

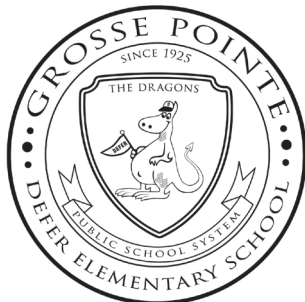
DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

JUNE 5, 2014

Defer Elementary



Calendar	3
Summer School	4
Thank You!	5
Safety/Service.	6
School Improvement . .	7
RAZ Reading	8
Online Registration . .	10



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www.gpschools.org/defer

Ahhh! Summer. A time to relax and enjoy those lazy days filled with trips to the park, family vacations and backyard barbecues, right?

Not so fast! Summer can entail more than just a change from the usual routine. For children, it can mean a serious loss of learning. Research shows that many children experience a 'summer slump' and can lose about four weeks of growth from the previous school year. However, there are many things a parent can do to keep their child's brain active. Here are a few ideas recommended by experts to help prevent the dreaded 'brain drain.'

Read between the lines. Have your child join the local library's summer reading program or start their own reading program or book club. They can set a goal for reading so many books and even keep track on a book 'growth' chart.

Incorporate reading into everyday activities by pointing out billboards, fliers, food containers and such. Younger children can play the alphabet game on longer drives.

Talk the talk. Ask questions about anything and everything, but not the kind of questions that only illicit "yes" or "no" answers. For instance, ask "What did you like about...?" Get children talking, and you may be able to turn a normal experience into a teaching moment.

Got Game? Organize game nights not just for your family, but in the neighborhood. Play educational games like Scrabble, Uno crossword puzzles, Sudoku or basic card games. They make for a fun night and reinforce skills such as memory, concentration, logic and reasoning. They also teach children how to take turns, and be both a good winner and a good loser.

continued on p. 2

Vacation your body, not your mind. Going on a trip can be a great time to expand more than your physical horizons. Use the library and internet to learn about the destination and its historical sites. Study maps and plot mileage.

It all adds up to fun. According to the National Summer Learning Association, losing math skills is the biggest threat. Try a number of activities to reinforce math skills. For instance, look at the measurements in a recipe you're making and ask your child to double it. Ask your child to compute the 15% tip on the restaurant bill, or determine how many gallons of gas are needed to travel the 50 miles to grandma's house. Make math a part of your everyday life.

Let's stamp out **summer slump** when it comes to our Defer Dragons!!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night for the 2014 - 2015 School Year is on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Defer gym.



SCHEDULE REMINDERS FOR THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL:

- Monday, **June 9** - PLC Late Start
School starts at 9:05 ends at 3:38 pm
- Tuesday, **June 10** - Regular full day of school
- Wednesday, **June 11** - 1/2 Day AM ONLY
School starts at 8:20 am - ends at 11:36 am
- Thursday, **June 12** - 1/2 Day AM ONLY
School starts 8:20 am - ends at 11:36 am



Donnie's Zoo visits Kindergarten

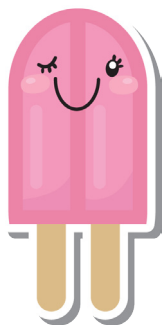


5th Grade Promotion is Thursday, June 12th at 10:00 am in the Gym.
Seating is limited.

Any medication left over in the office will be discarded on June 13th.
Please stop in to pick your child's medication.

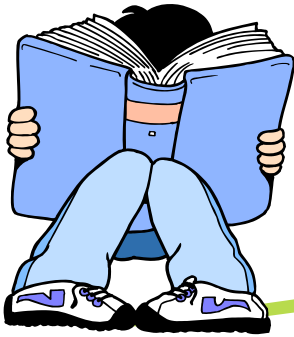
JUNE 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	D 2	A 3	B 4	C 5	D 6 2nd Grade Picnic	7
8	A 9 1st Grade Picnic	B 10 2/3 Magnet, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade and 4/5 Magnet Picnic	C 11 1/2 Day - AM Kindergarten Picnic Award Ceremony 10:00 a.m.	D 12 1/2 Day - AM 5th Grade Promotion 10:00 a.m.	13 Teacher Duty Day	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
June 13 - September 1 First Day of School - September 2, 2014						
29						



Classroom Picnic Dates:

- 6/6** - Lapensee & Burrell @ Patterson Park. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- 6/9** - High & Caroselli @ Patterson Park. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 6/10** - Bergeron, Hard, Denison, Eckert, Gout, Nugent, Halpin, Maninno, Cross/Mestdagh & Senska @ Windmill Park. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 6/11** - Richards & Humphrey @ Patterson Park. 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Grosse Pointe Public Schools

Elementary Summer School Program 2014

Maire Elementary School
740 Cadieux
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

July 8 through July 31 ~ Tuesday through Thursday
Session 1: 8:30 am to 10:00 am
Sessions 2: 10:15 am to 11:45 am

K-5 Courses

- Math Building Blocks
- FAST Reading
- Techno-Art
- Art Exploration
- Grade Level Readiness (Kindergarten through 3rd grade)
- Writing
- Reading Comprehension
- Music
- Recreational Sports

6th Grade Courses

- Advanced Math Preparation
- Stepping Up courses in reading and math
- Study skills
- Writing
- Art
- Recreational Sports
- Music

Register Today!

