

# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

## 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

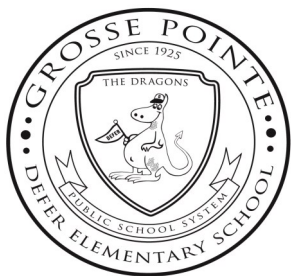
Put first things first

Think Win-Win

Seek first to understand, then to be understood

Synergize— together is better

Sharpen the Saw



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February 4, 2016

Karen Sullivan

Defer Principal

## The Importance of Homework

What does the term 'homework' mean to you? In your family, does 'homework' have a positive or a negative connotation? For some, the word 'homework' is associated with the idea that such work is drudgery, a necessary evil of attending school. For others, homework is viewed as a precious opportunity to boost learning, *and they're right!!!!*

There are three purposes for the assigning of homework. They are listed below along with an example of this type of homework being assigned at Defer.

**To give students opportunities to practice skills.** To execute a skill, students must reach a level of self-sufficiency. When practicing, they are to improve their accuracy and speed. *At Defer math fact practice, spelling practice, and EDM homework all fall into this category.*

**To prepare students for a new topic.** To do this students have to retrieve their prior knowledge. This homework might ask a child to reflect on what they have learned from other classes, or from their reading. *For example, if the students were going to read Jack London's "To Build A Fire", the homework might be to write experiences they have had in bitter cold.*

**To elaborate on introduced material.** This type of homework asks the student to extend their knowledge. *For example, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders studied controls and variables in Science and then set up an experiment to test their own hypothesis using controls and one variable.*

### Fast Facts and Tips for Homework

In order for students to reach competency, **they must practice it 24 times.** When your child does not do their homework they have missed out on a practice session towards mastery.

Students should keep track of their assignments by using an agenda or homework notebook. *Our students complete their agendas every day at Defer.*

If students are practicing a skill like times tables they would benefit from keeping track of their speed and accuracy. *Students track this information in their data binders at school.*

All students should read for at least 20 minutes a night. This is in addition to their assigned homework.

Parents should help with homework by establishing a routine and finding a place.

The amount of homework should be enough to equal grade level times 10. In other words, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders should have 30 minutes of homework on school nights, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders should have 40 minutes. This does not include reading for 20 minutes nightly.

**Bottom Line . . . .**

**Homework is essential to student learning!**

**Did you do your homework tonight?**

## Adolescent Health Parent Meeting



There will be an Adolescent Health meeting for parents of students in grades 4 and 5 on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. The staff will be sharing the major components of the Adolescent Health unit and answering questions.

Classroom instruction will be the week of March 21<sup>st</sup> for both grades. Instruction will take place in the PM.

## Donuts With Your Dragon

The Defer PTO is sponsoring *Donuts With Your Dragon* this Friday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. Join other Defer families from 8:00 – 8:20 for donuts and a cup of coffee or water. This annual event is an opportunity for students to kick-off their morning by bringing a cherished adult to school and enjoying a treat. It is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with other Defer families. Students should plan to wear their Defer T-shirts that day. Hope to see you there!

Our first grade will be hosting in their classrooms the *100 Day* celebration by sharing their collections of 100 items with family and friends following the *Donuts with your Dragon* event. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be sharing their *Fairy Tale* unit with their families following the gym activity.



## Water Drive



The Defer *Green Squad* is hosting a water drive to benefit the people of Flint. Students have recognized this need and want to help. Cases or jugs of water can be dropped off at Defer between Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. outside the gym on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor or across from the Kindergarten classroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Here's another example of student leadership at Defer school! Thanks students!

