

# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING

February 2, 2017

Karen Sullivan

Defer Principal



## Defer Behavior Pledge

**Today I will DO my best to BE my best**

**I will be respectful**

**I will practice responsibility**

**I will always be safe**

**I will show my Dragon pride.**

## Seven Habits Be Proactive

**Begin with the End in mind**

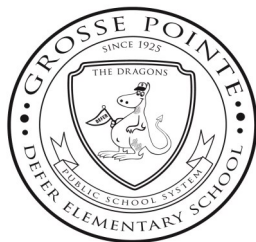
**Put first things first**

**Think Win-Win**

**Seek first to understand, then to be understood**

**Synergize— together is better**

**Sharpen the Saw**



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

Defer Dragons are busy in 2017! It is hard to believe that it is the beginning of February. Much is going on at Defer. Our Student Council Leaders have a terrific project underway called the *Community Warmth Project*. As a school we collecting items to help children keep warm in the winter. *Team Hats* is composed of our kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are on *Team Gloves and Mittens* and they are in the lead right now with their collection efforts. *Team Socks* is made up of students in grades 4 and 5. The donations will be used first to help any student in need at Defer and then will be donated to The Eimers Foundation. Robby Eimers is a young boy that has been serving Detroit's homeless for years. Student Council will be running the Community Warmth Project through February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our PTO is sponsoring several assemblies in February and March. Next Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, all grades will attend the *OK2SAY/Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative*. This program teaches students the importance of making safe and wise choices in a technologically evolving world. OK2SAY shows students how to keep safe when using the internet. At the end of March *The Earth Dome* is coming to Defer! The Earth Dome is a gigantic inflatable earth balloon standing 19-feet high and 22-feet in diameter. It's made of 24 huge panels silkscreened with photographs shot from satellites of the surface of the world on cloud free days. This assembly allows for up to nine half-hour assemblies in which 35 to 45 students (depending on grade level) and one teacher will have a presentation both outside as well as inside the balloon. They will see and better understand the scale of concepts such as continents, time zones, latitude, longitude, and more! Even major cities in comparison to the total earth will be recognized. These topics are presented to each class at the appropriate grade level. Thank you PTO!

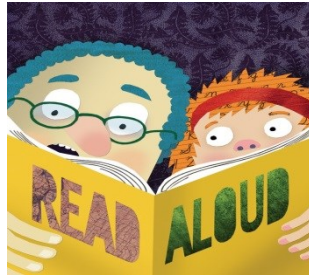
Two weeks ago we welcomed the parents of incoming Kindergarten and Young 5 students for the 2017 – 2018 school year. We had 35 families attend this meeting in which they learned about the Kindergarten program and had an opportunity to visit all three classrooms. If you know of other parents who have students entering Kindergarten, please encourage them to give us a call so that we can help to enroll their students.

This week we held our monthly PBIS Celebration for Positive Behavior and Success. Our party is a school-wide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) challenge. Students will be working in teams of two or three to create the longest paper chain they can in 30 minutes. Each team will be receive two pieces of 12 by 18 paper, a glue stick, one piece of tape, and a scissors. Students have spent weeks talking about their strategies for this party.

Last week was our *Leadership Town Hall*. These student-led monthly meetings celebrate the leaders from the month. At this Town Hall we recognized the Service and Safety Leaders, those with perfect homework completion for the month, and our *Shooting Stars*. Shooting Stars are a student from each class nominated by their teacher for demonstrating exceptional leadership or kindness in the classroom. Each month our Shooting Stars are posted outside of the gym. Students attend the Town Halls wearing their leadership necklaces and those being recognized add another charm to their necklace. Each Town Hall is followed by a Dragon Den meeting. Our Dragon Den focused on *fair is not always equal*. Ask your child about the band aid activity we did for this learning.

# Reading Aloud

*It can make a big difference!*



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.

So, in other words, reading that bedtime story may not only entertain your child, 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.

Mr. Jim 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. 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.

Sometimes we think that once our child can read, that we are done reading to them. Not so! Children should be read to all through elementary school. They should be exposed to a wide variety of books. And here's the deal – your child's reading ability may be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level, but your child's listening ability is on a middle school level. In other words, young children can comprehend stories even if they can't read them yet. Roald Dahl is one of the most famous children's author of all times. His books are written for upper elementary students but even our youngest students can enjoy his books when they are read to them.

March is National Reading Month. It is just around the corner! Dive into a good book with your child!

## Winter Weather



**Brrrrrrrrrrr**

I am often asked if students stay indoors when the weather gets cold. Defer students go outdoors for recess two times each day throughout the school year. The only two weather conditions that prevent this would be if it is raining hard or the wind chill is below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Your child needs to come to school each day prepared to be outside. All students must have boots and snow pants to play on the wood chips or playfield once the snow is on the ground. Those students without snow pants and boots must stay on the blacktop. Please write your child's name on his/her hats, gloves, boots and coat. The Defer Lost and Found quickly fills up with unlabeled items.

