funds were wisely spent in updating the sound system in our Defer gym. The PTO Board had approved a full scale replacement of all componentry but prior to implementation, and on her own volition, Principal Sullivan con-

sulted with the school district's movement and equipment 'expert' to review our system. The subsequent review will allow us to keep several expensive and functional components (our speakers had been installed backwards!) while updating the sound system. The result is a better system and a cost reduction of over \$2,000 in valued PTO funds that can now make another difference at Defer. Thank you! Remember, the gym sound system is used not only for school assemblies but also every day by our physical education instructors.

If you would like to see agendas and notes from Defer PTO meetings please check them out on the Defer website at <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Page/6910> under the Parents Tab> PTO

Please consider joining us in our efforts. There are yet several committee positions in need of volunteers. Your participation is always appreciated. Simply contact any PTO Board Member or Committee Chair. For a list of current Board Members and Committee Chairs please see the Defer website >Parents Tab> PTO>

All Defer connected parties (parents, teachers, administration, neighbors, business owners) are invited and welcome at our monthly PTO meetings. Meeting are held at 7pm, the second Tuesday of each month in the Defer Library. Come check it out!

Thanks very much for all you do for Defer kids!

Matt Hodges-PTO President

Defer Volunteer Vibe

A random media tool to communicate volunteer happenings at Defer Elementary

Let's Go DRAGON Volunteers!

If you have not volunteered for a great Defer Community event, please obtain and complete a pink volunteer form located in the office! Don't Delay...Do This Today!!! Our remaining 13 sponsored PTO events can really use YOUR help! If you have never volunteered for a PTO sponsored event....NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME. If you volunteer to assist in **just one activity**, you will help out tremendously!!

Please be sure to complete the PINK Volunteer Form in the office return to the office.

NEW and FUNNN Opportunities for YOU! - See below for Chairperson Opportunities. Without a Chairperson – these great events may not happen!!!!

Chairperson Openings This Year and Next Year:

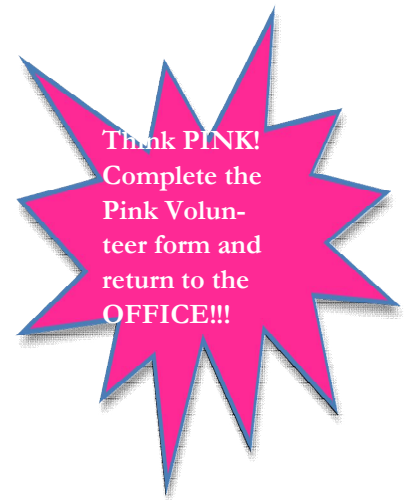
Defer F4 – Manage or Co-manage with a friend - efforts to provide our largest fundraiser of the year!

Gardening – Partner with school leadership and parent volunteers to keep the Defer grounds looking GREAT!

Hospitality – Provide water and designated snack item for only 4 events! Back To School, 1st Day Of School, Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad!!! YOU CAN DO THIS!

Lunchtime Enrichment – Manage a team of parents who will share their special interest with interested students.

Publishing Center – Create a schedule of Parent Volunteers to help office staff with copying and publishing needs.



Thank YOU to all the VOLUNTEERS Who Work EVERY DAY at Defer!

Clarification:

Along with donations honoring Pam Moorehead, the monies the library collected for the purchase of the iPads were profits from the Scholastic Book Fair.



Thank you to those who supported this.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Defer is turning 90!!!

We'd like to celebrate the big year better by gathering historic information, photos, and anecdotes from years past to help us plan a fun celebration next school year.

If you are interested in helping,
Please contact:

Christina Michaud (tcnichaud@sbcglobal.net)



FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

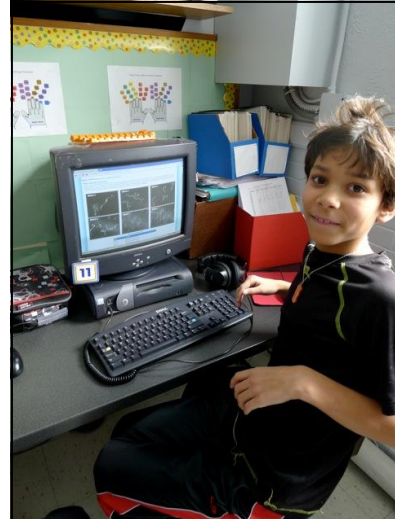
Friday, March 21st

6-8pm

Join us for food, bingo and prizes!!

A Defer PTO Fundraiser

THANKS TO OUR LUNCHTIME ENRICHMENT VOLUNTEERS!



Happy 
St. Patrick's Day

ASK THE EXPERTS presentations

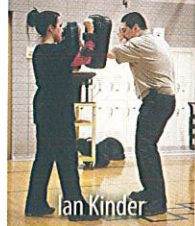
**March 20, 7:00pm at Barnes Early Childhood Center,
20090 Morningside, GPW, FREE**

Choose from one of three presentations. All Presentations begin at 7pm.