# February's Specials

**Each day all of the Defer students attend a Specials class.**

**They include: Art, Library/Spanish (3rd- 5th), Music, and Physical Education**

**Below is a birds-eye view into one aspect of each grade's upcoming work this month and a great conversation starter with your child--no matter what grade(s).**

## ART

- Kindergarten Kindergarten artists finish their unit on circles and spheres with Kandinsky circle paintings and designer turtle drawings. Students will also make a textured circle pendant from clay using their shoe as a stamp.
- 1<sup>st</sup> 1st grade artists will learn about Asian culture, animals and art. Students will create panda collages with cherry blossoms based on the book "Zen Shorts" by Jon J Muth and koinobori (carp kites to celebrate Children's Day).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 2nd grade artists continue learning about symmetry with colorful snowflake paper cuts. They will finish their batik (fabric resist) animals and monsters which will be made into pillows!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 3rd grade artists finish their tabby weavings using yarn.
- 4<sup>th</sup> 4th grade artists finish sewing their Ugly Doll felt monster soft sculptures.
- 5<sup>th</sup> 5th grade artists finish their double sided weavings and start a precept printmaking project.



## MUSIC

- Kindergarten Kindergarten continues to work on finding the steady beat in any kind of music through the use of movement, scarves, bean bags, etc.
- 1<sup>st</sup> 1st graders are identifying the instruments in the story of "Peter and the Wolf".
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 2nd graders will be tested on their sight reading of music through the use of solfedge---sol & mi.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 3rd graders have begun to discuss and play the Percussion Family of instruments.
- 4<sup>th</sup> 4th graders continue their instruction of 5-notes that are played on the recorder.
- 5<sup>th</sup> 5th graders will begin a unit on music symbols and their meanings in music.



## LIBRARY

- Kindergarten Kindergarteners finished their Penguin Fiction/nonfiction unit documenting facts about penguins and also with dressing a funny (fiction) character penguin from Helen Lester's, Three Cheers for Tacky.
- 1st 1st graders are wrapping up their Polar Animal Unit by researching facts on Polar Bears, and making a polar bear puppet, with their favorite fact written on the back.
- 2nd 2nd graders have been studying Story Elements, finishing with a fun Library Game on the subject.
- 3rd 3rd graders are finishing up their Big 6 Animal Research project.
- 4th 4th graders are exploring Kids Info Bits database.
- 5th Fifth graders are using 7 different research sources to find facts on explorer.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Kindergarten Students are learning how to Chinese jump rope and how to handle a hockey stick.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Getting ready for our JRFH event in February. Students are learning all different ways to jump rope including long rope jumping in small groups.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Working with partners, students are excited to jump rope with a jump stick and also adding their skills to a bit of hockey in the game "Take the Goalie's Place."
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Students are learning that exercise is important in the everyday health while testing out their skills in jump roping and hockey fun.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Working in small groups practicing a variety of jump rope skills. Fourth graders are also working on their hockey team skills participating in Sideline hockey games.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Jump rope is an excellent way to exercise, not only to stay healthy, but to stay strong in Other sports. Fifth graders learn how this skill crosses over to other activities in their life. Fifth graders are also participating in sideline hockey which promotes communication and team work skills.



# SAFETY/SERVICE

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

The Safeties love their hot cocoa to "Warm the Safeties." Thank you, PTO 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: Xavier I.**

**Service: Dominic P.**

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.

### 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.



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# Greenhouse News





# DEFER PTO

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

F\*E\*B\*R\*U\*A\*R\*Y ~ 2015-2016

## BREATHING FIRE:

Hello

Well if your kids are like mine, they have been praying for a snow day. Not sure if it's going happen this year. Our Lunchtime Enrichment is well on its way and I hope your children are enjoying their classes. Again, I would like to thank all the Volunteers who make this great program happen.

Can you believe the school year is half over? Wow!!!! The PTO is already working on our several Spring events and will begin looking for new Board members and Committees Chairs very soon. If you have any interest or questions about any Board position or Committee, please give me a call or send me an email.

This month is our first Donuts with your Dragon on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. Please stop by the gym for a donut and a cup of coffee with your little ones. It's great to see everyone especially during these winter months when we are all hiding inside. I hope to see you there. Thank you to Kim Rhodes for all your hard work putting on this delicious event!!!

