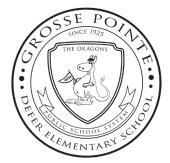
# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

FEBRUARY 6, 2014

Defer Elementary





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,

There is an easy way to improve your child's chances at school. It will entertain and delight him/her. It will strengthen the bonds between your child and you. And it is virtually free.

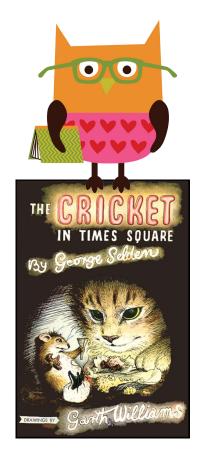
Sound too good to be true? Actually, it isn't. The magical method: taking time to read aloud to your child.

In an era of high-stakes testing and education reforms and revolutions, research has repeatedly proved that one simple parenting technique is among the most effective. Children who are read aloud to by parents get a head start in language and literacy skills and go to school every day better prepared.

In other words, reading that bedtime story may not only entertain Catherine, it may also develop her vocabulary, improve her ability to learn to read, and perhaps most important- foster a lifelong love of books and reading.

As Mr. Trelease, the author of *The Read Aloud Handbook* succinctly states, "Students who read the most, read the best, achieve the most, and stay in school the longest. Conversely, those who don't read much, cannot get better at it."





The good news for families is that this sage piece of parenting wisdom is easy to follow. Reading aloud to your child requires only a book – free, with a library card – and your willingness to spend a little quality time with your child. And while the sacrifices to read aloud are few, the benefits are many: Your child may learn to read better, think better, imagine more richly, and become a passionate and lifelong reader. More than these long-term benefits, however, are some more immediate benefits: The pleasure of spending time with your child and sharing the enjoyment of a good book.

March is National Reading Month and during the month we are asking all of our Defer families to participate in our One Book, One School family reading program. The Defer staff has selected *A Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden, and is very excited about this shared reading experience that will take place at home and at school during March.



So how does this work? One copy of A Cricket in Times Square was purchased through the generosity of two Defer supporters for each family at Defer. Each week families read the chapters assigned for the week and every Tuesday trivia questions will be read aloud during announcements. Other reading activities will take place during the school day. A specific schedule for daily reading will be included in the March newsletter as we start our One Book, One School experience. So get ready to start reading together!

- Mrs. Sullivan

### Remaining 2014 Market Day Pick Ups:

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



# FEBRUARY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		GPPSS Technology Showcase				
		6 - 8 p.m. @ Brownell				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	Student Count Day		PTO Muffins w/ Mom 8:00 a.m Gym	
					Student Council Hoodie Day	
16	17	18	19 Market Day	20	21	22
Mid-Winter Break						
Classes Resume 2/24						
23	24	25	26	27	28	
		Technology Bond Election	Safety/Service Lakeshore  Lanes Bowling			



# **MARCH 2014**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	End of Marking Period 1/2 Day - AM only PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	12	13	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					



#### **BOY'S WRITING CLUB**

The Boys' Writing Club is off to a great start with 58 students participating in grades 3-5 and 12 staff members volunteering their time! We began our club by creating a club handshake and having Kid President share his 20 Things We Should Do More Often.

Lately, we have been focused on persuasive letter writing about the Super Bowl. The Lions game in the snow prompted staff to think about whether or not football games should be played in those conditions again and transferred that thinking into a lesson for our boys. The boys began by forming opinions on whether or not football should be played in snowy, cold conditions. We brainstormed the pros and cons to both situations. Upon completion of our discussion, the boys formed their own opinion in order to write their persuasive letter to Roger Godell, the NFL commissioner. They had to write a persuasive statement in order to express their opinion, produce three pieces of evidence to back up their opinion, and write a conclusion statement to push Mr. Godell into action one way or another. Through this activity, we worked on forming opinions, backing them up with evidence, and formatting persuasive letters through those opinions.