We love having the snow at Defer. Students work together to build forts, giant snowballs, and snow people. Throwing snow or ice crystals is not allowed on Defer grounds.

## Student Absences

Mary had a little cold, but didn't stay at home.  
Everywhere that Mary went the cold was sure to roam.  
It wandered into Molly's eyes and filled them full of tears.  
It jumped from there to Bobby's nose, and then to Jimmy's ears.  
It painted Annie's throat bright red, and swelled poor Jenny's head.  
Dora had a fever, and a cough put Jack to bed.  
The moral of this little tale is very quickly said.  
Mary could have saved a lot of pain with just one day in bed!

Students need to be fever/symptom free for 24 hours (without aid of medication) before returning to school. Thank you!



# Earth Week Challenge

## Preview



The Defer Green Squad wants to really make an impact on Earth Week 2017! Let's send a powerful message about our Earth! Join over 9,800 kids in 24 states who have canceled almost 90,000 unwanted sales catalogs saving trees, water, energy, and our climate. Scout troops have canceled 100s. Schools have canceled 1,000s! You can make a difference!

During the week of April 16<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> the Defer Green Squad is asking Defer students to join **The Catalog Canceling Challenge**. It's a simple project that has quite an environmental impact by saving trees, water, and energy.

Start now – Keep a pile of unwanted sales catalogs (Lands' End, J. Crew, etc.). During Earth Week we will be showing families how to cancel unwanted catalogs and help save our Earth.

According to the National Resources Defense Council, it takes an average of one tree to make 358 catalogues and 19 billion (yes, billion!) catalogs are mailed every year. We encourage you and your children to be part of making a change.

## New Grosse Pointe Public Schools Mobile Communications App

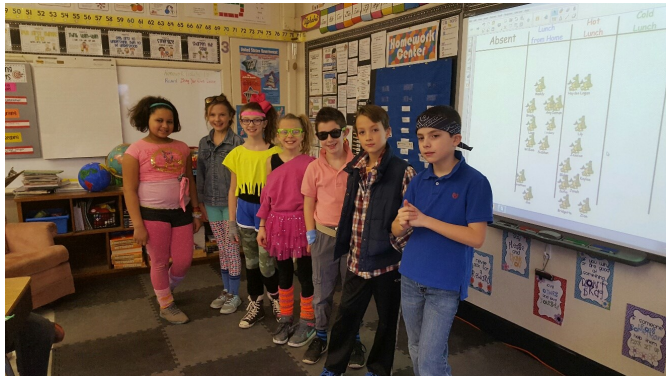
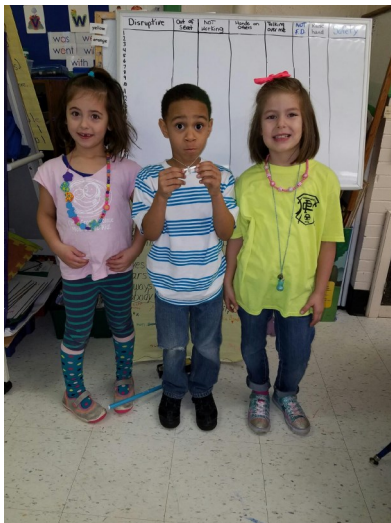
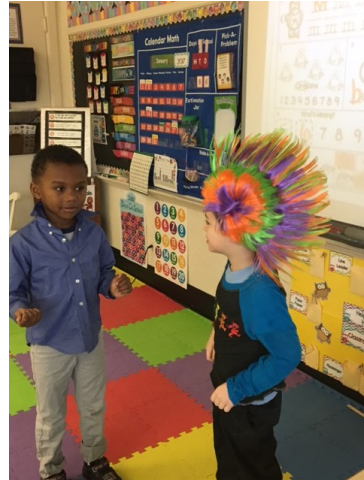
Free Blackboard download

- View news stories
- View sports news
- Receive important alerts
- View calendar info
- Access school and staff info
- Access MiStar Parent Portal



# 80's Day at Defer !

Student Council leaders helped our entire school celebrate the 80th school day of the year. Students and teachers alike dressed up in their 80's outfits. Parents, do you remember the 80's look?



## SAFETY/SERVICE

In January, Defer Safety/Service ventured across Kercheval to the Pierce Pool to celebrate another great month of service. It was a beautiful day and perfect for a swim. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing swim, as well as Gatorade and snacks.

Mr. Senska joined the team as Lifeguard to supervise the safety of the swimmers. Mrs. Link, Mrs. Woolums and Mr. Kirkland also were there for support. It was great to reward the hard-working student volunteers for serving Defer on a daily basis.