The PTO is working on our Bingo Night which will be Friday, March 4, 2016 at 7 pm, so mark your calendars!! This is a fun night for all Defer students and their families, even the little ones can play. As a result of our Fantastic Fun Run Fundraiser and the PTO promise to have only one fundraiser, all Defer children will be able to play Bingo for free. Of course, there will be bingo daubers and snacks for sale.

The next PTO meetings are Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Library at 7:00 pm. Please join us!!

Renee Palazzolo  
PTO President  
[reneepalazzolo@gmail.com](mailto:reneepalazzolo@gmail.com)

**DEFER PTO BOARD**

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**Renee Palazzolo**  
President

**Becca Ozar**  
Vice President

**Emily Summerfield**  
Treasury

**Ryan/Mary Beth Coffey**  
Secretaries

**Christina Michaud**  
Communications

**Aaron Oestreich**  
Fundraising

**Kevin Ozar**  
Membership

**Kelley McLean**  
School Board Observer

**Heather Wiegand**  
Volunteers



**Defer Elementary**  
15425 Kercheval  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI  
48230  
Office: (313) 432-4000

**Donuts w/ Your Dragon**  
Friday, February 5  
8am-8:20  
Defer gym

**PTO Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 9  
7:00pm  
Defer library  
Everyone welcome.

**Bingo Night**  
Friday, March 4  
7:00pm  
Defer Gym  
FREE games for Defer kids!

**Reminders**





## **DONUTS** *with your* **DRAGON**

**Friday, February 5, 20**

*Meet at the Defer gym from 8-8:20am.*

*Students can bring a special person on this morning  
to enjoy coffee, juice and donuts!*

*New this year, we will also have a special table that is allergen free for our  
students and parents with allergies.*

*Please join us for a fun filled morning!!*

**\*\*Mark your calendar for the next Donuts w/ your Dragon**

**MARCH 18, 2016**



**Great things  
are growing...**



**in the Lunchtime Enrichment**

**GREENHOUSE!!**



# Defer Annual Family BINGO Night



Friday, March 4, 2016

7pm-9pm

**FREE** Bingo cards to all Defer Students

Bingo Games for just \$1.

Snacks and drinks for sale.

Fun & prizes!!!

- Do NOT tape them to paper! The reimbursement company does not accept glued or taped box tops.



**Do you see yourself identifying with the Elephant, the Donkey....or **THE DRAGON???** Below is a list of the PTO board positions. We will be voting for the new slate in the next month. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Becca Ozar [beccaozar@hotmail.com](mailto:beccaozar@hotmail.com).**

- PRESIDENT – Becca Ozar**
- VICE-PRESIDENT**
- SECRETARY**
- TREASURER**
- VOLUNTEERS**
- FUN RUN**
- MEMBERSHIP**
- HOSPITALITY**
- COMMUNICATIONS**
- SCHOOL BOARD OBSERVER**

