

Conference Follow-Up

Thanks goes out to all of our Defer families for attending the November parent conferences. It was a great opportunity to review your child's work so far and to set goals as the school year continues. Through our Leadership program at Defer our students track their own progress in their data/leadership binders. Students were eager to share these at conferences and to reflect with their parents and teacher on both their strengths and weaknesses.

One area that really impacts your child's math progress is mastery of the basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. When a student doesn't know their facts with automaticity everything they do in math is affected. So what does mastering your facts mean? It means that they can recite the math fact as readily as they can say their names. *Can your 2nd grader tell you the answer to $5 + 7$ automatically? Does your 4th grader know that $6 \times 7 = 42$ and can recite that readily?* That's what children need to be able to do in order to have great success in math.

Please encourage your child(ren) to learn and practice them throughout this year. Math facts should be practiced daily. Facts can be reviewed through simple old-fashioned flashcards, games, websites, and many apps. Some parents have apps on their smart phones for a portable way to have children practice, however, quizzing children orally, even as dinner is being readied or children are being driven to or from an after school activity is also effective.

Here are a couple of websites/apps that provide fact practice:

<http://www.fun4thebrain.com/>

<https://www.xtramath.org/>

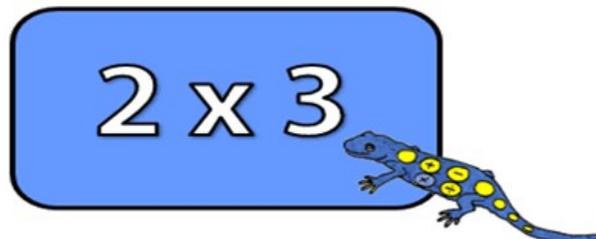
<http://www.multiplication.com/>

Apps:

<http://appadvice.com/applists/show/fun-math-apps-for-kids>

<http://www.educationalappstore.com/>

The Standards for fact mastery in our district have been established for each grade level. A copy of these standards is provided on the following page.



Math Fact Mastery

Elementary Mathematics Facts Standards (End of Year Mastery)

First Grade Mathematics

Proficiency Level (percent correct)							
Operation	Numbers	Qty	Time	Not Yet	Beginning	Developing	Secure
Addition	Addends to 10	30	none*	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100
Subtraction	Differences from 20	30	none*	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100

* Time standard of 3 minutes for secure only

Second Grade Mathematics

Proficiency Level (percent correct)							
Operation	Numbers	Qty	Time	Not Yet	Beginning	Developing	Secure
Addition	Addends to 10	40	none*	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100
Subtraction	Differences from 20	40	none*	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100
Multiplication	Factors of 0,1,2,5,10	40	none*	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100
Division							

* Time standard of 3 minutes for secure only

Third Grade Mathematics

Proficiency Level (percent correct)							
Operation	Numbers	Qty	Time	Not Yet	Beginning	Developing	Secure
Addition	Addends to 10	100	5 min	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100
Subtraction	Differences from 20	100	5 min	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100
Multiplication	Factors to 10	100	6 min	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100
Division	Divisors to 10	60	none*	< 50	50 to 69	70 to 89	90 to 100

* Time standard of 4 minutes for secure only

Fourth Grade Mathematics

Proficiency Level (percent correct)							
Operation	Numbers	Qty	Time	Not Yet	Beginning	Developing	Secure
Addition	Addends to 10	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100
Subtraction	Differences from 20	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100
Multiplication	Factors to 10	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100
Division	Divisors to 10	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100

Fifth Grade Mathematics

Proficiency Level (percent correct)							
Operation	Numbers	Qty	Time	Not Yet	Beginning	Developing	Secure
Addition	Addends to 10	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100
Subtraction	Differences from 20	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100
Multiplication	Factors to 10	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100
Division	Divisors to 10	100	5 min	< 60	60 to 79	80 to 94	95 to 100

How should students master these facts?

Practice, Practice, Practice! Families should be setting aside 15 minutes a night for fact mastery. One of the easiest ways to go about this is through the use of flash cards. At the beginning, practice the facts in families—all the 3's, all the 4's. As your child gains proficiency, mix the facts up together.

