

Defer Dragon's Burning News



June 1, 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**

District Vision

Statement

One GP –where every-one learns, every day

District Mission

Statement

Promote Innovation
Maximize Potential
Embrace Community

Dear Defer Families,

As the school year comes to a close, our minds and hearts are filled to the brim. It's been a great year! What a school! Together we've learned much and shared experiences that will long remain with us in the years to come. The strength of our community and wholehearted passion to make our school a wonderful place of learning for our children primarily but for all of us makes Defer truly a special place.

Special thanks to all of you who have contributed in ways small, large and unimaginable! Copying for Thursday Folders, working in the clinic or the lunchroom, driving on field trips, helping with school pictures, providing food and/or organizing lunches for students and teachers, organizing events, working at these events, showing up to support your children, helping in the garden, serving on committees, sharing your talents, helping with traffic, picking up trash, participating in PTO night meetings, brainstorming the "what ifs"... supporting our work in countless ways and providing the resources to do what we dream and know is good for children.

Thanks for getting your kids to school on time each day, for kind notes of encouragement that mean so much, for sending your kids with healthy lunches obviously packed with love, for making sure homework gets done... and turned in. Thank you for providing rich and engaging, well-rounded experiences for your children and knowing that education is about joy, wonder and fostering curiosity, along with the development of social skills so needed to succeed. For these, and a million other things, we are truly grateful.

To those of you who are leaving us for new places and adventures, we wish you all the best. Congratulations to our very capable 5th graders who are onto a new stage in their academic career! You are *off to great places!*

For your calendaring pleasure, the first day of school begins on September 5th. Back-to-School Night is September 6th at 6:30 pm.

Until then, enjoy a restful and replenishing summer with your families!

W.I.G.

Wildly Important Goals

This year as part of our School Improvement Plan at Defer each grade established a WIG goal. The goal was based on studying student assessment data and looking specifically at a set of skills that students have not mastered at that grade. As the school year comes to an end I'd like to share how we did with our goals. We're proud!!!

Kindergarten Wig:

Goal: 85% of the Kindergarten students will recognize all 56 sight words by June 2017, or show growth toward meeting that goal.

Results: 86% of our Kindergarten students either showed growth or met the goal of recognizing all 56 sight words by June 2017.

1st grade WIG:

Goal: By June of 2015 100% of the first graders will meet or exceed the First Grade Fontas and Pinnell reading levels for 1st grade readers.

Results: 87% of our 1st graders achieved this goal with the remaining 13% making significant progress towards attaining the Fontas and Pinnell reading level for 1st grade.

2nd and 3rd grade WIG:

Goal: 80% of the 2nd and 3rd grade students will move up at least one RIT stanine on the NWEA in Spring 2017.

Results: 82 % of our 2nd and 3rd graders advanced at least 1 RIT stanine in the vocabulary subtest on the Spring 2017 NWEA Reading test.

2/3 WIG:

Goal: 80% or more of the 3rd grade magnet students will score a 4 or better on the Spring 2017 GPWA.

Results: 100% of the 3rd grade students will score a 4 or better on the spring 2017 GPWA. This was teacher scored.

4th grade WIG:

Goal: 100% of our students will score 95 or higher on the multiplication fact mastery test by June 2017.

Results: 70% of the 4th grade students scored 95 or higher on the multiplication fact mastery test by June 2017.

5th grade WIG:

Goal: 80% of all 5th grade students will score a 4 or higher on the GPWA given in the Spring 2017.

Results: 70% of the fifth grade students scored a 4 or higher on the Spring 2017 GPWA.

Pesticide Free on School Grounds Pilot – Learn How You Can Help

Defer Elementary

GPPSS has a strong integrated pest management (IPM) program, which focuses on pest prevention and the reduction of pesticide use. Defer has been selected to be a part of a pilot program to make our school grounds pesticide free. This pilot will run from May 2017 through April 2018.