During our sessions, boys are motivated to write while working on fundamental writing skills. This year, we hope to have guest speakers, utilize technology to improve our writing, and to show our boys how much fun writing can be when you think positively and proactively. If your child still wants to join the club, please email kari.mannino@gpschools.org.







### **ARTSONIA**

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

www.deferart.com

#### SAFETY/SERVICE

In January, Defer Safety/Service celebrated at the Pierce Pool. It was a freezing cold day and perfect for swimming in a warm pool. We enjoyed Gatorade, and snacks together.

Mr. Senska joined us as our Lifeguard to supervise the safety of our swimmers. Thank you, Mr. Senska. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing swim. It was great to reward all these students for volunteering their time serving Defer on a daily basis. Thank you to Mrs. Abouljoud, Ms. Pazenhagen and Mrs. Reno for joining us at the pool and keeping everyone safe.

SAFETY TIMES	
MORNING POST	8:10 - 8:20 am
Mondays	8:50 - 9:05 am
AFTER SCHOOL POST	3:35 - 3:45 pm
SERVICE TIMES	
MORNING POST	8:15 - 8:25 am
Mondays	8:55 - 9:10 am
AFTER SCHOOL POST	3:35 - 3:45 pm

Mr. Alan continues to get our water ready every morning for hot cocoa to "Warm the Safeties." Thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

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

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

Thank you, Helen Srebernak

**Member of the Month - January** Safety: Abraham Abouljoud

Service: Luke Srebernak

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

It is getting **HOT** in Defer's gym even in the winter!! We are gearing up for our annual **Jump Rope for Heart** event which is February 2014. Check out the "upward mobility" showcase near the main office.

Families are also encouraged to check out Defer's website for more information about donations to the American Heart Association. An information note and pledge envelope was sent home to grades 1-5.



STAY STRONG! We would like to remind all our students to lead a healthy, active, life by eating healthy foods, exercising every day, (walk/bike/scooter to & from school), and get your proper rest for BROFD PULKS so you are ready to learn everyday!

Yours in health, Ms. Raab, Mr. Ciaravino, & Mr. Senska

#### POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORT (PBIS)

The PBIS program continues to be a backbone of Defer. It is based on the premise that all students can 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 such as 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 January 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. Students selected from building snowman, to watching a movie, to playing bingo, or building a marshmallow and toothpick structure, and many more. Whatever the choice – a good time was had by all!



### STUDENT COUNCIL

On **Friday, February 14th**, the Defer Student Council is promoting a "**Hoodie Day**" where students who have hoodies can wear them all day for \$1.00. All money raised will go towards research for Prader-Willi syndrome a genetic disease that causes life threatening obesity in children. Information will be posted around the school. Please support our cause and wear your hoodie on 2/14!

## Digital Picks

From your School Library Media Specialists



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

## WEBSITE: "Juvenile Series and Sequels"

www.mymcpl.org/books-movies-music/juvenile-series

What happens next? Series fiction fans can count on this database to keep them reading in order!

## WEBSITE: "Guys Read" www.guysread.com

Author Jon Scieszka (*Time Warp Trio, Stinky Cheese Man*) created this website to "help guys become readers by helping them find texts they want to read." Reading lists, reviews, and more!

## WEBSITE: "Stickman" www.drawastickman.com

Interactive and animated, this website gives "hangman" a new lease on life!

## APP: "Story Creator—Easy Story Book Maker for Kids" (iOS; free)

Simple and satisfying vehicle for young storytellers to combine drawings, photos, text, and audio recordings to create their own picture books.

## APP: "Lego Movie Maker" (iOS; free)

Calling all Lego fans and storytellers! "Lego Movie" lets you create stop-action animated adventures starring your own Lego collection.

## APP: "Dots: A Game About Connecting" (iOS, Android; free)

This simple game has proved astoundingly popular with all age players around the world!

