

# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS



May 5, 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 responsibility

I will always be safe

I will show my Dragon pride.

## Seven Habits

Be Proactive

Begin with the End in mind

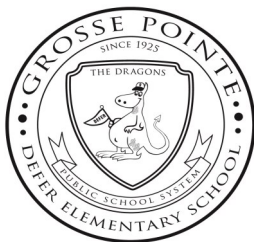
Put first things first

Think Win-Win

Seek first to understand, then to be understood

Synergize— together is better

Sharpen the Saw



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Promote Innovation ► Maximize Potential ► Embrace Community

Grosse Pointe Public School System

# Town Hall

One GP — where everyone learns, every day

Defer Elementary School  
Library  
Thursday, May 12  
6-9 p.m.

Agenda for Town Hall Meetings

1. Introduction - Dr. Niehaus
2. Overview of the Strategic Plan - Board Trustees Summerfield and Weertz.
3. Bond program analysis - Plante Moran
4. The Why: health & safety, teaching & learning, building needs - Superintendent Dr. Gary C. Niehaus
5. Projects to maintain GPPSS assets - Ehresman & Associates
6. Tour
7. Funding mechanisms available - Plante Moran
8. Tabletop discussions on these questions - Mike Wilmot
  - ⇒ A-ha moments from the evening
  - ⇒ What additional questions remain
  - ⇒ What do we need to do differently than in past bond efforts

Please RSVP to [Rebecca.Fannon@gpschools.org](mailto:Rebecca.Fannon@gpschools.org) or [Ann.Lightbody@gpschools.org](mailto:Ann.Lightbody@gpschools.org).

[www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) · 389 St. Clair Avenue · Grosse Pointe, MI 48236 · 313-432-3000 · #OneGP



This week, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup> is officially National Teacher Appreciation Week 2016. National Teacher Appreciation Day was May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The history of National Education Week and Day is not certain. The movement for such an observance is commonly thought to have begun around the time of World War II and Eleanor Roosevelt made a major push for the day in 1953.

*So what's the big deal about teachers . . . .*

Great teachers give us a sense not only of who they are, but more importantly, of who we are, and who we might become. They unlock our energies, our imaginations, and our minds. Effective teachers pose compelling questions, explain options, teach us to reason, suggest possible directions, and urge us on.

Successful teachers are vital and full of passion. They love to teach as a painter loves to paint, as a writer loves to write, as a singer loves to sing. They have a serious purpose and yet enjoy enormously what they do. They get excited about their subject no matter how many times they have taught it. They push themselves just as they push their students, and their classrooms become memorable learning experiences.

Great teachers know they are always on stage and that who they are, how they act, and what they believe are as important as what they teach.

During Teacher Appreciation Week and beyond, I hope you'll consider the teachers who have enriched your life, and the teachers who are working to engage, educate and inspire students every day at Defer Elementary.

## SAFETY/SERVICE

In April, Defer Safety/Service crossed the street to the Pierce Swimming Pool. It was a rainy day and perfect timing to get our swimming skills back to the fore front of our minds. We enjoyed snacks and drinks generously supplied by the PTO.

Thank you Mr. Senska our lifeguard for keeping every one safe.

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

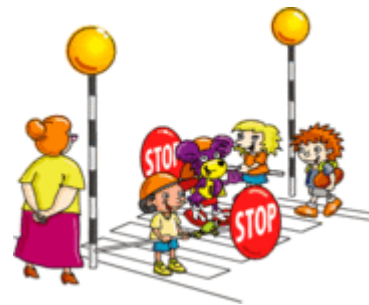
Thank you,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-April