Presently, to control weeds and unwanted grass at Defer these procedures are followed: Raised mowing height, which promotes grass growth and prevents weeds

- Reseeding
- Fertilization
- Roundup pesticide applications twice a year (when school is not in session during Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends)

During the pilot we will be replacing the pesticide applications with the following:

- Hand weeding in the garden beds, tree beds, and fence line
- Cutting trees back on the fence line to promote natural ground cover
- Spreading mulch in the weeded areas

How Do We Accomplish This

Our chairperson of the Beautification Committee is Diana Degen. Diana is a new parent to Defer next year (2017 – 18) with an incoming Young 5's Kindergarten student, but already she has jumped into action for our school. Here's the plan

- Seek out parents, girl scout and boy scout troops, Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, Garden Club members, and others as volunteers
- To kick off the pilot, two work sessions are scheduled (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) on **June 3rd** and **June 17th** – We expect to weed on June 3rd and spread mulch on June 17th
- Seek out mulch donations from local businesses

We need your help to make Defer a *Pesticide Free Zone*. There are plenty of ways you be a part of making this pilot a success!

- **Give even an hour of your time on either June 3rd or June 17th**
- **Participate in a future work day or coordinate a future work day with your community group**
- **Sponsor native plants, garden materials, or snacks for the work days**

Diana will be setting up a list of volunteers who are committed to making this pilot a success! Please reach out to her at either (919) 593- 1341 or through email: dianaelaine4@gmail.com.

Something to think about: *Barnes school in GPW has been pesticide free for several years. Is that what we want for our Defer Dragons too? Please be a part of making Defer an even better place for students and families!*

The pilot will focus on the front and side lawns as well as the playground, but will not include baseball/ soccer fields at this time.

Fighting Brain Drain

Ahh! 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 routines. **For children, it can mean a serious loss of learning. Research shows that many children experience a 'summer slump' or 'brain drain' and can lose about four to six weeks of growth from the previous school year, often more.**

How do I know if my child suffers from 'brain drain'? Review your child's NWEA record that will be coming home with the final Progress Report. If there is a drop between the Spring score and the following Fall score your child may have fallen victim to *brain drain*.

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.

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 computer 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!!



Spanish News

¡Hola! Our last Spanish rotation has been so much fun, and I am really enjoying my first year at the elementary level! Your children are so wonderful, and I am looking forward to working with them again next year. Thank you for sharing them with me!

3rd graders have been reviewing and studying numbers, food, eating in restaurants, zoo animals, farm animals, the alphabet, and a Spanish story! 4th graders have been studying key questions that pertain to the calendar, weather, numbers 1-100, clothing, Mesoamericans, music in Peru, and how to talk about what they wear and what they like! 5th graders have been studying directions and the community, sports, hobbies, how to talk about what they really enjoy, clothing, and the culture, food and celebrations of Spain.

I hope that you will continue to encourage them to review their vocabulary at home, and that you will allow them to teach you some new vocabulary, too! Please feel free to email or call me if you have any questions. I would also like to encourage kids to keep up with their Spanish, even during our breaks. I love the Duolingo app and the Epic! reading app (which has Spanish stories)! There are countless more free Spanish games and activities if you check the app store. There are also wonderful resources on the web, like Basha and Friends on Youtube, www.rockalingua.com, and resources for parents at www.spanishplayground.com and www.mommymaestra.com. If you are really interested in working with your kids at home, you can find some great blogs at <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/6-bilingual-bloggers-who-can-help-your-kids-learn-spanish-n620691>. Finally, you can always check out our website at <http://sragrattan.weebly.com/>, where students will find many of their favorite songs and materials.

¡Gracias por todo! Thanks for everything!

Señora Grattan



Music News

The music department has two performances coming up in June....Wednesday, June 7th is the 4/5 Musical "Goal" at 2:45pm in the gym. They will be performing for the school and all parents are welcome. Also, on June 9th is the annual Defer's Got Talent show at 10am in the gym. Lots of variety this year! Again the kids are performing for the school and all parents are welcome to see their child perform. Come one, come all to the end of the year musical activities!! See you there !



Ask the Principal

Will there be a summer packet for students this year?

The answer is yes! Summer is a long break and it is important that students continue to grow as learners. The Defer teachers prepare a packet that is sent home with each child during the last week of the school year. The packet contains reading, writing, and math activities that reviews the concepts taught this year. A great way to help your child keep their skills is to have them complete a page each day. In September we will want students to bring their completed Summer Packet back to school to earn their first charm on their leadership necklaces.

