

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS



March 3, 2016
Karen Sullivan
Defer Principal

Defer Behavior Pledge

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

I will be respectful

**I will practice re-
sponsibility**

I will always be safe

**I will show my
Dragon pride.**

Seven Habits

Be Proactive

**Begin with the End
in mind**

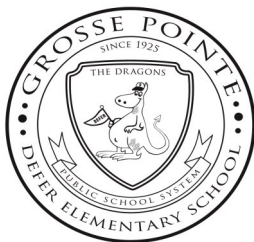
Put first things first

Think Win-Win

**Seek first to under-
stand, then to be
understood**

**Synergize– together
is better**

Sharpen the Saw



Defer Elementary School
15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Phone: 313-432-4000
Fax: 313-432-4002
www.gpschools.org/defer

I can't believe it's already March! The month of March is known as the "reading month." This is a great time for you to grab your favorite book and dive right in! Defer's amazing teachers celebrate reading every day. I'd like to focus this month's newsletter on reading instruction and how we differentiate that instruction to meet the needs of all learners at Defer.

In Grosse Pointe, we teach reading through a Readers' Workshop model. A typical readers' workshop lesson is composed of three elements.

Whole class mini-lesson focused on a specific reading strategy or skill : 10-15 minutes

Class begins with the teacher presenting a reading concept that the students will be focusing on that day. The teacher presents the concept to the whole group usually using one book as the "mentor text" to serve as the learning vehicle. The teacher will model the concept in the mentor text and through questioning techniques involves all students in the thinking process around this concept.

Independent Daily Reading: 20 – 40 minutes (varies by grade level)

Students read independently at their own specific level. With their own book they work on the strategy or concept taught in the mini-lesson. During this time the teacher circulates in the room, conferring with individual students as they read.

Guided Reading/Strategy Groups: 10 – 15 minutes

These groups are composed of 3 -5 students that are gathered to work on a specific skill or strategy. These students are grouped by similar reading levels so that they can practice the concept with peers at that same level. In this case the teacher will have multiple copies of the same book or article so that they can work with all students together.

Last year the Defer PTO supported this instruction by purchasing books for each grade. Teachers now have a much greater selection of mentor texts as well as multiple copies of books for group work. The impact has been huge as this has opened more avenues to differentiate instruction for our students. Thank you Defer families!

Student Leadership at Defer



Student Council

Two of our Student Council officers, Bella Combs and Bella Leonard, led a school-wide assembly this month on this year's service project which is to raise funds to purchase solar lanterns for students in Malawi. Maggie Wright, a Grosse Pointe South student, has spearheaded this work with our team. Maggie has been raising funds for the Warm Hearts organization that is sponsoring the solar lanterns since she was a 5th grader. At our assembly she shared that students in Malawi cannot do homework or read at night as they have no electricity. Through the use of solar lanterns collecting sun energy during the day students would then have light at night. Maggie brought several lanterns with her for our students to see. These lanterns are on display in the 2nd floor showcase at Defer. So far students have raised over \$300.00 for this cause.

Last year the Defer students were nominated and won the 1st annual *Caught in the Act of Giving Award* for their work on the *Hunger Games* food bank. Our students have been nominated again this year for this work on solar lanterns. Way to go Defer!

Leadership and the 7 Habits

Each month our Dragon Dens meet to focus on one of the 7 Habits. We see students demonstrate these habits on a daily basis at Defer and we want to recognize the students we are becoming. Across from the school office some of our *teacher leaders* have created a display recognizing these behaviors in students. The theme of the display is *Defer Spots Leaders* and examples of students using the Habits will be placed on 'spots' along with student pictures to recognize this good work.

PBIS

Our students continue to exhibit great behaviors being respectful, responsible, and safe every day at Defer. In January each class selected a particular focus for a class goal in one of these areas. For example, in Mrs. Gout's class it is homework completion – being responsible - and for Mrs. High's class it is not interrupting during instruction – being respectful. Each class is using a Bingo Board to recognize each time their class is successful with their goal. We have a school-wide Bingo number displayed each day and each class is working hard to achieve a BINGO!!!! And what will happen if they achieve that Bingo? Their class will be enjoying an extended recess with Mrs. Sullivan! We're proud of our Defer Dragons for setting and reaching goals!

March'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 read the book "Rainbow Fish" and created their own rainbow fish painting with bubble wrap print backgrounds. We are thinking spring and painting flowers in patterned pots and close-up flowers inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe
- 1st First grade artists are creating foam fish prints inspired by traditional Japanese gyotaku (fish prints). Students will create simple origami sculptures as we finish learning about art from Japan.
- 2nd Second grade artists will learn about tints and shades. Students will mix paint to make a value scale ice cream cone. Batik pillows are almost finished. Look for them to come home soon!
- 3rd Third grade artists are finishing their chalk pastel lizards. Students will learn about art from Mexico and Central America while they create Mexican Folk Art mirrors and paper molas.
- 4th Fourth grade artists continue learning about Egyptian Art. Students are finishing their Egyptian Deity relief sculpture designs and learning about mummies to create their own Egyptian inspired sarcophagus
- 5th Fifth grade artists are finishing their precept prints and creating a one point perspective drawing.