**Safety: Luke M.**

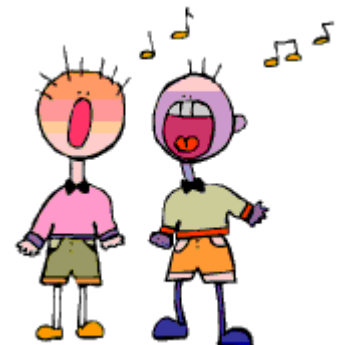
**Service: Isabella C.**



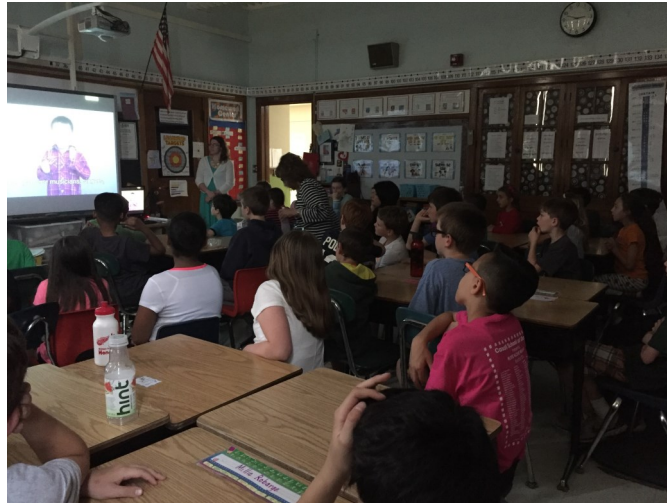
## Spring Concert---An Evening of Swing, Jazz, and Blues Music

Join the Kindergarten, second grade, fourth grade and the Defer 4/5 Choir for an “Evening of Swing, Jazz and Blues Music” on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Pierce Auditorium. From the song “I Got Rhythm” to a Manhattan Transfer tune, “Birdland”, you’ll be sure to enjoy a wonderful performance by the Defer students!! Hope to see you there 😊

Mrs. Elizabeth Moses, Vocal Music



Thank you to Mrs. Vosburg who came in to continue our disability awareness by sharing her area of expertise with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. She is a sign language interpreter. She and her friend Ms. Chelsea, who is partially deaf, shared an informative presentation that taught the class more about what life is like when you are deaf and about sign language. We were amazed watching them speak through their hand gestures. We learned that we are all more alike than we are different .



Come and join us at the Defer Spring Social

on Tuesday May 24, 2016 from 6pm-8pm!

There will be pizza and popcorn for \$1 per item.

Wally's Custard will be serving custard for \$2.

There will be music, a photo booth, and inflatables!

The photo booth is \$1 per student per visit and inflatables are free for unlimited use!

The night is sure to be filled with fun. Hope to see you there!!

Make sure to stop by the Gym to check out the Art Show as well!

Please contact [kimrhodes127@gmail.com](mailto:kimrhodes127@gmail.com) with any questions!

The GPP police will be doing bike inspections and issuing bike licenses so plan to have the whole family ride their bikes!

# May Specials

Each day all of the Defer students attend a Specials class. They include: Art, Library/Spanish (3rd-5th), Music, Education. Below is a birds-eye view into one aspect of each grade's upcoming work this month and a great starter with your child--no matter what grade(s).

## ART

All Defer artists have been busy creating their own fish for the Defer Rock Garden. These fish are based on the book "Only One You" by Linda Kranz. Every student first sketched out their fish design on paper. They then choose their own rock to paint with their fish designs. These fish will be on display in the front garden during our Art Show on May 24th.

A special thanks to the Defer PTO for providing rocks and Ms. Zuerblis for your help on this school-wide garden project.

Mark your calendars! The Defer Art Show will take place on May 24th during the PTO Ice Cream Social from 6 - 8 p.m.. All students will have a 2D and 3D work on display. Projects and portfolios can be taken home the night of the art show.

## LIBRARY

Kindergarten	Kindergarteners finished a poetry/rhyming unit, and will be starting a Fiction/Non fiction unit on birds.
1st	1st graders created a class book after fact-finding in books and online.
2nd	2nd graders completed a biography unit using a graphic organizer for facts. They will be starting a Caldecott
3rd	3rd graders are using dictionaries and encyclopedias, print and online.
4th	4th graders using an online database for an animal research project.
5th	5th graders are working in the library on their biography project, using KidsInfobits to find online sources.