## **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, Kerby
Rachel Walpole Mason, Richard, Trombly

### On Line Registration is coming to GPPSS elementary schools in 2014

All Defer parents, 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 Parent Portal and click on "My Information" in the upper right corner.

You can also e-mail Parent Connect@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 by February 1 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.



learning backpack with goodies to support summer learning!

# DEFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2013-2014

FEBRUARY

Volume 10, Issue 4

# P.T.O. DRAGON TAILS



## UPCOMING PTO EVENTS:



Children desperately need to knowand to hear in ways
they understand
and remember- that
they're loved and
valued by mom and
dad.



## DRAGON SPEAK:

Welcome All to 2014 and the 'second half' of the school year. I hope Santa was good to your households. After a short (three days) delay we have plunged back into school and activities.

Your PTO pursues a mission of enriching the educational experience of Defer students. This winter, Elizabeth Tengler has organized a group of dedicated parent volunteers to provide Lunchtime Enrichment. This beneficial program allows students to select from a list of fun educational activities from Sewing to Science, Chess to Cooking and many more. A new option this year is called Orion's Quest which allows students to duplicate NASA experiments and buoys our STEM curriculum. Funding and volunteers for Lunchtime Enrichment are provided bу your PTO. Students weekly spend one or more lunch recesses in a toasty warm room learning new skills and gaining new knowledge and interests they can enjoy long after this winter.

Kids + learning + PTO = Growth. Thanks Elizabeth!

A brand new complete sound system is coming to the Defer gym. The PTO board voted to approve complete PTO funding of a request from physical education teacher Mrs. Raab. The contractor should begin installation soon. We know all will benefit from this improvement.

Please be sure to bring your student(s) to school early on February 14th for 'Muffins with Mom' from 8-8:30am in the Defer Gym. This PTO sponsored and staffed event is always fun as the kids are able to show off Mom to their friends, Moms are able to connect and everyone enjoys a muffin! Please join us for a great start to your Valentine's Day.

Be certain to educate yourself and then vote at the Technology Bond vote on February 25th. More information is contained elsewhere in this issue of Dragon Tails. The Defer PTO Board voted to endorse the Tech Bond on the gptechyes.org website by a vote of 7 yes, to 5 no, with 4 abstaining.

The PTO fundraising chair people (Renee Borowicz and Renee Palazzolo) are planning an exciting announcement soon about a March FUNdraiser! Stay tuned...and thanks Renees!

A special thank you to Christina Michaud for putting together the Dragon Tails newsletter each month!

Your PTO does not exist without parent participation. If you would like to contribute your time along with us, please contact volunteers chair person Melony Johnson at

lenmel@comcast.net

Please join us for our next PTO meeting to be held Tuesday 2-11-14 at 7pm in the Defer library.

Enjoy this wonderful time of year,

Matt Hodges, PTO President



## **VOLUNTEER VIBE**

A random media tool to communicate volunteer happenings at Defer Elementary

Holy DRAGONS! Many thanks to the 20 new volunteer families who recently filled out and submitted their volunteer form! As a result of the latest volunteer recruitment efforts, the Defer Community now has 70 registered Volunteers...approximately 23% (based on estimated 300 families) of the registered families at Defer.

An increase of 18% since October 2013!!!! Rock on Dragon Parents!!!

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 FUN Opportunities for YOU! - See below for Chairperson Opportunities. Without a Chairperson - these great events may not happen!!!!



Chairperson's Who Recently Volunteered their expertise - Kudo's to the new chairperson's for the Defer Community Events! Your leadership and passion are sure to make these event a lot of fun to participate!

Defer Wear - Vikas Relan Market Day - Don Kuhnlein Holiday Craft Fair - Kym Kinsley and Aimee Miller

## Lunchtime Enrichment

# Fun with Legos, birdfeeders and gimp!!







## Looking for:

Gently used Legos for Lunchtime Enrichment. If you could help, please drop off at school office. Thanks!