In addition to the Summer Packet each teacher will supply your child with the websites and passwords for instructional apps that we used all year at Defer and will continue to be available to your child during the summer. Again, having your child spend some time each day using these sites helps to fight learning loss or *Summer Slump*.

Office News

All medication must be picked up by a parent or an adult not later than Thursday, June 15h. Any medication remaining *in the office on Friday, June 16th will be discarded. We are unable to release any medication to students.*

It has been a pleasure working with your children for another school year. We have enjoyed watching your children grow. You should be very proud of each and every one of them! We would also like to thank all the parents that have volunteered in the clinic during lunch. We really appreciate your help!

We hope you have a safe, wonderful summer and look forward to seeing your children in the fall.

Mrs. Lightbody and Ms. Hanna



Safety Service

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 Patricia Rivera who grilled for us. Also, our chaperones Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Shier, And Mrs. Link.

I hope you noticed all the awesome 4th graders who volunteered to take over for the 5th graders who went to camp. They wore bright orange belts and I am so proud of all of them. To volunteer for a job full of responsibility, is commendable.

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.

Safety/Service Member of the Month -May

Safety: Gavin Webster
Service: Ivan Oestreich

Safety/Service Member of the Month -June

Safety: Mikinzi Allen
Ella Biter
Service: Mason Cole
Andre's Link

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

Helen Srebernak
Safety/Service Coordinator

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 5th Graders return from camp	3
4	5 Rescheduled Field Day Begins at 9:30	6 5th Grade to Pierce 10:15-11:15	7 4/5 Magnet Play 2:45 PM	8	9 Talent Show 10:00 AM	10
11	12 <u>1st grade picnic</u> 11:00-1:00 Patterson Park <u>2nd and 2/3</u> 11:30-3 :00 Windmill	13 <u>All 4th, 5th, 4/5</u> Picnics 11:30-3:00 Windmill <u>Y5, K picnic</u> 1:00-3:00 Patterson Park	14 1/2 day students Awards Ceremony 10:00 am	15 1/2 day students 5th grade Promotion 10:00 am	16 Last Teacher Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Important June Dates

- June 6** 5th Grade to Pierce
- June 12** 1st Grade picnic 11-1 Patterson Park
2nd, 2/3 Grade picnic 11:30-3 Windmill Park
- June 13** All 4, 5, 4/5 picnics 11:30-3 Windmill Park
Y5 and K picnic 1:00-3:00 Patterson Park
- June 14** Awards ceremony
1/2 day students
- June 15** 5th grade promotion
1/2 day students

Important September Dates

- September 5 School Resumes
- September 6 Back to School Night



Volume 5 Issue 9

June 2017

Its Summer Vacation!!! From your Elementary Library Media Specialists! (click on each image for a link)

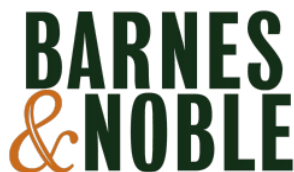
Have fun exploring this month's digital picks. As we begin summer vacation, take a look at some resources to help motivate your student to continue reading throughout the summer months. Your children have visited their school library every week during the school year. Make our 3 public (and airconditioned!) libraries part of your summer weekly routine.



Our very own [GPPL's link to reading lists](#) by grade level, award-winning and popular genres! Don't forget to register for the summer reading program at any branch starting on Friday, June 16!



Each year, over 36,000 children from different regions of the United States read newly-published children's and young adult trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children's Choices, selected from more than 900 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading. The project is co-sponsored by the CBC and the [International Literacy Association \(ILA\)](#).



All students who read 8 books this summer and complete a reader's log can earn a free book from Barnes and Noble. Click on the link and download the reader's log and see the lists of books students are eligible to win.



Check out these downloadable lists of reading recommendations for ages birth - 8th grade. ALSC's network includes more than 4,000 children's and youth librarians, children's literature experts, publishers, education and library school faculty members, and other adults dedicated to creating a better future for children through libraries.



Students can log their minutes read this summer. They can win virtual prizes, unlock online rewards. Students can also enter to win prizes.

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





DEFER PTO

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



June 2017



Defer Grounds Weeding/Gardening Party – **Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. to Noon**

Garden beds at Defer to be weeded without use of pesticides. This event is being hosted through Defer PTO's Beautification Committee. Attendees are asked to bring gardening gloves, weeding tools and water. To RSVP, email dianaelaine4@gmail.com & stay up to date if there is a rain delay, etc.