Let us know if you need a set of flash cards. We are glad to help out! Here's the bottom line—if your child doesn't know their facts readily, they are unable to go on easily to the more advanced work of multiplying and dividing 2 and 3 digit numbers. Again, **Practice, Practice, Practice!**

Multiplication War



Number of Players: 2

Materials: Deck of 30 to 40 Number Cards or
Playing Cards (remove Aces and face cards)

Directions:

1. Shuffle the deck of cards and divide them evenly between you. Do not look at your cards!
2. Face your partner. At the exact same time, each of you will take the top card from your deck and place it face up between you.
3. Immediately multiply the two numbers and call out the answer. Whoever says the product first wins both cards and places them at the bottom of his/her deck.
4. If you say the product at the exact same time, you declare **WAR!** Together, chant the words "I Declare War" and place three cards on the table. Put the first 2 face down and the third one face up. Quickly multiply the two cards that are face up, and say the product. Whoever says the product first wins all cards on the table!
5. Repeat steps 1 - 4 until one person wins all the cards or the time is up. The person with the most cards is the winner.



Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support

The PBIS program continues to be a backbone of Defer. It is based on the premise that all students will benefit from well implemented, evidence-based practices for improving student behavior. School-wide PBIS provides a positive focus to encourage desirable student behaviors. A set of universal expectations for behavior, positively stated, are established for all students in all locations of the school. These expectations generally promote core values of **respect, responsibility, and safety**. Interventions and strategies are implemented to teach and reinforce these expectations. These include:

Periodic direct instruction in specific student behaviors that demonstrate respect, responsibility, and safety in various locations in the school.

Generous quantities of positive adult/teacher attention and other kinds of reinforcement to students for demonstrating positive behaviors, especially specific behavior expectations identified by the school.

Predictable consequences for behavior infractions that are delivered consistently by all staff in a professional manner throughout the entire school.

Each month Defer school celebrates the good behavior of our students. The October PBIS party was entitled: *Choose Your Own Adventure*. Teachers each offered a unique activity in their classrooms and students signed-up for the one they were most interested in participating in as their Reward Party. Student choices included watching a movie, playing bingo, building with Legos, bring your own technology device and many more. Whatever the choice – a good time was had by all!

Winter Coats Available

For the third year in a row the Jaycees have generously given us brand new winter coats for students at Defer. Please call the school office at 432-4000 and let us know if your child needs a coat.

December Dragon Dens

Each month students and staff meet together in their Dragon Dens to focus on one of the Seven Habits of Leadership. This month's focus is *Begin with the End in Mind*. Our Dragon Dens met to share and discuss a picture book that features this habit. This month our book is *Strega Nona*. *Strega Nona*—"Grandma Witch" - is the source for potions, cures, magic, and comfort in her Calabrian town. Her magical everfull pasta pot is especially intriguing to hungry Big Anthony. He is supposed to look after her house and tend her garden but one day, when she goes over the mountain to visit Strega Amelia, Big Anthony recites the magic verse over the pasta pot, with disastrous results. We will be looking at the story through the lens of *Begin with the End in Mind*.

Fifth graders are doing a lot of writing and research on the new Chromebooks.

Thank , PTO!!



Mrs. Denison's class sharing and celebrating their published personal Narratives.



The Defer Elementary Third Grade Ukulele Standing Band is just getting underway and is looking for donations of gently used and under-appreciated ukuleles. If you have one at your house, we'd love to give it a new home! Please contact Mrs. Eckert or the school office!



SAFETY/SERVICE

In November, Defer Safety/Service went to TCBY for a waffle cone. Ashley at TCBY, was fabulous to everyone. It was wonderful to see all the students interacting so well outside of school.

Mrs. Fermani, Mrs. Michaud, Mrs. Schaupeter, and Mr. Miller transported everyone because it was a cold rainy day. Thank you to all of them.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-November

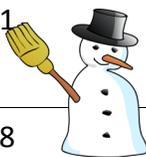
Safety: Natalie Coffey

Service: Jakob Hage

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 No School Staff Development	4 Robot Garage	5	6	7
8	9 Scholastic Book Fair Begins	10 Scholastic Book Fair PTO Meeting	11 Scholastic Book Fair Parent/Teacher Conf. 5-8	12 Scholastic Book Fair	13 Scholastic Book Fair	14
15	16	17	18 Safety Service TCBY	19	20	21
22	23	24 Half Day AM	25 NO School	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Vocal Concert 7 pm	2	3	4	5 PTO Craft Fair 9-1:00
6	7	8 PTO Holiday Gathering	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Report cards home	16	17 Holiday Sing along 1:15	18	19
20	21 	22 WINTER	23 BREAK	24	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Happy Holidays from your Elementary Library Media Specialists

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



Before you start your holiday shopping, visit www.commonsense.org for their "Best-of" recommendations for families. The lists includes age-appropriate movies, video games, apps, websites, books, music and educational materials.