## Your P.T.O at Work

## Fundraising in Action

- A new multi-media (sound) system for the gym was approved!! Our old system was extremely outdated and not working consistently. This will make our graduations, assemblies, school events EVEN more enjoyable. The PE teachers/Classes will also benefit! Thank you to Mrs. Raab for her dedication to this project!
- The PTO also donated \$100 per classroom as a holiday gift. Teachers were able to purchase items for enrichment, supplies, and special items for projects. Thank you teachers!
- The Defer library will be a bit more 'Connected' with the purchase of 10 iPad minis. These iPads are possible thru the generous donations of family & friends of Pam Moorehead, along with monies accumulated over the past 4 years by our library staff. We wish to thank the Moorehead family and know our students will really benefit from this combined effort.



Please plan ahead to attend the next PTO meeting scheduled for Feb. 11th @ 7pm in the library. We encourage anyone new to come and just check it out. Be a part of the wonderful Defer community in action.

## The Defer PTO encourages you to GET INFORMED

about the upcoming Tech Bond Proposal.

**Grosse Pointe Schools Website:** http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Page/12579

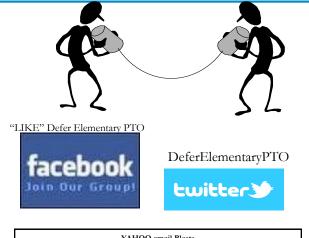
> League of Women Voters http://grossepointe.mi.lwvnet.org/

> > G.P. Tech Yes http://gptechyes.org/

HeckNO! www.gpresponsiblespending.com



### PLEASE VOTE: FEBRUARY 25, 2014



#### YAHOO email Blasts

The Defer PTO will continue its PTO email distribution list to make it easier for parents to stay connected with what's happening at school. It is strictly used for announcements of school events, requests for volunteers at school events, and other important school-related information. If you have not signed up and wish to do so or need to change your email information, send an email request to:

deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you were a member of the group last year, you do not need to sign up again.

If you need help or have any questions about how to subscribe, you can contact

> **Christina Michaud** tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net

**Rvan Coffey** rkcoffey@att.net

## programs & presentations Calendar of Events Winter/Spring 2014

## Register online at familycenterweb.org or call 313.432.3832

**Thursday, January 23, 9-Noon** @ St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, G.P. Woods **FREE** 

## **Meet & Greet for Professionals**

A gathering for school, mental health and other professionals working with youth and families. Plus: optional 45 minute complimentary Stress Management Workshop offered by Jill Wrubel, Family Center Association of Professionals member.

**Thursday, February 6, 5:30-8:30pm** @ Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores **FREE** 

## Ask the Experts Talks

## **Taking Care While Giving Care:** Coping with the Challenges of the Sandwich Generation

An Ask the Experts Talks evening of **three** brief presentations:

"Survival Tips for the Sandwich Generation" with Sharon Maier and Heidi Uhlia

"The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia" with Barbara Roden

"Comfort Care: Understanding Palliative Care and Hospice Services" with Kathleen Blazoff Plus: vendor information booths. 5:30pm: light food and refreshments also served.

**Thursday, February 27** @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods **FREE** 

## Ask the Experts Multi-Program Night

Choose from **one** of **four** in-depth presentations:

6:30pm "Kindergarten Essentials - Ensuring a Successful

Transition for Your Child" with Pam Cronovich, Chris Miller and Melissa Sharp

"Infant Massage: Learning the Language of Touch" with Emily Robson 7pm

7pm "Experience FAMILYoga" with Angela Hill

"Building Better Brains - Teaching Strategies that Work for 7pm

Dyslexic and ADD Students" with Stephanie Cork

**Thursday, March 20** @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods **FREE** 

## Ask the Experts Multi-Program Night

Choose from **one** of **three** in-depth presentations:

6:30pm "Self Defense for Mothers & Teen Daughters" with lan Kinder of Live Safe Academy

(A Beaumont Mothers & Daughters Presentation)

