

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

March 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**

Defer Elementary School

**15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe
Park, MI 48230**

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Fax: 313-432-4002

www.gpschools.org/defer

March is National Reading Month, and the Defer students and teachers have joined in the celebration! Guest readers will visit many classrooms in March to share their favorite book. Classrooms are silent each day as students curl up and read for sustained periods of time.

Reading together at home is extremely important for all children. You have the greatest influence on your child and you send a powerful message about not only the importance of reading, but the pleasure of reading when you read together. Try the following suggestions to make reading with your child both a fun and a learning experience.

Make reading a priority. Whether it's 20 minutes every night before bed or an hour every Sunday morning, it helps to set aside a specific time for reading.

Choose the right book using the "five-finger rule". When selecting a new book to read have your child open the book to any page in the middle and read that page. Keep track of how many words they don't know. If the child gets to five words before they finish the page, the book is too hard. If the child knows all of the words, the book is probably easy and is a good one to build reading fluency. If they don't know two or three words, the book is likely to be at a good level for their reading to grow.

Create the right atmosphere. Find a quiet place for your child to read. Your home is a busy place, but children need a 'reading spot' away from noise and distractions.

Make reading fun. There are lots of great books that are filled with humor and that's always a 'hook' for children. Try 'hamming it up' a bit when reading at home. Play around with funny voices or acting out the scene you are reading.

Keep reading aloud to your child. Don't stop reading aloud to your child once he/she learns to read on their own. When you do the reading, you allow your child to enjoy books that are beyond their independent reading level. Children learn new vocabulary, and it is a great chance for you to model reading smoothly and with expression.

Introduce new books. Sometimes one book will steal your child's heart and that is all they want to read. Remember, there are millions of books to enjoy. Ask a librarian or your child's teacher for a recommendation. Check out children's literature web sites.

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 16th – 31st 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.

Thank you Defer PTO

We thank the Defer PTO for the new student iPads. Thanks to our PTO's fundraising efforts we were able to purchase six iPads for our Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade classrooms. This purchase will provide for a "station" for students at morning and afternoon centers. Programs like RAZ Reader and Fast Math can be accessed for learning.



Thank You!

Destination Imagination

Saturday, February 25th was the regional tournament for Destination Imagination (www.destinationimagination.org), and Grosse Pointe had a good showing! Teams from Trombly, Defer/Maire, Pierce, and South all competed, and several of them will be continuing to the state-level competition in Mt. Pleasant in early April.

Teams spend approximately nine months finding solutions to open ended problems written to explore and support STEAM concepts, and to encourage that teams numbering from three to seven children learn to work together in creative logic and problem solving.

While two other competing teams had members who were Defer students (Morgen Bocci, Irving Sendra, Awmeo Azad), only one had current Defer students involved. The team was comprised of Kaelinn Bocci, Sloane McGuire, and Natalie and Gabrielle Whittaker. All four girls are looking forward to participating in the program again next year.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please feel free to contact Courtney Bocci



Clinic Volunteers

The Defer office and PTO is looking for volunteers to help staff the clinic at Lunchtime.

This would involve assessing small injuries, dispensing band-aids, and ice packs, etc.

This is not something you would have to commit to on a daily / weekly basis. Even one day would help. If you find you have a spare hour from 11:30-12:30, and you would like to help, please call the Defer office at 432-4000. We would love to hear from you!



PBIS Reward Party

Our February Reward Party was a *Choose Your Own Adventure* celebration. Students had a variety of choices to select from for this party including: Bring Your Own Device, Legos, Dance Party, and Crafts.

Over 95% of our Defer Dragons earn the right every month to attend these celebrations based on their good work following the PBIS pledge to be Safe, to be Respect, and to be Responsible. *Hats off to the Defer Dragons!*



Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is bursting at the seams! There is a great deal of winter gear from mittens and gloves to snow pants and boots. There are also a large quantity of lunch boxes. We encourage students to look for lost items every day. Next time you are in the building stop by and check for any missing items that your children may have lost.



Student Council News

Our Defer Student Council has been making a difference this winter with their Community Warmth Project. Their goal was to donate socks, gloves/mittens, and hats to the needy. Over a month long period they worked in teams to collect donations. Students in grades 4 and 5 collected pairs of socks. Students in grades 2 and 3 collected gloves/mittens and students in grades Kindergarten and 1st collected hats. By the end, our Defer students collected a total of 296 pairs of socks, 154 gloves/mittens, and 98 hats. Kudos to the Defer Dragons! The donations will be used to support Defer families as well as with the Eimers Foundation. This is a foundation started by a 9 year old boy who saw the need of the homeless in Detroit. We are proud to be contributing to this cause.



