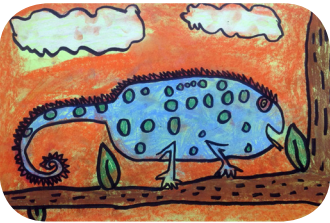


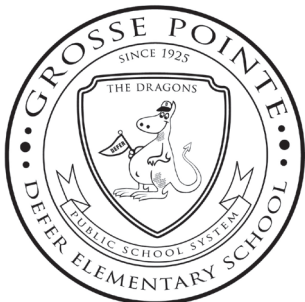
DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

MAY 8, 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

Teacher Appreciation Week

This week, May 5th to May 9th is officially National Teacher Appreciation Week 2014. National Teacher Appreciation Day was May 6th. The history of National Education Week and Day is not certain. The movement for such an observance is commonly thought to have begun around the time of World War II and Eleanor Roosevelt made a major push for the day in 1953.

So what's the big deal about teachers

Great teachers give us a sense not only of who they are, but more importantly, of who we are, and who we might become. They unlock our energies, our imaginations, and our minds. Effective teachers pose compelling questions, explain options, teach us to reason, suggest possible directions, and urge us on.

Successful teachers are vital and full of passion. They love to teach as a painter loves to paint, as a writer loves to write, as a singer loves to sing. They have a serious purpose and yet enjoy enormously what they do. They get excited about their subject no matter how many times they have taught it. They push themselves just as they push their students, and their classrooms become memorable learning experiences.

Great teachers know they are always on stage and that who they are, how they act, and what they believe are as important as what they teach.

continued on p. 2



ART SHOW TONIGHT!

May 8th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Defer Gym

Let's send a big thanks to educators by helping our kids view them with great respect. A powerful strategy for achieving this goal involves allowing them to overhear their parents talking positively about their teachers. You've probably noticed your children's eyes glazing over as you've tried to lecture them about some essential truth. In contrast, you've seen how closely they listen when they see that you're trying to have a private conversation!



Experiment with this:

At least twice a week intentionally let your children overhear you saying something positive about their teachers.

Do this for the rest of the school year.

Springtime can be tough for students. Keeping things positive can go a long way toward helping your children learn while showing teachers that we appreciate their hard work and dedication.

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.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

On May 21st from 4:00 - 4:45 our Kindergarten staff welcomes next year's Kindergarten students to our annual Kindergarten Round - Up. We are looking forward to having our newest students for next year visit one of our Kindergarten classrooms and have a learning experience with both of our Kindergarten teachers. This is the first step in helping them make the transition into their elementary school career. Come see the classroom, participate in an activity, and meet the teachers. This event will be held in Room 204.



MAY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				C 1 Instrumental Concert 7:00 p.m.	D 2	3
4	A 5	B 6	C 7	D 8 Student Art Show 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	A 9	10
Teacher Appreciation Week						
11	B 12	C 13 2nd Grade to Henry Ford PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	D 14	A 15 2/3 Magnet to Henry Ford	B 16 1/2 Day AM School Only Kindergarten Donnie's Zoo 9:00 a.m.	17
18	C 19 Spring Vocal Music Concert- K, 2, 4 & Choir 7:00 p.m. @ Pierce	D 20 5th Grade Disability Awareness 2nd Grade & 2/3 Robot Garage	A 21 Kindergarten Roundup 4:00 - 4:40 p.m. Market Day	B 22 Ice Cream Social Freckle Face Strawberry Play Safety/Service BBQ @ Windmill 3:50 - 6:00 p.m.	C 23 Field Day	24
25	26 Memorial Day No SCHOOL	D 27	A 28	B 29 Kindergarten Field Trip to Real Life Farms Lapensee Play 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	C 30	31

5th Grade to Camp Howell 5/28 - 5/30



PTO Ice Cream Social
May 22nd
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



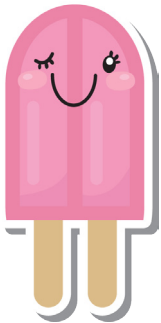
Market Day®

Remaining 2014 Market Day Pick Ups:

- May 21
- June 11

JUNE 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	D 2	A 3	B 4	C 5	D 6	7
				Rain date for Field Day	2nd Grade Picnic	
8	A 9	B 10	C 11	D 12	13	14
	1st Grade Picnic	2/3 Magnet, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade and 4/5 Magnet Picnic	1/2 Day - AM Kindergarten Picnic Award Ceremony 10:00 a.m.	1/2 Day - AM 5th Grade Promotion 10:00 a.m.	Teacher Duty Day	
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.