The Safeties love drinking their hot cocoa on cold winter mornings to “Warm the Safeties.” Thank you to the PTO for this treat: it is greatly appreciated.

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

Thank you,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-January

**Safety: Sara J.**

**Service: Corey M.**



### Post Times

Safety: 8:10-8:20a.m.

3:35-3:45 p.m.

Service: 8:15-8:25a.m.

3:35-3:45p.m.

### Late Start Monday

Safety: 8:50-9:05a.m.

3:35-3:45 p.m.

Service: 8:55-9:10a.m.

3:35-3:45p.m.

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.**



## Digital Picks from your Elementary Library Media Specialists!

(click on each image for a link)



### **The Robot Factory**

iOS \$3.99

Create your robot from an array of exoskeletons, telescoping arms, and spider legs, and give it a distinctive "voice." Then test your robot in a fantastic world of obstacles! (K-4)



### **Spot**

iOS \$4.99

Five fantastical worlds, including Cat World and Robot World, intertwine in a wordless adventure created by Caldecott Medalist David Wiesner. Winner of the 2015 "Best App for Teaching and Learning" (American Association of School Librarians). (K-2)



### **Endless Spanish/Infinito Español**

iOS/Android FREE

An animated introduction to common Spanish words, with interactive word and sentence puzzles to reinforce usage and context. (K-4)



### **Plum's Creaturizer**

iOS/Android FREE

Design an imaginary creature by combining elements of real animals. Photograph your creature in your own backyard. Consider how your creature would live, and watch a slideshow about its life. Based on the PBS KIDS "Plum Landing." (K-3)



### **WWF Together**

iOS/Android FREE

World Wildlife Fun presents informative, playful, interactive stories about endangered animals, with cool and unusual facts, conservation news, high-definition images and videos, and origami! (2+)



### **Incredibox.com**

website/iOS \$3.99

Drag-and-drop to create your own music mixes, assigning a different effect, beat, melody, chorus, or voice to each scruffy member of your own beatbox crew. The app allows you to record, save, and share your mixes. (2+)

### **Elementary Library Media Specialists**

- Danielle Gostomski: Kerby, Mason, Poupard
- Amy Hermon: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Sherry Martin: Ferry, Kerby, Mason, Poupard
- Cheryl Quinlan: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Rachel Walpole: Ferry, Richard, Trombly



# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 PTO Meeting 7:00 pm at Maire School	8 Count Day	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Safety Service Lakeshore Lanes	17	18
19	20 Mid Winter Break begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 School Re- sumes 9:05 am	28 Adolescent Health Parent Meeting 6:30 pm Town Hall 10:45 Dragon Dens 11- 11:30				

## February Calendar Highlights

February 7<sup>th</sup> – Our PTO meeting this month is being held at Maire. Maire is one of the three elementary buildings in the district that has a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom. These three classrooms have incorporate everything from the newest technology, to seating, to lighting. Our PTO will have a chance to hear from the classroom teacher and experience this room first hand.

February 28<sup>th</sup> - Our Adolescent Health instruction begins in 4<sup>th</sup> grade for all students. We will be holding a parent meeting to share the curriculum and the resources for this curriculum. Our instructors for this curriculum are:

4<sup>th</sup> grade girls – Mrs. Gout and Mrs. Nugent

4<sup>th</sup> grade boys – Mr. Masters

5<sup>th</sup> grade girls – Mrs. Cross

5<sup>th</sup> grade boys – Mr. Senska

This informational meeting begins at 6:30 PM.

February 28<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Camp meeting – The fifth grade teachers will be meeting with the chaperoning parents at 6:00PM. This will be held prior to the Adolescent Health meeting.



# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 PBIS Rewards Party 8:40 am	2	3	4
5	6	7 PTO Meeting 7:00 pm	8	9	10 PTO Donuts With your Dragons 8:00-8:20	11
12	13	14 Half Day Students Records Day	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Dragon Dens 12:40 Town Hall 1:00	24 PTO Bingo Night 7:00 pm	25
26	27 Spring Book Fair Begins	28 Earth Day Assembly	29 PM Parent/ Teacher Conference 5:00-8:00 pm	30 AM, PM & Even- ing Conf. No School for students	31	



# DEFER PTO

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



February 2017



President  
Becca Ozar

Vice President  
Heather Wiegand

Treasurer  
Emily Summerfield

Secretaries  
Kelly Woolums  
Jessica Kodanko

Communications  
Sara Martin

Fundraising  
Kelly Warnick

Hospitality  
Kim Rhodes

Membership  
Lindy Holloway

School Board  
Observer  
Kelley McLean

Volunteers  
Brooke Macuga

Faculty  
Representative  
Janette High

Defer Wear  
Megan Bejin

Past President  
Renee Palazzolo

**Lunchtime Enrichment began this week —  
Monday Jan. 30**

Confirmations & schedules were sent home last week with students.