Save the date! The Defer Art Show will take place on May 24th during the PTO Ice Cream Social. All students will have work on display.



MUSIC

- Kindergarten Kindergarten has started Spring Concert music preparation.
- 1st First Grade will begin a series of lessons on tempo (fast/slow).
- 2nd Second Grade has started Spring Concert music preparation.
- 3rd Third Grade continues learning about the instrument families of the orchestra: String and
- 4th Fourth Grade has begun new recorder music and Spring Concert Music.
- 5th



LIBRARY

Kindergarten	Kindergarteners are learning about sea turtles and reading fiction stories about them to compare.
1st	First graders learned about the Chinese New Year through fiction and nonfiction books and art.
2nd	Second graders are beginning a biography unit starting out with Dr. Seuss.
3rd	Spanish Rotation
4th	Spanish Rotation
5th	Spanish Rotation



PE

Kindergarten	Celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with a warmer upper that get your heart beating. Ball handling with a variety of skill
1st	Ball handling for our basketball unit. Dribbling & shooting.
2nd	Basketball unit with many skills used in basketball. Passing to a partner, dribbling individually, and participating in lead up skill games.
3rd	Cooperation with teams while learning basketball skills. Gold coins Irish game...who will earn the most coins?
4th	Basketball skills, passing, shooting, dribbling. Beat the Champ, Basketball card games, & Five Passes skill games
5th	Basketball skill, passing, shooting, dribbling. Beat the Champ, Basketbal card games & five passes skill games. Working on cooperative small group games.



On our 100th day of school the Kindergarten drew pictures of what they might look like at age 100.



Wacky Wednesday in Mrs. Richards' Class



March 2016

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

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Writing Assembly Wear Defer T-shirts	6 Disability Awareness 4th Grade	7	8	9
10	11	12 PTO Meeting 7 pm in Library	13 Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:00 pm	14 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences AM, PM, Eve	15	16
17	18 Opera Assembly AM Wear Defer T-shirts	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Volunteer Appreciation Tea 8 am in gym Safety Serv. Pierce Pool	29	30

Jump Rope for Heart 2016



We would like to thank our Defer students for their hard work participating in our annual 2016 **Jump Rope for Heart** event!!!

Thank you to our amazing Defer families and friends that donated a total of \$1,603 in pledges to the American Heart Association to fight heart disease.

The American Heart Association's thank you prizes should be at Defer in March.



STAY STRONG & HEALTHY!!

Keep moving and jumping! Thank you again Defer students!
Defer Elementary Physical Education Department

SAFETY/SERVICE

In February, Defer Safety/Service celebrated their volunteer work at Lakeshore Lanes for a bowling extravaganza. It was wonderful. Everyone bowled two games and enjoyed pizza and pop. We have some very good bowlers at Defer; our top bowlers were Dontez Coleman and Connor Stafford both with 100 for the boys and Bella Combs with a 81 for the girls.

Thank you to Mrs. Coffey, Ms. (Inge) Hooks, Mr. Kuhnlein, Mrs. Michaud, and Mrs. Miller for transporting us to Lakeshore Lanes. A special thanks to all of them for joining us and making sure everyone was on their best behavior to represent Defer Elementary School.

Thank you to the PTO for supporting "Warm the Safeties." They love it!

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

Thank you,

Helen Srebernak



Safety/Service Member of the Month-February

Safety: Keiran R.

Service: Dontez C.



Lookin' for books and feelin'
groovy?
Drop by the Defer Spring Book Fair.
April 11 - 15
Details coming soon.

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 reviews helpful, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.



Skybrary by Reading Rainbow

iPad/ Kindle Fire./Free

This app offers a huge library of books and video field trips to encourage your child's love of reading. After the free offer, you must subscribe. Voted one of the best apps for children by Common Sense Media.



FACES iMake—Right Brain Creativity

iPad

\$2.99

This app encourages kids to be creative by creating faces using collage. Beautiful graphics with an easy interface for children to maneuver.

Project Noah

iPad /Free



Project Noah is a tool to explore and document wildlife. It is a platform for aspiring citizen scientists to document our planet's biodiversity. Students use the phone app to document wildlife.

News-2 -You

iPad/1.99By Assistiveware



News-2-You is a weekly newspaper for beginning readers and special needs students. Students can connect to the news through symbol-supported news articles, puzzles, games and recipes. The news stories provides information on reader-friendly topics.