CLASSROOM NEWS

DISABILITY AWARENESS

The Defer 4th graders participated in the Disability Awareness Workshop coordinated by two GPPS parents, Juli Rybicki and Stacey Chen. This is a hands-on program that gives students an understanding of how difficult and complex daily living can be for individuals with these differences. Thank you to all of our Defer volunteers who helped make this program a huge success!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION ROCKS!

Heads UP Defer parents!! Our 2014 Field Day is just around the corner and we will need parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and college age student volunteers. Look for a volunteer form coming home from the youngest or only student in your house hold.

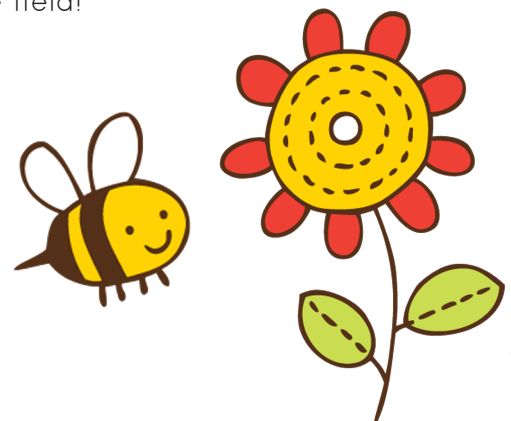
Sign up for this **very fun day** with our Dynamic Defer students!



Field Day is Friday, May 23rd!!! Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd grades will be out on the field in the morning. Third, 4th, and 5th grades will be out on the field in the afternoon. Defer PTO are hosting stations of juice box drinks and popsicles. If there is a forecast of rain or unseasonable weather we will cancel and reschedule 2014 Field Day on Thursday, June 5th.

Don't miss out—come and volunteer at Defer....Friday, May 23rd!!! We look forward to seeing you on the field!