7pm "Infant Massage: Learning the Language of Touch" with Emily Robson

7pm "Raising a Reader" with Stephanie Cork

**Saturday, March 1, Noon - 3:00pm** @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods \$10/\$5

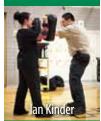
## **LEGO Artists Challenge** for students grades K-12

Pre-Registered Entries drop off: February 28, 5-7pm New!! Featuring Play at The Robot Garage Display

\$10 Student LEGO Artists Challenge Entry Fee (includes Play at the Robot Garage Display) or Play at the Robot Garage Display only (Student Fee \$5)











Enriching Our Community Through Stronger Families

info@familycenterweb.org familycenterweb.org

313.432.3832

## **Calendar of Events**Winter/Spring 2014

## programs & presentations









# Family (Center Center) Enriching Our Community Through Stronger Families info@familycenterweb.org familycenterweb.org

313.432.3832

## Register online at familycenterweb.org or call 313.432.3832

**Sunday, March 23, 1:00 -3:00pm** @ Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores \$10

## ChariTea Bear's Royal-Themed Tea Party

Calling all princesses and knights! Children accompanied by their favorite adults will enjoy a royal-themed dress-up Tea Party featuring special activities along with 'tea' refreshments, sandwiches and desserts.

Party Fee: \$10 per person.

**Thursday, March 27** @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods **FREE** 

## Ask the Experts Multi-Program Night

Choose from **one** of **four** in-depth presentations:

6:30pm "Finding Peace in a Stressful World" with Gail Elliott-Patricolo

(A Beaumont Mothers & Daughters Presentation)

7pm "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" with Lynn Kaiser

7pm "Experience FAMILYoga" with Angela Hill

7pm "Family Friendly Economics" with Michelle Balconi

**Thursday, May 1, 9-Noon** @ Grosse Pointe Academy's Lakeshore Parlor, 171 Lakeshore Rd., G.P. Shores **FREE** 

## **Meet & Greet for Professionals**

A gathering for school, mental health and other professionals working with youth and families. Plus: optional 45 minute complimentary Stress Management Workshop offered by Jill Wrubel, Family Center Association of Professionals member.









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.



## 2014 Break Camp

7:15AM-6:30PM 2/18-21 (Tues-Fri)

**Frombly Elementary**, 820 Beaconsfield GPP \$172 for the week or \$50/day drop-in

Art, Games, Special Events and More!

Don't forget to bring a lunch and weather appropriate clothing each day. Kids Club break camp will provide two healthy snacks and drinks each day.

Families currently enrolled in Kids Club may register by completing the attached form.

Non-enrolled families must complete all Kids Club registration forms prior to attending camp. Registration forms can be found on our website <a href="www.gpschools.org">www.gpschools.org</a> under the Kids Club link. A \$25 registration fee/child is required for all non-enrolled families. Payment is due prior to break camp participation. Contact 313.432.3009 with questions.

Forms must be printed and submitted to: 389 St. Clair Grosse Pointe, MI 48230 *attn*: Kids Club Break Camp.



## gppss 2014 Break Camp

## Registration Form

Child's Name:	_ School Attending:			
Parents/Guardians:				
Child's Date of Birth:	Grade:			
Child's Home Address:				
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:			
Work Phone:	Alt. Phone:			
Email Address:				
Are you currently enrolled in Kids Club  Yes  No *Please note that you must be registered with Kids Club prior to your child's participation with Break Camp. Registration information can be found on our website, www.gpschools.org, under the 'Kids Club' link.				
Please check attendance:				
□ Full Break Camp (Tuesday-Friday)				
□ Select Days (circle days) Tuesday We	ednesday Thursday Friday			
2014 Break Camp Rates and	<u>Hours</u> :			
Full Camp: \$172 Daily Drop-In: \$50/day				
Open 7:15 AM-6:30 PM February 18-21, 2014 (Tuesday-Friday)				
Office Use Only: Total Payment Enclosed:				

Kids Club Records Received □Y □N