

# DEFER DRAGON's BURNING NEWS

JANUARY 8, 2014

Defer Elementary

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## Defer's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday January Celebration *The Hunger Games*

Starting in September Defer School has celebrated our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday each month. In September each student received a Defer water bottle and pencil and the following months included Defer t-shirts for students and staff, students creating handprint banners with their Dragon Dens, and raffle and trivia winners at the Book Fair.

In January the staff has worked to initiate a special school-wide birthday celebration. Instead of receiving something we want to provide a chance for students to learn the importance of giving; giving right in our own neighborhood. Ms. Burrell and Mrs. Osborne are spearheading a *food drive*. In honor of our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday we have set of goal of 90 food items from each grade, giving us a school-wide goal of 540 food items. We know this is a lofty goal indeed, but when it comes to helping others, why not *shoot for the stars!*

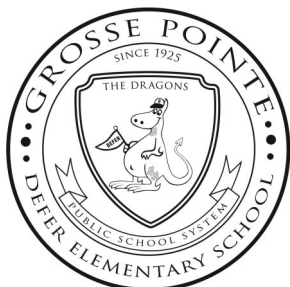
### This is how it will work:

- Each student will receive a paper bag with a *food drive* letter attached to the outside during the first week of January. **A special thanks to Kroger's on Kercheval for donating over 300 paper bags for this effort.**
- If your family is able please send in several items in your child's bag. Each classroom will have a *food drive* container.
- Our goal is to provide well-balanced bags of food to feed children through weekends when the school's free/reduced food is not available. We will use this in our own building if there is a need and donate the rest to a local food bank to do the same.
- Each grade level is assigned a food group/category to donate in hopes of getting a well balanced diet. See the listings for each grade below.
- Our Student Council along with student leaders will count and organize the donations.

### The Donations by grade:

- K – canned fruit
- 1st – soup, macaroni and cheese
- 2nd – peanut butter , nut butter (for those with peanut allergies)
- 3rd – canned vegetables
- 4th – cereal, dried milk
- 5th – canned meat ( tuna, chicken, salmon)

Watch our *Food Drive* thermometer posted outside the office to see our progress during the month of January! Let's be *proactive* – let's make a difference for others.



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

# PBIS

## ***Responsibility Pyramid***

Each month the Defer staff looks at the PBIS data along with classroom data to evaluate where we need to do better. For the last year it has become evident that *homework completion and acting responsibly in general* was an area to improve. Every day our Defer students pledge to be *Respectful, Responsible, and Safe*. We needed to look at the responsibility piece.

We've been meeting with the District PBIS coordinator, Aimee Miller, as well as our neighboring Grosse Pointe schools to address this concern. After gathering this outside input as well as the Defer staff discussions we have created the *Responsibility Pyramid* shown below. It outlines the responsible behaviors expected at each grade level.

### **Responsibility Pyramid**

**K-Personal Area Neat**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Desk and Locker Organized**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Desk and Locker Organized, DOT**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Desk and Locker Neat, Planner Written, Homework Completed**

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> - Desk and Locker Neat, Planner Written, Homework Complete, Switch Materials**

During the month of January our PBIS focus will be on *Responsibility* and we will be introducing the pyramid to all students. Some grades already have these expectations in place and they have been shared with you already this year. Our goal is to be uniform as a building, to teach the expectations, and then to hold these expectations for all students.

Beginning in February we will be adding *purple cards* to our class PBIS chart to reflect specifically on the grade-level expectations from the *Responsibility Pyramid*. A student will receive a purple card for not showing responsible behaviors. Listed below are the procedures around purple cards:

- The maximum purple cards a student can earn in a day is one.
- A student in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> will miss the monthly Reward Party if they receive 8 or more purple cards.
- Kindergarten students will miss the monthly Reward Party if they receive 11 or more purple cards.

Please make the *Responsibility Pyramid* a part of your discussions with your child. Many of these expectations are your child's at school but in the upper grades there are student responsibilities that you can help support each day. *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!

## Dragon Den Doings



December was a busy month for our Dragon Dens. We met twice during the month and each time we continued to build strong relationships across the grades. In early December the Dragon Dens met to celebrate at our Reward Party. Each den worked to decorate banners stamped with their hand print. Our PTO will be displaying each Dragon Den's set of banners as they are strung together in the halls of Defer during January.

Later in the month we met to *deck the halls*. Each Den created a set of flowers to be displayed outside of their leader's classroom door. You'll notice these bright red and green creations outside our doors or in classrooms all over Defer.

We're building community; we're building relationships; we see all students and all staff as a part of our Defer family!