## PE

Kindergarten	Our kindergartners are practicing their throwing and catching skills
1st	First graders will be practicing working with partners for our upcoming Field Day
2nd	Second graders are practicing small group team skills
3rd	Third graders will be practicing a vareity of throwing & catch challenges.
4th	Fourth graders are getting their brains ready to use their skill in cooperative challenges
5th	Fifth graders will be working toward cooperative challenges in small groups.

**Field Day Annual Event Friday, May 27th! Check website and flyers to participate!**

	<b>MUSIC</b>
Kindergarten	The Kindergarteners continue to work on their Spring Concert music.
1st	First Graders are discovering hand signals for Do Re Mi and learning about how melodies go up
2nd	The Second Graders continue to work on their Spring Concert music.
3rd	The Third Grade is finishing their Instrument Family Assessments
4th	The Fourth Graders continue to work on their Spring Concert music.
5th	The Fifth Grade will be rehearsing their Promotion Ceremony Song.



Love A Michigan

Vet Project

An organization with a goal of supporting Michigan  
♥ Veterans and their families. ♥

Director : Nadine Jones

Defer Elementary School is collecting the items below from now until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Please place your items in the boxes found on each floor of the school. Items will be sent overseas to active service men and women. Items will also be kept here to help homeless veterans transition into new homes.

Hard candy (not chocolate)

Phone card (overseas)

Deodorant

Mints

Comic books

Small individual packaged tissues

Gum

Small Games

Small bagged snacks

Puzzle books

Energy/protein bars

Foam toys-footballs

Jerky

100% Cotton socks

Powdered drink mix  
(individually packaged)

100% Underwear

Toothbrushes

AA Batteries

Floss

D Batteries

Toothpaste

Writing materials

Shampoo



**Friday,  
May 27, 2016**

**TIME SCHEDULE**

MORNING		AFTERNOON	
<b>9:15 am Volunteer meeting</b>		<b>1:15 pm Volunteer meeting</b>	
9:30 am	KDG, 1, & 2 to gym for instruction	1:30 pm	3, 4, & 5 to gym for instruction
9:40 am	Field Day begins	1:40 pm	Field Day begins
11:10 am	Field Day ends	3:10 pm	Field Day ends

Dear Defer Volunteers--Parents, Aunts/Uncles, College Sisters/Brothers, and Grandparents:  
We are planning the Annual Field Day for all our students at Defer.  
The day will include about 30 different activities and will therefore require lots of "FRIEND POWER"!

Send in the form below, contact the Defer office, or email Ms. Raab, [deborah.raab@gpschools.org](mailto:deborah.raab@gpschools.org) with your choice of time of day to volunteer or filling water balloons.

Listed above is the time schedule for our Field Day "2016". If you are available to help in the morning or afternoon or **BOTH**, send in the attached form below and enjoy a **SPECTACULAR** day with our Defer students!!

PLEASE RETURN to the Defer office ON OR BEFORE Wednesday, MAY 25th  
(cut here-return bottom portion) \_\_\_\_\_

**WAHOO!!!** I am looking forward to help on Friday, May 27th (rain date is Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>)

MORNING \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ AFTERNOON  AM&PM \_\_\_\_\_ 

\_\_\_\_\_ Filling 20-25 water balloons the night before & getting the balloons to school  
by 8:30 AM the morning of Field Day  
(Balloons will be sent home via your Defer student)

**Laundry baskets and a cooler with wheels "work best" for transportation--mark your family name on it and we promise to return a.s.a.p.**

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSROOM TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for volunteering! Defer Elementary Physical Education





# Digital Picks for May 2016

## Vol. 4 Number 8

Selected by the elementary library media specialists for the families of Grosse Pointe Public Schools. Please enjoy this month's educational, informational, and entertaining websites and apps—"digital picks." We hope you find our reviews helpful, and welcome your suggestions.