Town Hall Meetings

Each month the entire school gathers for our leadership celebration. The assemblies are completely student-driven. Our Student Council Officers call the meeting to order and then begin recognizing students for their hard work being a class and school leader. Our February Town Hall recognized three groups of leaders:

Those students who had a perfect record for homework completion during the month of February.

Those students who showed growth on the either their Math or Reading NWEA scores.

One student from each classroom that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership during the month.

These students are our *Shooting Stars*. You can see each month's shooting stars pictured outside the gym on the hallway bulletin board.

All students being recognized add a *charm* to their Leadership Necklaces which we wear every Friday as well as to every Town Hall. Ask your child about their Leadership Necklace and the tokens they have earned.

Reading Through Time

Our Defer Student Council is sponsoring a fantastic morning of reading in honor of March Reading Month. Here's the plan – each teacher has shared with students the picture book they will be reading that morning. Students will be using a Google Doc to sign up for the picture book they wish to hear. So what are we reading? Here's some of the titles for our *Reading Through Time*:

The Pokey Little Puppy and Tacky the Penguin – Mrs. Gout

Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch – Mrs. Nugent

Rapunzel – Mrs. High

A Frog Thing – Ms. Caroselli

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs – Mrs. Cross

The Remarkable Farkle McBride – Mrs. Moses

The Day the Crayons Quit and The Day the Crayons Came Home – Mrs. Makowski

Bill Peet, An Autobiography – Mr. Bilicki

Uncle Jed's Barbershop – Mrs. Mannino

Up, Up Down, Hedgie's Surprise, and The Hat – Mrs. Boes

Oh! The Places You'll Go! – Mrs. Filliccia

Stellaluna – Mrs. Denison

Piggybook – Mrs. Forcillo

The Cat in the Hat – Mrs. Richards

Dog Breath – Ms. Nadolski

Mr Messy, Mr. Skinny, and Little Miss Chatterbox – Mr. Senska

A Bad Case of Stripes – Ms. Amos

The Gruffalo – Mrs. Sullivan

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.



DragonBox Numbers **Grades: Pre-K-1** **\$7.99** **Android, iOS**

Explore the concept of numbers through puzzles and fun gameplay.



DIY App—Creative Community for Kids **Free** **iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch**

From cardboarding to cooking, this app helps kids find the fun in DIY.



Book Creator **Grades 3-8** **\$2.49-4.99** **Android, iPad**

Magically easy way to create and publish digital books and multimedia.



Fiete KinderZoo **Free** **iOS and Android**

In this "made for kids by kids" adventure, users simply walk through a hand-drawn zoo and feed the animals. The sounds are hilarious!



Bookworm for Kids **Website** **www.bookworm4kids.com**

This is a great resource for teachers, parents, grandparents, and all others who want to encourage children to love reading.

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 |

March 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----|
| | | | 1 PBIS Rewards Party 8:40 am | 2 4th grade Disability Awareness | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Diversity Public Forum Pierce 7:00 pm | 9 | 10 PTO <i>Donuts</i> <i>With your Dragons</i> 8:00 am-8:20 am | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 AM Read Across School AM school only PM Records Day PTO meeting 7:00 pm Library | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Safety Service Party Movie at Pierce 3:45-4:30 | 23 Report cards sent home. Dragon Dens 12:40 Town Hall 1:00 | 24 PTO Bingo Night 7:00- 9:00 pm | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Spring Book Fair Begins | 28 Earth Day Assemblies | 29 Evening Confer- ences 5:00-8:00 pm T CPM 5:00-8:00 pm | 30 No School Conferences 8:00-11:00 1:00-4:00 5:00-8:00 5AM:00AM, PM & Evening Conf. | 31 | |