### ***Assembly Leaders Send a Message*** **Be Proactive!!!**

Last month we held our first student-led *Leader in Me* assembly and it was terrific! One of the chief elements of the Leader in Me program is to develop student leadership. In the past leadership at Defer has been limited to a few students involved in Student Council and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Service/Safety Squad. We began last year with student mentors and saw great benefit from this opportunity for students. We want to continue to grow leadership in all of our students, and one of the ways we are beginning this year is with a team of *assembly leaders*. These students are planning monthly assemblies to focus on one of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective people. The assemblies serve as a culminating activity after a month long classroom focus on the habit.

Our first assembly leaders – Kate Weidig, Jane Kuhnlein, Evie Klepp, and Casey McQueen – used a game show format at their assembly. Contestants were selected from the audience to watch several scenarios acted out by the leaders. After each scenario the contestants were asked to identify who was being proactive. Soon the entire audience joined in and used a *thumbs-up* or *thumbs down* hand signal to indicate who was being proactive.

Our leaders worked hard to plan their assembly with Mrs. Lapensee and Mrs. Bergeron providing support. They can be proud of their accomplishments.

# Digital Picks

*From your School Library  
Media Specialist*



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

WEBSITE and APP: **instaGrok** Platform: Website, ios and Android (Free) <http://www.instagrok.com/index.html>

**instaGrok** is an interactive search engine for learners. It not only finds quality educational materials on any topic, but presents information in an engaging visual way, and helps students develop research and curation skills. **instaGrok** is used by hundreds of thousands of students, teachers and everyday people every month.

instaGrok

APP: **THE FOOS**

Platform: ios

Free

THE FOOS by codeSpark is the most kid-friendly and fun way to learn computer programming. And its free to play. The Foos - Hour of Code Edition is an introduction for those who have no experience whatsoever programming, and is all-ages friendly! That means anyone from 5 to 99 can play, have fun and learn real programming logic.



APP: **Scholastic Story Starters** Platform: Website and ios (Free) <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/>

Story Starters inspire students to write by serving up hundreds of writing prompts in creative combinations. Set young writers loose with prompts that explore the themes of Adventure, Fantasy, or Sci-Fi. Or choose Scrambler, for random word combinations. Story Starters gives ideas for character, plot, and setting. If you want to change your writing prompt, pull the lever and it will serve up a new prompt, either piece-by-piece or all at once.



## 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

# January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
Winter Break 12/20—1/4						
4	5	6	7	8	9 Lunchtime Enrichment Letters Distributed	10
11	12 Lunchtime Enrichment Starts	13 PTO Meeting Defer Library 7:00 p.m.	14	15 Kindergarten Info Night 7:00 p.m.  Pierce Coney Night 6:00 p.m.	16	17
18	19 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> MLK Day	20	21 Market Day	22 Multi-Age Info Night @ Trombly 6:00 p.m.	23 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Staff Professional Development	24
25	26	27	28 Safety/Service Party @ Pierce 3:50— 5:15 p.m.	29	30 PTO Bingo Night 6:00—8:00 p.m. Defer Gym	31

# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 GPNinspire 6:00 p.m.	7
8	9	10 PTO Meeting Defer Library 7:00 p.m.	11 Student Count Day	12	13 PTO Muffins with Mom 8:00 a.m.  Lunchtime Enrichment Ends	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Mid-Winter Break 2/14—2/22						
			Market Day			
22	23	24	25 Safety/Service Party @ Lakeshore Lanes 3:50— 5:45 p.m.	26	27	28

## SAFETY/SERVICE

In November, Defer Safety/Service walked to TCBY for a waffle cone. The girls at TCBY, Kim and Ashley, were fabulous to everyone. It was a cold and snowy fall day and it was wonderful to see all the students interacting so well outside of school. Mrs. Brien and Mrs. Budziak joined us on our walk this year. Thank you to both of them for guiding us.

In December, Defer Safety/Service celebrated in the Defer Gym. We enjoyed Mr. C's pizza, drinks, snacks, and desserts together. Afterward we played an aggressive game of Turtle Soup. It was great to see the teams working together and encouraging each other to stay in the game.

Thank you to Mrs. Brien, Mrs. Borowicz, Mrs. Budziak, Mrs. Domzalski, Mrs. Kramer, and Mrs. Weidig for joining us and serving pizza. Every morning the safeties enjoy hot cocoa to "Warm the Safeties." Thank you, to the PTO, it is greatly appreciated.