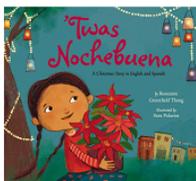


A young Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany arrives in New York City on the seventh night of Hanukkah and receives small acts of kindness while exploring the city.

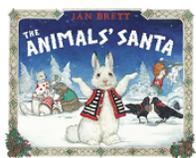
The Gift of Nothing



What can Mooch the cat give Earl the dog when Earl has everything? The answer, of course, is nothing. This simple picture book story features characters from McDonnell's popular comic strip, "Mutts."



'Twas nochebuena by Roseanne Greenfield Thong. Explores Latin American traditions for celebrating Christmas Eve in a text that combines English and Spanish words and follows the rhythm of Clement Moore's "The Night Before Christmas".



The animals' Santa Jan Brett. "A rabbit named Little Snow is celebrating his first Christmas, and after all the forest animals tell him about the animals' Santa, he is excited to wake up on Christmas morning to find his own surprise" -- Provided by publisher.



When Santa fell to Earth by Cornelia Funke. When he and his caravan come crashing down to earth during a thunderstorm two weeks before Christmas, Santa is befriended by two children, Charlotte and Ben, who try to help him save the holiday from the tricks and moneymaking schemes of Gerold GeronimusGoblynch and to take off in time for his annual rounds.

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





DEFER PTO

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

D * E * C * E * M * B * E * R *



2015-2016

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BREATHING FIRE:

Happy Holidays!!

I cannot believe only a couple of weeks until Winter Break. My kids are so excited to have a break from school already. I hope you have great Holiday season spending time with your children, family, and friends. Please take the time to enjoy your children and the Holiday traditions since they grow up so fast. I hope to see everyone at the Defer Holiday Craft Fair. This is a super fun family friendly event. I want to thank all our Crafty Parents who put this together especially our Chairs, Aimee Miller and Sarah DeYoung. This will be Aimee's last year with the Defer Craft Fair and she will definitely be missed as she moves onto Pierce next year.

Once we come back to school next year, we will be beginning our Lunchtime Enrichment Program. This is a great opportunity for our children to learn a new skill or just have some fun without going outdoors during the cold months. The class is one day a week during lunch recess for a couple of weeks. We are looking for parent volunteers to help. In the past, we have had classes that included Chess, Euchre, Greenhouse activities, Dancing, Beadwork, Cooking, and Yoga, just to name a few. If you are interested please contact me or traceysecco@gmail.com. I hope you were able to stop by the Defer Book Fair during conferences. Thank you to Becca Ozar and Mary Beth Coffey for running this great event. The next PTO meeting is Tuesday, January 12th in the Library at 7:00 pm. Please join us!!

Have a Wonderful Holiday & Merry Christmas!!!!