Go to www.gpschools.org and click on Summer Learning Programs to register.

If you have any questions about the program please contact Andrea Lappin-Roth at: Andrea.Lappin-Roth@gpschools.org

Camp 'O Fun Shuttle

A supervised shuttle that transports students between programs. The shuttle will leave Maire at the end of school day and take the kids to Ferry where they can enjoy Camp 'O Fun activities.

THANK YOU!

2014 Field Day Success GET UP, GO OUT, GO PLAY

Dear Defer Parents and Friends,

Field Day could not have been possible without the continued support and help of our Defer PTO volunteers, and friends...Wahoo!!!

Time is so very precious and we are all busy with our lives..... We appreciated your time off work, your time filling up water balloons, your time and help with setting up the activities and of course your patience with providing our school with an amazing day!!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you.....

Have a healthy, active, fun summer!
Ms. Raab, Mr. Ciaravino, and Mr. Senska



Thank for Supporting the Arts @ Defer!

This year a record number of students, parents, family and friends attending the Defer Student Art Show on May 8th. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped put up the show, Pierce NJHS and to all that stopped by celebrate our student artists. Over 1,000 pieces of student work were on display. *Congratulations to Jerry in Mrs. Mannino's class for winning Arty and his bin of supplies in the art show raffle.*

- Mrs. Makowski, Art Teacher

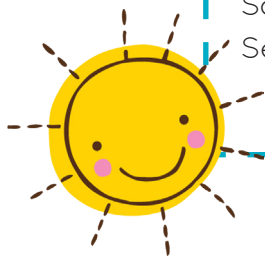
SAFETY/SERVICE NEWS

In May, Defer Safety/Service enjoyed their final fun night of the year. It was a beautiful day to go to Windmill Pointe Park. We enjoyed hot dogs, fruit, snacks, drinks and desserts. Thank you to those parents who so generously donated snacks, desserts and drove to the park. Everyone enjoyed good fun, food and friends. Thank you to Mr. Srebernak who grilled for us. Also, Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Tengler, Mrs. Astfalk, Mrs. Barry, Mr. Wharton, and Mr. Sendra who chaperoned.

To all Safety/Service members who are finishing your time at Defer, you should be proud because you made Defer a better, safer place. May you enjoy success in your future endeavors and remember to represent your alma mater, Defer Elementary in the best way.

If you see a Safety/Service member doing a good job, please tell them - their time is running out.

Thank you,
Helen Srebernak



Member of the Month - March	Member of the Month - April
Safety: Jackson Vosburg	Safety: Sammy Cielieska
Service: Jack Michaud	Nia Rahman
	Service: Grace Vethacke

New medications form required for 2014-15 school year

The Board of Education recently adopted a **new medications form** that will be required annually **beginning in the 2014-15 school year** to administer any medication, including over the counter medications provided by parents or guardians.

We are notifying you of this change now so that as you make appointments for sports physicals or immunizations, you can take this with you to obtain the required physician signature. For this guideline, “physician” refers to any health care provider licensed by the State of Michigan. This form was developed to support our revised Board Policy 5330, which meets new provisions of the State of Michigan Model Policy for Administering Medications to Pupils at Schools. “Medication” includes prescription, non-prescription and herbal medications, and include those taken by mouth, inhaler, injection, and drops or applied to the skin. Medication must be kept in a locked school location, and in a labeled container as prepared by a pharmacy, physician, or pharmaceutical company with the pupil’s name, the name of the medication, the dosage, and the frequency of administration. For more detail on this or any school board policy and guidelines, visit www.gpschools.org and under the School Board dropdown, click policy. You can use the search tool to find information by key words.

The annual written permission form MUST be signed by both the parent and physician. This new form is now available on the district website www.gpschools.org and will be part of the online registration process. Please download it today and take to your next appointment.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2013 – 2014: The Year in Review

The Defer staff put School Improvement on center stage, and I am proud of all we accomplished.



A few highlights:

- **Mastery of Basic Math Facts** – (3×6 , $2 + 8$, $9 - 3$) Knowing math facts is essential to every kind of math problem and when you ‘lose your place in the problem you are solving’ because you can’t remember the math fact, things quickly fall apart. In September we set to work and have never looked back! We have made huge gains in the this area with better than 90% of our students knowing their math facts fluently. Wahoo!!!!
- **5 In / 5 Out** – As a part of our School Improvement our staff focused on Writing. Our goal was to break down each grade level and establish the skills that each and every students must leave the grade owning. These are the survival skills when it comes to writing. Our 5 In/ 5 Out posters are ready for all classrooms in each grade as we continue this work next year.
- **Problem Based Learning** - PBL integrates knowing and doing. Students learn knowledge and elements of the core curriculum, but also apply what they know to solve authentic problems and produce results that matter. PBL students take advantage of digital tools to produce high quality, collaborative products. PBL refocuses education on the student, not the curriculum--a shift mandated by the global world, which rewards intangible assets such as drive, passion, creativity, empathy, and resiliency.
- **Genius Hour** – Along the same line as PBL, Genius Hour provides for students learning around a real-world question they have. That question might be how does lightning work, or what animals are part of the cat world and how do they differ from each other. The use of technology is employed to show learning this learning in a variety of ways.
- **Common Core Writing/Reading Units of Study** – All grades implemented new curriculum in both reading and writing this year. Units of Study are grade specific and emphasize both fiction and informational reading and writing and are aligned to Common Core.
- **Rti** – Response to Intervention occurred at all grade levels this year. Using testing data students were grouped by need for focused instruction three times a week, while other students received enrichment instruction during this time.
- **School-wide Interventions for Grades 3 through 5** – Lunch and Learn, Lunch Fact Practice, Boys’ Writing Club, 3rd girls’ Writing Club, and Homework Club were some of the ways that additional support were provided for struggling learners in addition to Title 1.