Field Day – **June 5**

4/5 Magnet Play – **Wednesday, June 7**

Talent Show – **Thursday, June 7**

Class Picnics – **Monday & Tuesday, June 12 & 13**

Check time and location for your child's specific classroom.

Half Day of School – **Wednesday, May 14**

Students will be dismissed at half-day bell time.

Half Day of School – **Thursday, May 15**

Students will be dismissed at half-day bell time.

Fifth Grade Promotion – **Thursday, June 15 @ 10 a.m.**

Defer Grounds Mulching Party – **Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m. to Noon**

Mulch to be spread in Defer Garden beds as a weed preventer that does not require pesticides. This event is being hosted through Defer PTO's Beautification Committee. Attendees are asked to bring gardening gloves and water. To RSVP, email dianaelaine4@gmail.com.

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

Receive up-to-date information about Defer:

Join the PTO Yahoo email blast group

(send an email to: deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

You will receive a confirmation email, to which you must respond by simply hitting the reply button.

Follow Defer Elementary PTO on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DeferPTO/>



The Defer PTO would like to thank all those
Who volunteered at the Spring Social this year!
We hope everyone had a fabulous time!

Save The Date

for the PTO's 3rd Annual

DEFER FUN RUN!



(The PTO's "One-and-Done" Fundraiser for the 2017/2018 School Year!)

Friday, October 6, 2017

The Defer Fun Run will take place during the school day in the afternoon. Please follow the Defer PTO Facebook page for updates, information, and links to our sponsors.

If you or your company are interested in becoming a sponsor, we are looking for prizes suitable for kids and families for our daily raffles. Please contact Nicole (nicole.fonger@gmail.com). Thank you!

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

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





Spring is here and that means NOW is the time to **secure your advertising in the 2017-2018 Defer family directory!** There are only a couple premium spots left and we'd love for these to go to our families!

Our directory is an important Defer resource! With that in mind, we are thrilled to be working with AtoZ Directories again to help us produce the best possible directory for our community - both our traditional hard copy and our mobile directory app.

Think about it... promoting your business, firm, practice and community partnership in our directory is an ideal way to connect directly with other Defer families, all the while supporting our school. Win. Win!

Please contact Becky at becky@atozdirectories.com now for rate card and placement options for every budget. She can put a hold on your spot and will take good care of you!



We are so pleased to announce a continued partnership with 1st Day School Supplies! We have collaborated with 1st Day School Supplies to help parents and teachers get the exact supplies needed for next school year without the hassle and aggravation of shopping at Target or Staples. Plus, the prices are competitive! You can make your purchase right now, just head to www.1stdayschoolsupplies.com and enter our zip code to find our classroom supply kits.



Defer earns money for Box Tops!
Keep clipping & submitting please!



JUN
3

Defer Elementary - Weeding and Gardening Party



JUN
17

Defer - Mulching Party
Public · Hosted by Diana Degen Gifford

Join Us for Pesticide Free care of Defer Grounds!

Attendees are asked to bring gardening gloves, weeding tools and water.

The first event—June 3—will involve weeding the Defer garden beds. During the second event—June 17—mulch will be spread on the same garden beds.

The events are intended to encourage weed control without the use of pesticides. It's being held through Defer PTO's Beautification Committee.

To RSVP, email parent Diana Gifford, dianaelaine4@gmail.com or reply on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DeferPTO/>

Fun music and tips on creating healthy, natural lawns will be provided at both events.

2017/18 School Year Save the Dates!

Back To School Picnic—> Friday, Sept. 15, 2017

Progressive Dinner—> Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017



Green Squad News

Congratulations to our 3rd grade class for winning the Catalog Cancelling Challenge and being awarded a pizza party for their efforts. In total, the classes that participated cancelled 109 catalogs, which saved almost two trees.

Earth Week was a huge success with students participating in art projects made from recycled materials, taking green pledges to help our environment, walking to school to lessen our carbon footprints, cleaning up the school grounds and more.

Thanks to our amazing Green Squad for all your help this year in our lunchrooms, in our classrooms and on our playground. Mother Earth thanks you too!