**GPPSS Parents for Diversity meeting — Wednesday  
Feb. 1 @ 6:30 p.m. in Defer's library**

**Defer PTO Meeting — Tuesday Feb. 7 @ 7 p.m.  
at Maire Elementary**

The meeting is being held in a 21st Century Classroom, which is being showcased in a presentation.

All Defer parents are invited & encouraged to attend PTO meetings, during which parents and staff communicate about what's happening in the building and future events. New faces & feedback are always welcome!

**Disability Awareness Day — March 2 @ 8:30 a.m.**

A hands-on workshop for 4th graders that allows students to learn about and explore the use of assistive devices used by people with various disabilities and impairments. Equipment includes devices used by people with physical disabilities, cognitive deficits, vision/hearing impairments, speech & language challenges and more. Students will rotate through stations set up throughout the day.

**Donuts with your Dragon — March 10 @ 8 a.m.**

Students may bring a special someone to the gym for donuts, juice & coffee. Allergy free donuts will be available.

**Spring Book Fair — March 27-30**

**Earthdome Assembly — March 28**

This is an all school assembly about the planet, the atmosphere and more. Each classroom will visit the gym throughout the day to participate and explore the giant dome.



## Donuts with your Dragon!

Mark your calendar for **Friday March 10.**

Enjoy donuts in the gym starting at 8 a.m. Students may bring a special person to enjoy donuts, juice and coffee that morning! Allergy free donuts will be available.



## Receive up-to-date information about Defer happenings:

Join the PTO Yahoo email blast group (send an email to: [deferpto-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:deferpto-subscribe@yahoo.com)). You will receive a confirmation email, to which you must to respond by simply hitting the reply button.

Follow Defer Elementary PTO on Facebook:  
(<https://www.facebook.com/Defer-Elementary-PTO-153168848088901/>)



## Green Squad News

Keeping Kids Safe From Lead  
Preventing household exposures

WHO: Presented by Ecology Center Speaker, Melissa Cooper Sargent

WHEN: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m

WHERE: Grosse Pointe Public School System Administration Building  
389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

To RSVP or get for more information, contact Melissa Cooper Sargent  
313-881-2263 or [melissas@ecocenter.org](mailto:melissas@ecocenter.org)

Seminar is a part of 60 Days to Health: Sponsored by Grosse Pointe Public School System, Beaumont Community Health Coalition, Beaumont, and the Neighborhood Club.

# Online Ordering NOW AVAILABLE!

Welcome to the Defer Elementary Spirit Store!



"Vintage"



"D"



"Dragons"

## ORDER ONLINE:

<https://gpschools.formstack.com/forms/deferspiritwear>



Hoodies:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons Vintage	
	Y\$25		
Adult	S M L XL 2XL		A\$30
Youth	S M L XL		2XL
	\$35		

Long Sleeve Tshirt:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons Vintage	
	Y\$20		
Men's	S M L XL 2XL		A\$23
Ladies	S M L XL		2XL \$25
Youth	S M L XL		

Short Sleeve Tshirt:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons Vintage	
	Y\$15		
Men's	S M L XL 2XL		A\$18
Ladies	S M L XL		
Youth	S M L XL		



¼ Zip:	Gray	Logo: D Dragons GPPS Seal	\$35
Men's	S M L XL 2XL		2XL \$38
Ladies	S M L XL	Logo will be embroidered	

Baseball Hat:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons GPPS Seal	\$15
Adult			
Youth		Logo will be embroidered	



Winter Pom Hat:		Logo: D Dragons	\$18
Winter Skull Cap:		Logo: D Dragons	\$15

Name:	Order Total:
Teacher Name:	Paid: Cash Check _____

Order using this form or online via the Defer School website  
 Orders will be delivered to Defer in approximately 2-4 weeks

Questions? [defer.spirit.store@gmail.com](mailto:defer.spirit.store@gmail.com)



## Volunteers Needed: March 2

The Disability Awareness Workshop is Thursday  
March 2, 2017



**Please consider helping** with this hands-on event that teaches our children empathy, understanding and experiencing life from a different perspective.

Fourth grade students learn about the challenges others experience every day due to physical impairments, cognitive disorders, vision and hearing deficits, learning disabilities, speech challenges and more.

Volunteers operate stations with various equipment.

Sign up here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48a5ac2fabf94-disability>



Shifts include:

Morning: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Afternoon: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

or

All Day: 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.



December & January box top submissions are being tallied now. The classes that won popcorn parties for submitting 500 box tops or more will be announced soon!

Don't forget to turn in those Box Tops!