Media Specialists

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



DEFER PTO

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

M*A*R*C*H*

~

2015-2016

BREATHING FIRE:

DEFER PTO BOARD

Renee Palazzolo

President

Becca Ozar

Vice President

Emily Summerfield

Treasurer

Ryan/Mary Beth Coffey

Secretaries

Christina Michaud

Communications

Aaron Oestreich

Fundraising

Kevin Ozar

Membership

Kelley McLean

School Board Observer

Heather Wiegand

Volunteers

I hope everyone had a nice Winter Break, now onto the second half of the school year.

This month is our second Donuts with your Dragon on Friday, March 18th at 8am. I hope to see you there. Family Bingo Night is now on Friday March 11th, 2016 at 7pm. Bring the kids for some Bingo Fun and Prizes. Of course, there will be bingo daubers for \$1 and snacks for sale.

I want to thank again all our volunteers that make Defer great. I looked up the definition of volunteer in my favorite unapproved website, Wikipedia, and it states, "**Volunteering** is generally considered an *altruistic* activity where an individual or group provides services for no financial gain. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, and is often intended to promote goodness or to improve human *quality of life*. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served. **Altruism** or **selflessness** is the principle or practice of concern for the *welfare* of others."

What a great definition!!! We are ONEDEFER, working together to promote a great educational experience and learning environment for our children. So support your children's education by volunteering. Everyone's time is valuable and whatever time you can donate is greatly appreciated. Without the support of our volunteers we cannot run these great programs and events.

As I mentioned last month, the PTO is already putting together the 2016-2017 PTO Board and is looking for Committees Chairs. If you have any interest or questions about a Board position or Committee, please give me a call or send me an email.

Renee Palazzolo (PTO President)

reneepalazzolo@gmail.com

Defer Elementary

15425 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Park, MI

48230

Office: (313) 432-4000

Bingo Night

Friday, March 11 ****NEW DATE**

7:00pm

Defer Gym

FREE games for Defer kids!

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, March 8

7:00pm

Defer library

Everyone welcome.

Donuts w/ Your Dragon 2

Friday, March 18

8am-8:20

Defer gym

Reminders



Friday, March 18

8-8:20am

This event is for the students to bring a special person with them to enjoy a donut or two!

Donuts, fruit, coffee and juice will be served.

There will be allergy free donuts for our students with allergies. They are free of wheat, dairy, egg, soy, all nuts, fish and shellfish.

We hope you can come out and enjoy a sweet treat with us!

Donuts
with your
Dragon 2

Defer Annual Family BINGO Night



Friday, March 11, 2016

7pm-9pm

FREE Bingo cards to all Defer Students

Bingo Games for just \$1.

Snacks and drinks for sale.

Fun & prizes!!!

Want to be more involved at Defer?

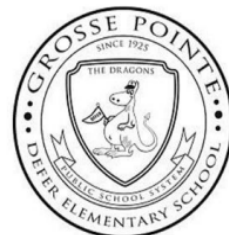
Not sure how?

These are some of the positions available next school year. Take a look and see what interests you. Have questions? Please contact Heather Wiegand (hwiegand712@gmail.com)

Bake Sale: bakers & coordinator
Disability Workshop Chairperson (4th grade parent)
Holiday Craft Fair Co-chairs (2 people)
Lunchtime Enrichment
Spring Social Co-chair (1-2 people)
Morning Office Assistance
Progressive Dinner Co-chairs (2 people)
Pumpkin Patch (1-2 people)
5th Grade Promotion (5th grade parent)
Teacher Appreciation (1-2 people)

The PTO Slate for Board Positions for the 2016-2017 school year will be posted soon. Please look for this on the school website and in our next newsletter.

****There are volunteer positions for EVERY person. These range from a one time/one hour to ways you can help from home/work. We would be happy to assist you in figuring out which position may be a perfect fit for you.**



Thanks for making Defer a great school.



Renovation Station

The Defer office had their own version of an HGTV show when they salvaged office chairs this summer. Through the magic of the PTO, and help from key players including Mr. Oliver, they have been recovered in fun polka dots!! Please come check them out...BUT don't put your feet on them!!



The Defer 4th graders will, once again, be participating in our annual [Disability Awareness Day](#) on Wednesday, April 6. This meaningful day teaches our students empathy and understanding with regards to various disabilities both seen and unseen.

In order for this program to continue, we need many adult helpers. We rely on parents at every grade level to cooperate. And usually, the adults are learning right along with the kids. If you are able to lend a hand, please contact Angie Cole or sign up directly with the link below.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49abab2da6ff2-defer>

NEEDED: Please consider helping out in the lunchroom. We are in desperate need of volunteers. ONLY one hour 11:30-12:30. This job can be done on a lunchbreak, with young children in tow, and is a great way to get to know your child's classmates. If you feel you could help us...even once, please contact Holly Ryan (hryan6@gmail.com).