Important March Dates

March 2nd – 4th grade Disability Awareness

March 10th – PTO Donuts with Your Dragon @8:00 AM

March 24th – PTO Bingo Night @ 7:00 – 9:00 PM

March 27th – PTO Book Fair Week

March 28th – Earth Day Assembly

March 29th – Evening Conferences 5:00 – 8:00 PM

March 30th – No School; Conferences All Day AM/PM/Eve

April 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|--|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Spring Break Begins | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 School Re- sume | 11 PTO meeting 7:00 pm | 12 | 13 | 14 No School | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Parent Diversity meeting 6:30 at Maire | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Town Hall 10:45- 11:05 Dragon Den 11:00- 11:25 | 27 Safety service Party Swim at Pierce | 28 5th grade 10:30 Instrumental Concert in Gym | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

Important April Dates

April 3rd – 7th Spring Break

April 19 – Parent Diversity Meeting Maire

April 28th – 5th grade Instrumental Concert @ 10:30 AM

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 Vincent Maffesoli with 101 for the boys and Jocelyn Shier with a 100 for the girls.

Thank you to Mr. Curvey, Mrs. Drake, Mr. Kirkland, Mrs. Lemmen, Mrs. Donnellon (Leonard), Mrs. Maffesoli, Mr. Moorehead, Mrs. Rhodes, and Mrs. Woolums 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.

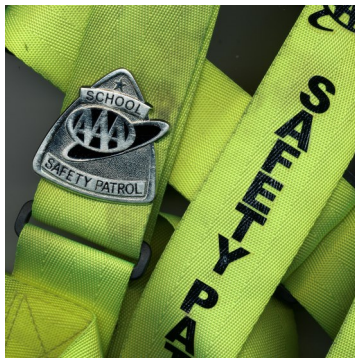
Thank you,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-February

Safety: Liam D.

Service: Bella L.





DEFER PTO

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



March 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

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.

Defer PTO Meeting — Tuesday March 14 @ 7 p.m.

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!

Family Bingo Night — March 24, from 7 - 9 p.m.

This nighttime event is a family affair. Students play bingo for free & parents may purchase 3 bingo boards for \$1. Snacks & water available for sale. Bring your own bingo dotters/markers or purchase one for \$1. Prizes awarded for bingo winners.

Earth Dome 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.

Spring Book Fair — March 27-30

Receive up-to-date information
about Defer happenings:

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/Defer-Elementary-PTO-153168848088901/>)



DONUTS WITH your DRAGON
AT Defer elementary
IN THE SCHOOL GYM
FRIDAY MARCH 10 at 8am!!

PLEASE JOIN YOUR STUDENTS FOR A
SWEET TREAT COURTESY OF THE DEFER
PTO! THIS EVENT IS FROM 8AM UNTIL THE
BELL RINGS AT 8:20. WE PROVIDE DONUTS,
FRUIT, COFFEE, AND JUICE!
WE WILL ALSO HAVE AN ALLERGY FREE
TREAT TABLE AS WELL!

Clinic & Lunch Volunteers Needed

(PSSST—both are **sibling friendly** opportunities)

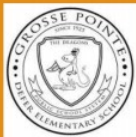
Clinic Volunteer —> Apply band-aids and ice packs, take temperatures and provide "TLC" for students during the lunch period

Lunch Assistant —> Provide assistance during the lunch time to students (ensure they have napkins, utensils, etc.) and staff (help with operation of process); Clean tables between and after the lunch cycles.

Contact parent Brooke Macuga—> brookemacuga@yahoo.com

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 | |
| | YS25 | | | | | | |
| Adult | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | | A\$30 |
| Youth | S | M | L | XL | | | 2XL |
| | | | | | | | \$35 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------|-------|----|---------|---------|----------|
| Long Sleeve Tshirt: | | | Logo: | D | Dragons | Vintage | |
| | YS20 | | | | | | |
| | 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 | |
| | YS15 | | | | | | |
| | 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



Defer Elementary's Box Tops Challenge!



To participate:

Write, Call, Email, Message, Facebook, Tweet, or Text all of your family and friends telling them about the **Box Tops** program at Defer.

Ask them to send us at least \$1.00 worth of **Box Tops**.

Have them write the Defer student's name on the back of the envelope, and have them mail the envelope to:

***Defer Elementary Box Tops Contest
15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230***

All entries must be postmarked by April 8th (the end of Spring Break).
Please be sure the return address is clearly written.

A prize will be awarded for the **Box Tops** sent the farthest from Defer!
All Defer students who have **Box Tops** submitted via the rules above will be entered into a drawing for another prize!

Thank you for participating!

Collecting **Box Tops** helps Defer's PTO with the many initiatives, activities, and purchases throughout the year to support all Defer Dragons.