Yours in health,
Ms. Raab, Mr. C and Mr. Senska



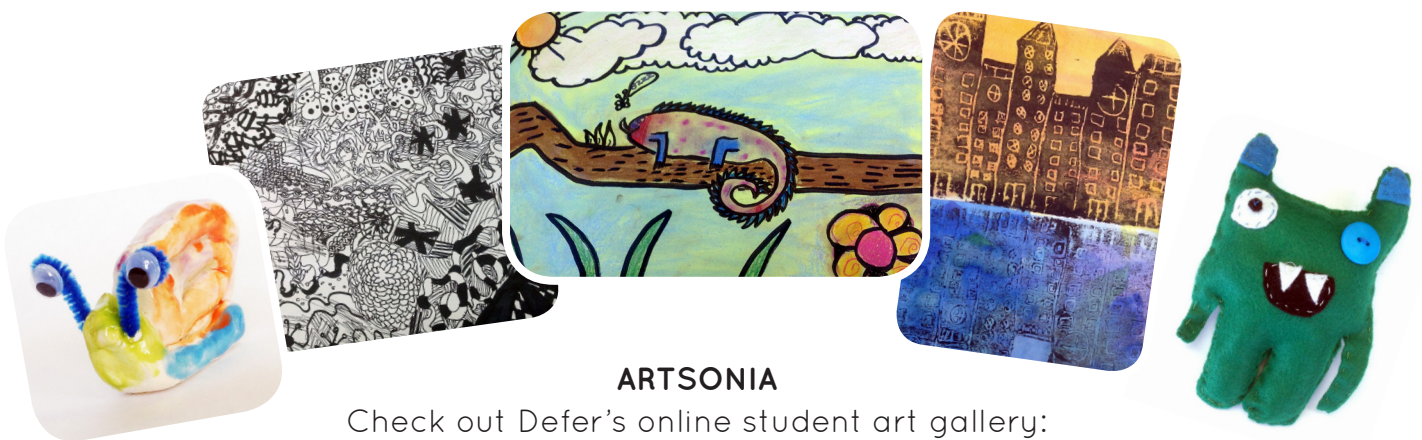
TALENT SHOW

Calling all Talent!! Our annual Talent Show will be Monday, June 2nd. Auditions are open to 4th and 5th grade students only and will be held on Wednesday, May 21st and Thursday, May 22nd during the lunch hour.

LIBRARY NEWS



April was poetry month, and Kindergartners have had fun practicing nursery rhymes and other poems in class, and then playing a game where they recite their favorite rhyme. They also learned about prairie dogs and compared nonfiction facts to a funny fiction story called *Fuzz Frenzy*. First graders are learning about ducks, geese and swans and gathering facts and pictures for a class book, all while enjoying some great fiction stories like *Petunia*. Second graders are locating and reading some adventurous biographies in the library, like the one about Amelia Earhart. Third graders are in their last library rotation of the year and have been navigating the library 500's science section, and beginning research on an animal using the Big 6 research model. Fourth graders used an online database to research clues for a class game of "20 Questions". Fifth graders are using online databases and websites to take notes on the Boston Tea Party, and then will use them as they work in groups putting themselves in the various roles of the different characters of the Revolutionary War. Defer students are really enjoying using the new iPad minis!



ARTSONIA

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

www.deferart.com



PBIS

Defer students continue to meet success with the PBIS program emphasizing respect, responsibility, and safety as the key elements. One component of the program is the monthly Reward Parties in which the entire Defer School community celebrates our commitment and our successes. Below are some of our Defer Dragons celebrating at our March Movie Beach Party and at our April Earth Day Chalk Designs. Enjoy!



5TH GRADE TEA TIME

Each year when Mrs. Cross teaches her fifth graders about the Boston Tea Party she tells the class about the tradition of "tea time" in England. On Friday, May 2nd, thirty girls from her social studies classes surprised her with "tea time" during afternoon recess.

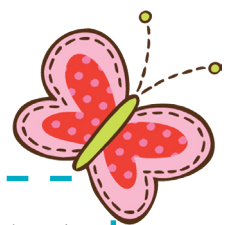
SAFETY/SERVICE NEWS

In April, Defer Safety/Service crossed the street to the Pierce Swimming Pool. It was a chilly day and perfect timing to get our swimming skills back to the fore front of our minds. We enjoyed fruit snacks and Gatorade generously supplied by the PTO. Thank you Mr. Senska, our lifeguard for keeping everyone safe.

Mr. Alan, thank you for continuously supporting the safety service!
If you see a Safety/Service doing a good job, please tell them.

Thank you,
Helen Srebernak

Member of the Month - March	Member of the Month - April
Safety: Hayden Barry	Safety: Douglas Tengler
Service: Daryl Houston	Service: Liam Kaiser



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: <https://www.biblionasium.com>

Biblionasium is a fun and safe social network for books and reading. It lets kids create their own digital bookshelf, keep reading logs, and recommend favorite books to their friends.

APP: Slice It! (ipad and iphone)

FREE

Challenging but fun geometry puzzles for upper elementary students.

APP: Kodable (ipad and iphone)

FREE

An educational, kid friendly introduction to programming and problem-solving.

APP: Mystery Math Town (ipad and iphone)

FREE

Kids can practice math with a fun story and appealing characters. A great App for 3rd to 5th graders to hone their mental math skills.