Self-Defense for Mothers & Teen Daughters

with Ian Kinder of Live Safe Academy

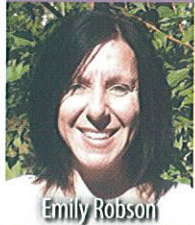
Self-defense instructor Ian Kinder conducts a self-defense class especially for women. All women welcome. Attendee needs: Pen for handout, proper footwear and clothes for athletic activity, adequate food and beverages to ensure concentration, safety and hydration. No jewelry on hands or wrist if possible.



Infant Massage: Learning the Language of Touch

with Emily Robson, Certified Educator of Infant Massage

Research shows that touch is the most powerful of all interactions. Babies can sense what their parent is feeling by the way they are touched. In this interactive, one-hour course, parents are given information and support in their venture to bond and communicate with their little one(s). Please bring a blanket to sit on.



Raising a Reader

with Stephanie Cork of Reading and Arts Language Centers

A child will not enjoy reading if it is difficult and does not yield any sort of intrinsic satisfaction. It is important to start early in order to make the reading process easier and more meaningful. "Raising a Reader" will help you introduce your child to the beautiful world of reading.



Register today @ familycenterweb.org or call 313.432.3832



The Family Center is committed to enriching our community through stronger families. Ask the Experts programs and presentations address the entire spectrum of family life.

Articles appear weekly in the Grosse Pointe News and online

Presentations by leading practitioners and educators

Talks bring a group of speakers together on timely topics

Videos available online 24/7 and on DVD

The Family Center 20090 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods

The Family Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies solely on the support of community contributions.

Ask the Experts presentations have been approved by the Grosse Pointe Public School District and the Harper Woods School District for staff development hours. This flier has been approved for distribution within the Grosse Pointe Public School District and Harper Woods School District. Distribution of this flier does not constitute an endorsement of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Printing costs for these fliers are paid for by the sponsoring organization.

The
Family Center

Enriching Our Community Through Stronger Families

info@familycenterweb.org

familycenterweb.org

313.432.3832

ASK THE EXPERTS presentations

**March 27, 7:00pm at Barnes Early Childhood Center,
20090 Morningside, GPW, FREE**

Choose from one of three presentations. All Presentations begin at 7pm.

Finding Peace in a Stressful World

with Gail Elliott-Patricolo, Integrative Medicine at Beaumont Health System

Stress reduction expert and a guided imagery specialist Gail Elliott-Patricolo conducts a class incorporating yoga and relaxation techniques. All women welcome. Attendee needs: casual, comfortable attire.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent

with Lynn Kaiser, Independent Facilitator

Love and Logic is America's most practical and entertaining parenting program! You will learn to build adult-child relationships with humor and empathy, respect and dignity; how to provide real limits in a loving way; how to promote healthy decision-making; and how kids learn from the consequences of their actions.

Experience FAMILYoga

with Angela Hill of PLAYoga

Family yoga is a great way to introduce children to the science of yoga postures and the discipline of breathing. Kids will enjoy yoga games, music and relaxing to the sounds of the ancient gong. The yoga tools learned will assist your child in meeting life's challenges today and in their future. It's a fun way to increase self-esteem, self-control and self-confidence. Classes are designed for the whole family – dads, grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts & uncles. Bring a mat or towel and wear loose comfortable clothing.

Empowering Kids with Economics

with Michelle Balconi

Economics is an integral part of our everyday lives and can be applied to most decision making. "Empowering Kids with Economics" will discuss the benefits of talking about economics with children/grandchildren. Everyday scenarios like grocery stores, trip planning and shopping illustrate basic economic principles of supply and demand, opportunity costs, diminishing returns in ways children can understand.

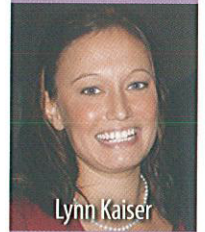
Register today @ familycenterweb.org or call 313.432.3832

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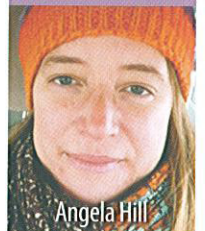
All of this evening's presentations have been approved by the Grosse Pointe Public School District and the Harper Woods School District for staff development hours. This flier has been approved for distribution within the Grosse Pointe Public School District and Harper Woods School District. Distribution of this flier does not constitute an endorsement of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Printing costs for these fliers are paid for by the sponsoring organization.



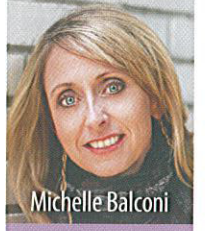
Gail Elliott-Patricolo



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