Renee Palazzolo

PTO President



Defer Elementary

15425 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Park, MI

48230

Office: (313) 432-4000

Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, December 5

9am-1pm

Defer gym

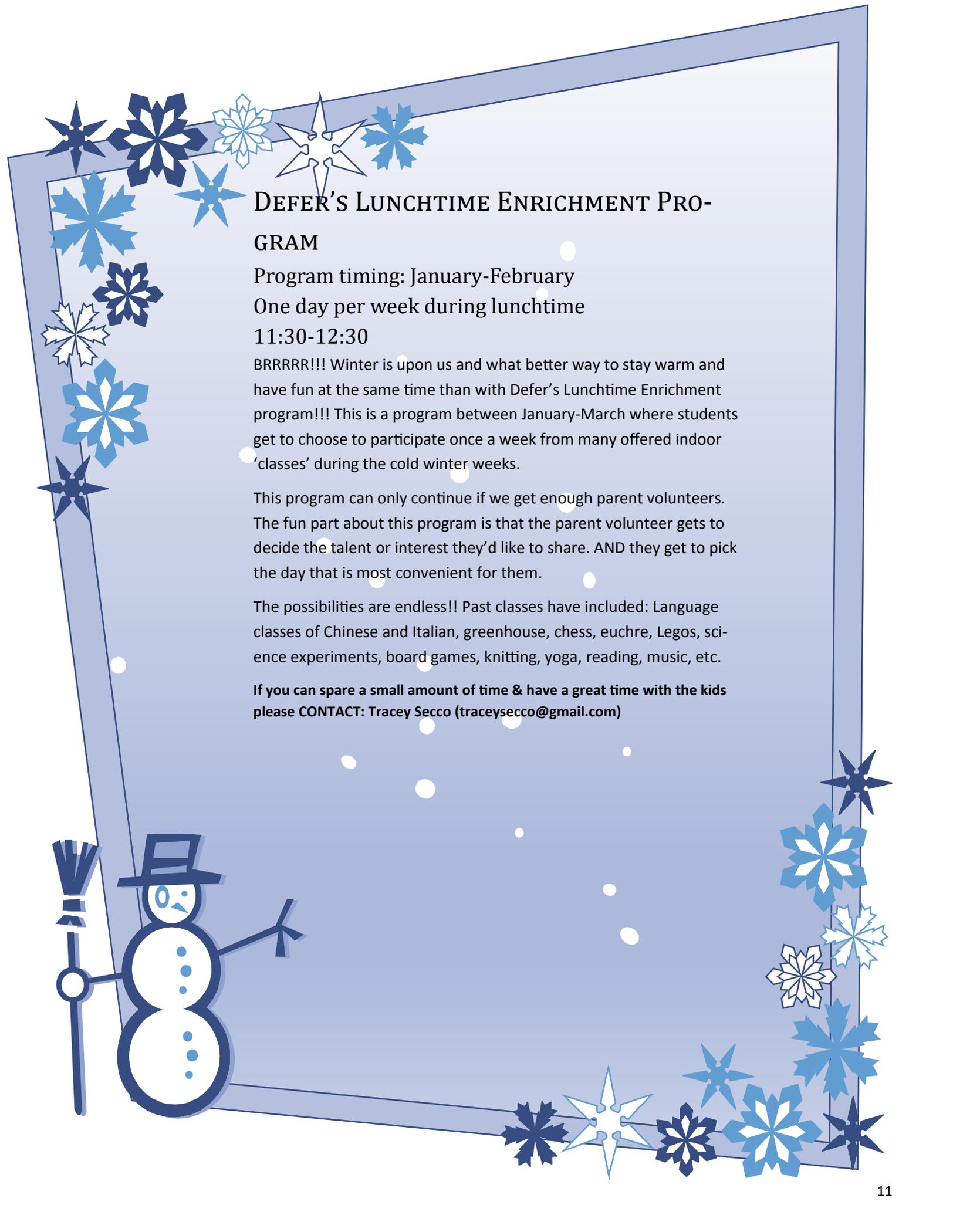
****No PTO Meeting this month**

See you January 12th

Lunchtime Enrichment begins Jan. 12th

***Volunteers still needed**

Reminders



DEFER'S LUNCHTIME ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Program timing: January-February
One day per week during lunchtime
11:30-12:30

BRRRRR!!! Winter is upon us and what better way to stay warm and have fun at the same time than with Defer's Lunchtime Enrichment program!!! This is a program between January-March where students get to choose to participate once a week from many offered indoor 'classes' during the cold winter weeks.

This program can only continue if we get enough parent volunteers. The fun part about this program is that the parent volunteer gets to decide the talent or interest they'd like to share. AND they get to pick the day that is most convenient for them.

The possibilities are endless!! Past classes have included: Language classes of Chinese and Italian, greenhouse, chess, euchre, Legos, science experiments, board games, knitting, yoga, reading, music, etc.

If you can spare a small amount of time & have a great time with the kids please CONTACT: Tracey Secco (traceysecco@gmail.com)



DEFER HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR



Save the Date: Saturday, December 5th from 9-1pm.

Our elves have been busy creating craft ideas and will place them in the showcase in the main hallway when complete. Once there, you may decide which crafts you would like to make.

An order form will be coming home on Nov. 6th where you may select your craft on the form and return with payment to school.

Come to the North Pole (Defer's gym) on Dec. 5 at your allotted time and be ready to have some festive holiday fun, make some crafts with the help of elves & parents, and enjoy another wonderful Defer tradition.

**We are always looking for additional parent volunteers (elves)!!
You do not need to be crafty to help us out on the day of the event.
If you can volunteer an hour or two of your time,
Please contact Aimee (amcmiller@att.net) or
Sara (tenckinck@yahoo.com)**