Media Specialists

Jeanne Dolson **Poupard**

Sherry Martin **Ferry, Mason, Poupard**

Anne Maurer **Kerby, Mason, Richard**

Darby Paddock **Defer, Maire, Mason, Monteith, Trombly**

Cheryl Quinlan **Defer, Monteith**

Rachel Walpole **Mason, Richard, Trombly**

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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

The Defer teachers and Mrs. Sullivan will soon be making plans for the 2014-2015 school year, including preliminary classroom assignments for students. The Defer teachers have interacted with your students throughout this school year and have gained valuable insights regarding each student’s academic and social strengths and needs. These factors include, but are not limited to: academic strengths and needs, gender, behavior challenges, social development, cluster grouping and other special needs such as learning styles and identified learning challenges.

As always, your input is invaluable to us in helping us to focus on your child’s learning strengths and needs. We would like you to be aware the you have the opportunity to provide input on the Student Placement Questionnaire, available in the Defer office and on the back of this page. The deadline for turning in the questionnaire is Friday, May 16th. Please keep in mind that the district policy does not allow parents to make requests for specific teachers. Rather, please focus on your child’s unique learning needs as indication on the form. As always, completing the form is optional.

Student Placement Questionnaire on the back of this page



Defer Elementary School
Student Placement Questionnaire
(Optional)

We will soon be developing class lists and student assignments for the next school year. If you have important information you wish to share with school personnel to assist us in placing your child for the coming year, please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher or the school office by **May 16, 2014**. Please do not request a specific teacher. Returning this form is optional.

CHILD'S NAME _____ Present Teacher _____

I feel my child's academic strengths include:

My child needs to improve the following:

My child is special in that he/she enjoys (hobbies, interests, talents, etc.)

My child is most successful in a learning environment with the following characteristics:

Important information my child's teacher needs to know includes (medical, emotional needs, special situations, friends, etc.):



The Grosse Pointe Summer Music Festival is open to all currently enrolled Grosse Pointe Band and Orchestra students in grades 5 through 8. (Beginning instrument instruction is offered through the GPPS Summer School program.) This fun and exciting program provides an opportunity for students to maintain and further develop their instrumental music skills over the summer. Grosse Pointe Summer Music Festival also provides an affordable local alternative to expensive summer camps.

July 7 - 18
Brownell Middle School
 260 Chalfonte Ave., GP, 48236

Registration Online at
www.GPSMF.org

CLASS SCHEDULE

Primary Courses

Orchestra (MPR Stage)

Band (Room C-15)

Intermediate Orchestra 9:00 – 9:50 am
 For students completing grades 5 or 6

Intermediate Band 9:00 – 9:50 am
 For students completing grades 5 or 6

Advanced Orchestra 11:10 am – 12:00 pm
 For students completing grades 7 or 8

Advanced Band 11:10 am – 12:00 pm
 For students completing grades 7 or 8

Extension Courses

(must be enrolled in a primary course)

Fiddlers 10:05 – 10:55 am
 Open to string students grades 5 - 8

Jazz Band 10:05 – 10:55 am
 Open to saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drum set, string bass, guitar, bass guitar, and piano students with **at least ONE YEAR previous jazz band experience**. Limited openings for drum set, guitar, bass, and piano students.

TUITION	
Primary Courses	- \$75.00
Extension Courses	- \$45.00



CLOSING CELEBRATION CONCERT & LUNCHEON FRIDAY, JULY 18 - 11:00am

REGISTER NOW AT WWW.GPSMF.ORG!

Questions? ... Call John Donnellon at 313.432.4656

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Parcells Middle School
20600 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
June 23 - 27, 2014 from 9:00AM to 3:30PM



Questions? 800.968.4332 or campinvention.org



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say about our program.

**DEFER
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

2013-2014

MAY

Volume 10, Issue 7

**P.T.O.
DRAGON
TAILS**



**UPCOMING
PTO
EVENTS:**

**Staff Appreciation Week
May 5-9**

**Defer Art Show
May 8 (6-8pm)**

**PTO Meeting 7pm
May 13**

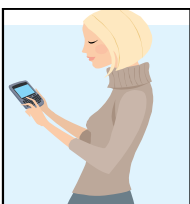
**1/2 Day (AM only)
May 16**

**Spring Concert
May 19 (7pm Pierce)**

**Defer Spring Social
May 22**

**Defer Field Day
May 23**

**5th Grade Camp
May 28-30**



DRAGON SPEAK:

Hello Defer Families,

What a great time of year! Warm weather is (almost) here; the students can walk to school and enjoy their recess time. Spring sports are in full swing and outdoor diversions abound. The year is closing quickly; as we encourage our students to finish strong, your PTO is doing the same. Your PTO is busy finishing up several additional tasks undertaken this year including preparing updated bylaws, policy/procedures and a new mission statement. We believe that with these tasks completed, we can hit the ground running during summer planning and into next school year. Won't you join us? Make a difference in your student's school; let your child see your involvement and that you value their education. There are yet several committee positions in need of volunteers. Your participation is always appreciated. Simply contact any PTO Board Member, Committee Chair or myself. For a list of current Board Members and Committee Chairs please visit <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Domain/1223>

What are some of this year's enhancements to Defer education provided by the efforts of Defer PTO?

- Initiated the process and financed half of the new window blinds throughout Defer
- Purchased and installed lockers throughout Defer
- Upgraded the gymnasium sound system capabilities and teacher interface

At the March PTO meeting, the Board voted to provide funding for:

- Defer Historical Plaque as part of a Historical Wall for next year's anniversary celebration
- Security/charging cart for library iPads

Have you been thinking about becoming involved but are not sure where you can help or where you might fit in best? Take a look at the 2014-5 school year Volunteer Form (thanks Melony Johnson), available online at <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Page/14533>. A great place to begin is volunteering to assist students as a lunchroom/playground assistant. This amounts to a 50 minute commitment as little as once a month. You will love these 50 minutes! Your child will see your involvement at their school no matter where you help out. No doubt you will find many small rewards in the gratitude of Defer students. There are many fun and beneficial areas to assist and to meet our wonderful students.

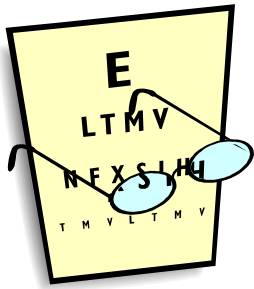
Please mark the following dates in your calendar:

- Staff Appreciation Week begins May 5, please take the opportunity to say thank you to our outstanding Defer teachers, support staff and administrators.
- Next PTO meeting is May 13th at 7pm in the Defer library; ALL are welcome.

If you would like to see agendas and minutes from Defer PTO meetings please check them out on the Defer website at <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Page/7357>

Lastly, a GIANT thank you to all PTO volunteers, members and Board for your selfless dedication to Defer kids!

Matt Hodges, PTO President



**We are pleased to announce that
the Disability Workshop
will make a return on Tuesday, May 20th.**

**This very meaningful hands-on experience is intended to let
our 5th grade students understand, empathized and create
meaningful dialogue about the people we encounter everyday
with limited mobility or impairments of all kinds.**

**We really need MANY of you as this program is ALL VOLUNTEERS.
You may work a full or half day.**

**We strongly encourage parents (other than 5th grade)
to assist in making this happen. Parents no longer at Defer found this so
invaluable, they have come back to volunteer.**

**To volunteer or ask questions, please contact:
Michelle Kramer mekmk@att.net**

**Thank you, in advance, for helping us
give this experience to our students.**



SAVE THE DATE

Defer's Spring Social

May 22 from 6-8pm

Pizza, Ice Cream & Lots of Fun!!

We could really use more volunteers. One hour shifts!

Contact:

Kim Rhodes or Sue Glover

kimrhodes127@gmail.com

glover48230@comcast.net



Defer Volunteer Vibe

A random media tool to communicate volunteer happenings at Defer Elementary

Let's Go DRAGON Volunteers!