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

Happy New Year,  
Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-December  
Safety: Tyler Brien                      Service: Grant Moorhead

Safety/Service Member of the Month-November  
Safety: Ellie Budziak                      Service: Evie Klepp

<u>Post Times</u>		<u>Late Start Monday</u>	
Safety:	8:10-8:20 a.m.	Safety:	8:50-9:05 a.m.
	3:35-3:45 p.m.		3:35-3:45 p.m.
Service:	8:15-8:25 a.m.	Service:	8:55-9:10 a.m.
	3:35-3:45 p.m.		3:35-3:45 p.m.

Safety Patrol Members check the weather before leaving their houses in the morning and if the weather is below 0° F degrees with the wind-chill, then the Safety Patrol Members will not be at their posts.

# ANNUAL PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL



## CONEY DINNER

THURSDAY,

JANUARY 15, 2015

6:00-7:30 PM

Pierce Middle School's Faculty,

Student Body and PTO Cordially Invite

5th graders and their parents to attend our

Coney Night Exhibits, Club Activities,

Athletic Teams, Snacks by Life Skills,

Questions & Answers

Coney Dog	\$2.00
Ice Cream	\$1.00
Pop	\$1.00
Chips	\$1.00



# The GP Nspire Talks

INSPIRING STUDENTS. INSPIRING IDEAS. INSPIRING OTHERS.

## WHEN

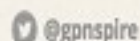
FRIDAY, FEB. 6TH 2015 AT 7-10PM

## WHERE

260 CHALFONTE AVE  
GROSSE PTE FARMS, MI

## MORE INFORMATION

This event will take place on stage in the multipurpose room of Brownell Middle School. Doors open at 6:00pm



Check out video, audio, images and more from the event and get a flavor for the inspiring ideas that kids have to share.



Email: [gpnspire@gmail.com](mailto:gpnspire@gmail.com)



Website: [j.mp/gpnspire](http://j.mp/gpnspire)



## EVENT OVERVIEW

Students from the Grosse Pointe Public Schools, and several Metro Detroit schools, will come together to give a series of short and inspiring talks in front of a live audience. This event will benefit the [Michigan Eye Bank](#).

## WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

The GP Nspire Talks will feature students delivering short and inspiring talks, which bring their ideas to life, in front of a live audience. This year, all of the talks will focus on answering the question: "What's your vision for \_\_\_\_?"



## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS!

1. [Grosse Pointe Public Schools](#)
2. [Galileo Consortium](#)
3. [Michigan Eye Bank's Millennial Council](#)
4. [University of Michigan Chapter of the Delta Gamma Foundation](#)



# RAISE the ROOF

*A Talent event ...*

III

BENEFITTING OUR *Special*  
NEEDS COMMUNITY



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 • 7 P.M.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial*

32 Lake Shore Rd. • Grosse Pointe Farms

TICKETS: \$25 ADULTS • \$5 CHILDREN

Join us for **live, on-stage entertainment** showcasing the talents of our special needs community. Afterglow following in the ballroom.

You can purchase tickets at Full Circle Upscale Resale Shop, League Shop, Posterity Gallery or online at [www.fullcirclefoundation.org](http://www.fullcirclefoundation.org) • 313.469.6660

Sponsored by:



# **P.T.O. Positions and Committees**

**Below are the current PTO positions and committees  
associated with the 2015-2016 school year.**

**Please thoughtfully consider where you can volunteer your time and talents.  
Contact: Michele Hodges (michelelhodges@gmail.com) with your selection(s)  
or return this form asap to the office with your interests circled.**

**Please don't hesitate to ask for more information.**

**Thanks, in advance, for your efforts.**



**President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Communications  
Volunteers  
Hospitality  
Membership  
Fundraising  
School Board Observer  
Historian  
Spring Social Committee  
Morning Office Assistance  
Fall Family Event  
Euchre Night  
Fun Run  
Gardening  
Lunch Duty  
Market Day**

**Progressive Dinner  
Bake Sales  
Holiday Craft Fair  
Publishing Center  
Pumpkin Patch  
Waking School Bus  
Beautification  
Clinic Volunteers  
Scholastic Book Fair  
Field Day  
Disability Workshop  
Green Squad  
Lunchtime Enrichment  
Pancake Event  
Bingo Night  
Teacher Appreciation Lunch  
5th Grade Promotion**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_





# **Family Bingo Night**

A Defer PTO Fundraiser

**Friday, January 30, 2015**

**6 pm to 8 pm**

**Defer's Gym**



**Bingo games for just \$1**

**FOOD for sale**

**FUN & PRIZES !!!!!**

Questions? Please contact Renee P at [reneepalazzolo@gmail.com](mailto:reneepalazzolo@gmail.com)