**[Best kids' apps to download before a flight](#)** Be sure to check out these apps which have been reviewed and rated by Common Sense Media - an organization whose goal it is to empower parents to make good media choices for their children.



**[Bookopolis](#)** This website provides a fun and safe community in which kids can explore new books, create a virtual bookshelf, share their recommendations with friends and earn badges - think [goodreads](#) designed for young readers.



**[Kids in mind](#)** Before you go schedule your next family movie night, visit this website. Movies released both in the theater and home distribution are evaluated on their content for sex and nudity, violence, gore and profanity. Catalog of past movie reviews covers the past 20 years.



**[Roald Dahl official website](#)**: Whether you went to see Matilda at the Fisher in March or plan to see the BFG (directed by Spielberg) this summer, spend some time visiting this wonderful website to learn more about Roald Dahl's world.



**[Mad Libs app](#)** Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Play this classic word game on your iPad or iPhone. First 21 games are free with options to purchase many additional games.

### Elementary Library Media Specialists

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



# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Staff Appreciation Week	3 PTO Meeting 7:00 pm in the Library	4 Staff Luncheon PTO	5 Instrumental Concert 7 pm in the gym	6	7
8	9	10 Vocal Music Concert Grades, K,2,4 and Choir 7:00 pm Pierce Auditorium	11 5th Grade Photo 11:00 am	12 Town Hall Meeting 6:00 pm in the Library	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Safety/Service Party Windmill Pointe Park	20 AM students only PM Staff Development	21
22	23	24 Spring Social Art Fair	25	26	27 Field Day!	28
29	30 Memorial Day No School	31				

# June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5th Grade to Camp	2 5th Grade at Camp	3 5th Grade returns from Camp	4
5	6	7	8 Field Day Rain Date	9	10	11
12	13 <u>1st grade picnic</u> 11-1 Patterson Park <u>2nd grade picnic</u> 11-2 Patterson	14 <u>Kindergarten</u> Picnic 12:30-3:00 Patterson Park <u>All 3rd, 4th &amp; 5th</u> Grade picnic 10-3:30 Windmill	15 10:00 am Awards Gym AM Classes only	16 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony 10:00 am in the Gym AM classes only	17 Last Teacher Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



# DEFER PTO

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

M\*A\*Y ~ 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

Hello,

Well this is my last newsletter for year and personally for my family the end our time at Defer. I hate good byes and definitely hate to move on from Defer. There are so many reasons why. Just the basic fact that my children are growing up and time is flying bye much too quickly. I want to thank all the teachers and staff for the wonderful support and education you have given my children and all of the children at Defer. I would like to thank everyone that supported the Defer PTO and the great Board that I was so lucky to work with this year. Defer is a great community of Parents, Teachers, Staff and Students. I have one recommendation from our time at Defer and it is to get involved.

This month is our Spring Social and Art show on Tuesday, May 24th. Please come and have some fun!!!! It is a great way to celebrate the end of a successful school year. Thank you to Kim Rhodes, event planner extraordinaire, for running this super fun event. Please make sure to stop by the gym, you will definitely be impressed by all the wonderful art on display.

I also want to thank all the wonderful parent volunteers, especially Angie Cole and Melony Johnson for handling the Box Tops this year and Christina Michaud for putting together this great newsletter.

Have a Wonderful Summer!!!  
Renee Palazzolo  
PTO President  
reneepalazzolo@gmail.com

### Defer Elementary

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



### PTO Meeting

Tuesday, May 3  
7:00pm  
Defer library  
Everyone welcome.



### Spring Social

Tuesday, May 24  
6-8pm  
Defer playground  
Food, Inflatables, Wally's!!



### Defer Field Day

Friday, May 27  
Defer Field  
Volunteers Needed!