With just a few PTO sponsored events this year, there is still time to donate time! Spring Social and Field day are just a couple examples of events remaining before the end of school! Don't Delay...Volunteer Today!!! If you volunteer to assist in **just one activity**, you will help out tremendously!! To volunteer for the following fun events, please email the respective chairperson:

- A. SPRING SOCIAL: Amy Koenig [koenigamy@att.net] or Kim Rhodes [kimrhodes127@gmail.com]
- B. FIELD DAY: Ryan Coffey [rkcoffey@att.net] or Renee Borowicz [madhousenmich@aol.com]

Did you Know: 71 Defer Families registered this school year to volunteer via the Pink Forms!
[estimated 23% volunteer rate assuming registration of 300 families!]

Chairperson's Who Recently Volunteered their expertise – Kudo's to the following chairperson's for volunteering to champion a Defer Community Event next school year! Your leadership and passion are sure to make Hospitality and the Publishing Center a lot of fun to participate!

Hospitality – Rachel Fermani

Publishing Center – Kellie Finger

Chairperson Openings Next Year: Without a Chairperson – these great events may not happen!

Email Melony Johnson if interested [lenmel@comcast.net]

Clinic - Recruit and create a schedule for clinic volunteers. This position is in CRITICAL need of filling.

Fall Event – Manage or Co-manage with a friend - efforts to provide a fun family friendly event!

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

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

Progressive Dinner Hosts – Co-lead the Progressive Dinner with the Hodges. A super opportunity to be involved in one of the best parent-friendly events!

FIELD DAY

is scheduled for
Friday, May 23!!

Games, treats and
lots of fun!

"My favorite day of the year!!"

~ 4th grade student



To volunteer, contact:

Melony Johnson

lenmel@comcast.net

The Defer PTO would like to thank all of the families and staff that have joined this year. Your support is vital and will continue to build a strong co-operative link between home, school and community. Thank you for enriching our classrooms, providing fun family events, and greatly enhancing the building facilities here at Defer! We are grateful for your support!

Abouljoud	Gannan	Lemmen	Relan
Adams	Gelle	Leonard	Reno
Agley	Gierlinger	Levine	Rhodes
Allen	Glover	Link	Riley
Astfalk	Goodstein	Lutfy	Ryan
Azad	Gray	Lynch	Sabella
Baer	Gurskey	Maffesoli	Sabol
Balfour	Hall	Majoros	Safadi
Banfield	Haxhiu	Marsh	Schaupeter
Barry	Hayes	Marcaccio	Schoenfeld
Beacham	Heenan	Martell	Scott
Bellamy	Henry	McBride	Secco
Benson	Hodges	McGlone	Shier
Bocci	Holochwost	McLean	Shrodes
Borowicz	Hutteman	McQueen	Siddiqui
Brien	Hysenllari	Mohsin	Simopoulos
Bsharah	Inge	Meldrum	Sivanov
Budziak	Isaccs	Meyer	Smith
Byrd	Johnson (L.)	Michaud	Squitieri
Chugh	Johnson (R.)	Michels	Srebernek
Cielieska	Jones	Miller (J.)	Stafford
Coffey	Kaiser	Miller (M.)	Stewart
Cole	Keagle	Mitchell	Stricker
Coleman	Kielt	Moody	Summerfield
Combs	King	Moorhead	Tenckinck
Cooper-Williams	Kinsley	Moulder-McComb	Tengler
Defer Staff	Kirkland	Muhammad	Teranes
Delplace	Kitchen	Novak	Terry
Denomy	Klepp	O'Byrne	Trifunovic
Desmyter	Kline	Oestreich	Verlinden
Domzalski	Kodanko	Ogden	Vethacke
Downey	Koenig	Owens	Vosburg
Duffy (M.)	Kosmas	Ozar	Wagstaff
Duffy (K.)	Kozicki	Palazzolo	Ward (M.)
Ellefson	Kramer	Panzehagen	Ward (J.)
Ezop	Kuhnlein (D.)	Paolucci	Wass
Fama	Kuhnlein (D.)	Papas	Weekley
Ferguson	Kurashige	Parlangeli	Weidig
Fermani	Lalo	Paton	Westfall
Finger	Lapensee	Peruski	Whitaker
Fitzgibbon	Leech (J.)	Petropoulos	Weigand
Fowler	Leech (S.)	Plansker	Wilson