Dear Parents,

Kindergarten through third grade students (and 4th and 5th grade students in Reading Club) will be able to access Reading Raz and Raz Rocket all summer long. This is a wonderful opportunity to prevent “Summer Slide” where a student’s reading level slides backwards over the summer months.

Passwords and other sign in information were sent home earlier in the year. If your child does not know this information, please contact your child’s teacher to find it out before this school year ends.

Try accessing the Reading Raz website by going to www.raz-kids.com from your Internet browser and click on “Log In.”

- Then type in your teacher’s username and click “Go.” Next, find your child’s name or symbol on the chart and click on that symbol. Lastly, enter a picture password if prompted (some classes don’t use the picture password).
- Your child has already been assigned a reading level and will earn points for reading stories, taking quizzes, or completing a level.
- **All students attaining the Fleet Admiral status by the end of the summer will be invited to a Raz Rocket party in September and be given a special treat!**

Here is more information about the program from the Reading Raz website:











Star System

Students earn stars for every book read and listened to, and quizzes and assignments successfully completed. A bonus of 500 stars is also available.

Activities	Stars Earned
Practice Recording	10
Listen	10
Read	50
Quiz Passed	100
Perfect Quiz	150
Running Record Completed	300
Custom Assignment or Self- Paced Level Completed	500

Rocket Ranking System

As students earn stars, they move up in rank. Ranks are displayed on each student's individual assignment page.

	Rank	Stars
	Ensign	0 - 499
	Lieutenant JG	500 - 1,499
	Lieutenant	1,500 - 2,999
	Lt. Commander	3,000 - 4,999
	Commander	5,000 - 9,999
	Captain	10,000 - 14,999
	Admiral	15,000 - 29,999
	Fleet Admiral	30,000 +

Have a wonderful summer!

Suellen Lohr
Reading Specialist
Defer Elementary



ARTSONIA

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

www.deferart.com



Dear Students and Parents,

This summer our elementary schools will be moving to an online registration process, as the middle and high schools did previously. In order to attend School Registration, a pre-registration receipt for each student must be signed by a parent/guardian, printed, and presented. Schedules will not be released without this document. This will reduce our paper use and postage and processing costs, which in turn helps keep funding focused on the classroom.

- The link to on-line pre-registration will be on the school and district website www.gpschools.org.
- A parent/guardian e-mail address is required to complete the on-line process. If you do not have a valid e-mail address, you can easily establish a free e-mail account on search engines such as www.gmail.com or www.yahoo.com.
- If your e-mail address has changed, update it with the school district by e-mailing: ParentConnect@gpschools.org. Include in the e-mail your name, child's name, school name, and your old and new e-mail address. Requests for forgotten login passwords will be sent only to the e-mail address registered with the school district. Only one primary email address will be sent the "access key" for pre-registration.
- Your Parent Connect password (access key) and student's ID number (log in ID) will be necessary to pre-register your student on-line. If you have misplaced or forgotten this information, please send an e-mail to ParentConnect@gpschools.org TODAY.
- If you do not have internet access at home, you may access computers at local public libraries.
- If you have changed your home address, it is mandatory to contact the Enrollment Office as soon as possible, but at least one week before registration at 313-432-3083 to update your home address. You can walk in to the office at 389 St. Clair, from 8-4, Monday through Friday.
- In order to attend school registration, a pre-registration completed form signed by a parent/guardian for each student must be printed and presented.
- All registration forms must be filled out on-line to complete the process. Instructions will be on the pre-registration site. These include photo release, FERPA and the new medication form.
- All fees and fines will need to be paid on-line with a credit or debit card. Cash or checks will not be accepted at school registration. (Visa or MasterCard debit cards may be purchased from a variety of retail stores.)
- You must bring the final on-line checkout pre-registration form signed by a parent/guardian to registration. Schedules will not be released without this form at registration.

Plan on 2014-15 being a great year in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The staff is eagerly awaiting an exciting and challenging year with our children. The first day of elementary school is Tuesday, September 2, 2014, and is a half day. School begins at 8:25 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:38 p.m.

Your partner in education,
Dr. Thomas Harwood, Superintendent
Grosse Pointe Public School System