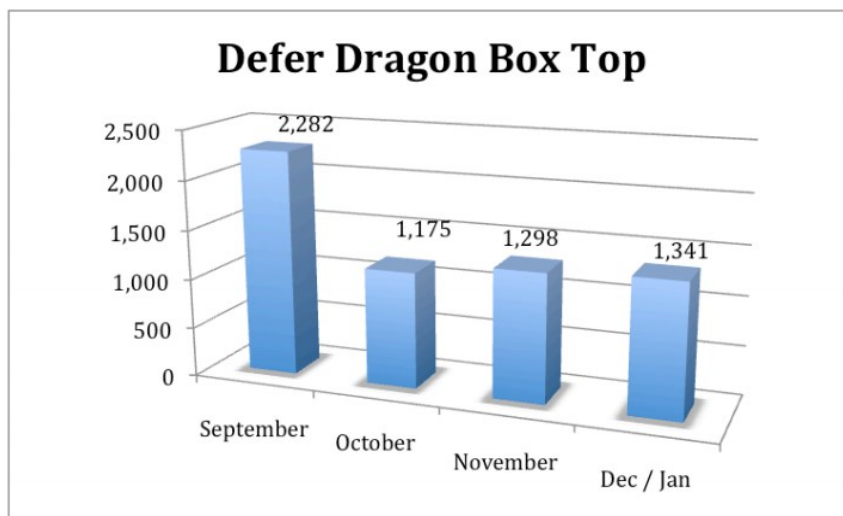


Your Clipping matters! Many thanks to the families who clipped, clipped their way to hard cash for Defer PTO programs that benefit our students.

At Defer Elementary – Our students clipped and submitted a total of 6,096 box tops....That's \$609.60 for future programs for our students!

Let's make the February count...even higher!!! Did you know, the classroom with the most returned box tops for the month earns themselves a reward party (popcorn, extra recess, ect)?

Watch those boxes, bags and boards, clip those coupons and turn them in TODAY. Don't delay!!



Clipping hints - Please, Please, Please:

- Must have a valid expiration date shown on box top
- Do NOT tape them to paper! The reimbursement company does not accept glued or taped box tops.

# Digital Picks

*From your School Library  
Media Specialists*



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



## **Lego.com**

Website (free)

Easy to navigate and fun to play and build on. This site has many different options from playing games to creating art and should interest boys and girls alike.(K-5).



## **Robot Factory**

IOS \$3.99

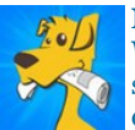
Create robots. Test robots. Collect robots. Build with exoskeletons, zephyr mechanisms, hydrostatic tentacles, machines locomotors, G-Force mixers, and more! Make any robot you can imagine! (2nd grade & up)!



## **Magic School Bus: Field Trip Frenzy (Game)**

PC/Tablet \$1.49

Follow along with Ms. Frizzle as she goes on one exciting adventure after another in this interactive scientific game featuring 8 fieldtrips and over 75 rounds of play. (2-5).



## **News-O-Matic Daily Reading for Kids**

IOS/Android Free

Wonderful app that has kid safe articles with information about daily life and news stories relevant and interesting for children. There are multiple apps available for different age and reading levels (K-5).



## **Literacy Leveler**





IOS \$4.99/Android \$2.99

For parents who are searching for books that are at their child's reading level per F & P scores, this app is for you. Just scan the book's barcode and the level appears. Great for students looking for books on their levels as well. (K and up)





### **Media Specialists**

Danielle Gostomski	<b>Kerby, Mason, Richard, Poupard</b>
Amy Hermon	<b>Maire, Mason, Monteith, Trombly</b>
Sherry Martin	<b>Ferry, Mason, Poupard</b>
Cheryl Quinlan	<b>Defer, Monteith</b>
Rachel Walpole	<b>Richard, Trombly</b>

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Donuts with your Dragon 8:00-8:20 am Wear Defer T-shirts	6
7	8	9 PTO Meeting 7 pm in the Library	10 Student Count Day	11	12	13
14	15 Mid –Winter Break Begins	16 	17 	18 	19 	20
21	22 School Resumes		24	25 Service and Safety Bowling Party	26	27
28	29					

# March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Adolescent Health Parent Meeting. Gr. 4-5 6:30. 5th Gr. Camp meeting 6:00	3	4 PTO Bingo Night 7-9 pm Lunch enrichment Ends.	5
6	7	8 PTO Meeting 7 pm in the Library	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Am classes only PM– Staff Record Day	16	17	18 Donuts with your Dragon 8–8:20 am Wear Defer Y-shirts	19
20	21	22	23 Service and Safety Party - Movie	24	25 Spring Break	26
27	28 No School 	29 No School 	30 No School 	31 No School 	1 No School	