Reminders

# **Introducing YOUR PTO Board Members for 2016-1017**



**President: Becca Ozar**  
**Vice President: Heather Wiegand**  
**Secretaries: Kelly Woolums & Jessica Kodanko**  
**Treasurer: Emily Summerfield**  
**Communications: Christina Michaud**  
**Membership: Lindy Holloway**  
**Hospitality: Kim Rhodes**  
**Volunteer Coordinator: Brooke Macugae**  
**Fundraising: Kelly Warnick**  
**School Board Observer: Kelley McLean**

**PTO Positions still available.**

**Please contact Heather Wiegand at  
[hwiegand712@gmail.com](mailto:hwiegand712@gmail.com) with questions.**

**Many opportunities can be curtailed to meet all schedules.**

**Please consider helping.**



**Each month we would like to celebrate the many great things your PTO is doing/has done.**

- **Purchased 4 Chromebooks to complete 2/3 Magnet classroom set.**
- **Allocated funds for new Lower Elementary playground equipment**
- **Purchased rocks/landscaping for the “School of Fish” project facilitated by Mrs. Makowski**
- **Replenished our Birthday Book supply in office**
- **Conducted very successful Scholastic spring book fair raising \$4700**
- **Planning family friendly Spring Social/Art Fair to celebrate end of year.**

**As always, the minutes for each PTO meeting can be found on the Defer website. We encourage ALL to come to meetings, check the website and get involved!  
See opportunities on next page.**

# A-Z

# Directory

We are happy to be working with AtoZ Directories again this year to help us produce the best possible directory resource for our school community. AtoZ makes it easy for you to advertise in the directory. With a plan for every budget, this is an ideal way to connect directly with families in our community while supporting our school.

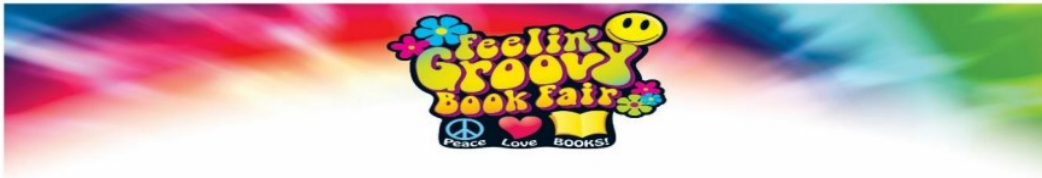
Please contact Becky Leavey at [becky@atozdirectories.com](mailto:becky@atozdirectories.com) if you are interested. She will take good care of you. We're looking forward to providing you with another amazing school directory.

## THANKS Defer Teachers & Staff!!

If a school is only as great as it's teachers & staff,  
ours must be the BEST!!

Thank you for all you do for our children each and every day. We realize you put so much heart in your job taking care of the giant parts of our hearts we entrust to you.

~Defer parents



**Thank you, Defer Families!**

**Our Spring Book Fair sales totaled more than \$4700. This gave us over \$2300 to use to buy books for the library and classrooms. Thank you all for sharing the gift of reading with the entire Defer community. You are what makes Defer great!**



**REMINDER:**

**Be sure to turn in your BOX TOPS now before you have to keep them until next school year. Send in your nicely clipped box tops to your child's classroom. They will be counted and turned into \$\$ that our school uses for various enrichment and supplies. Thank you!**

Thank you to the many PTO members, volunteers, students and staff for donating time, funds and talent to our events this year. We would not be able to run these programs without each of you.

- 
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony
    - Art Show
    - Bake Sales
    - Beautification
    - Bingo Night
    - Birthday Books
      - Book Fairs
    - Box Top Collection
  - Classroom Enrichment
    - Clinic Volunteers
      - Defer Wear
      - Defer Directory
    - Disability Workshop
    - Donuts with your Dragon
  - Welcome Back Picnic
    - Fun Run
  - Field Day
  - Gardening & Grounds
    - Green Squad
    - Haunted Garage
    - Holiday Craft Fair
    - Hospitality
  - Lunchroom Assistance
  - Lunchtime Enrichment
  - Morning Office Support
  - Progressive Dinner
  - Publishing Center
  - Pumpkin Patch
  - Spring Social
  - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
  - Walking School Bus

We look forward to enhancing learning and creating wonderful activities at Defer next year. Please join us.