



Defer Dragon's Burning News

May 4, 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 everyone learns, every day

District Mission

Statement

Promote Innovation
Maximize Potential
Embrace Community

Caught in the Act of Giving Back

Our staff nominated the Defer students for the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education award – *Caught in the Act of Giving Back*. This program was started three years ago to recognize student volunteerism. The Defer Student Council, under the direction of Mrs. Gout and Mrs. Nugent, sponsored the Community Warmth Project this past winter in which we collected socks, hats, and mittens for the homeless in Detroit. We are proud to announce that Defer was selected as this year's winner at the elementary school level for *Caught in the Act of Giving Back, for our Community Warmth Project*. The GPFPE greatly appreciates the impact this program has made and is delighted to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Defer Dragons. An award will be presented at the Board of Education meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on May 8, 2017 in the Brownell Multipurpose Room. Please join us for this presentation. As a part of this award we have been granted a \$500 monetary award to provide continued assistance to the effort around the Community Warmth Project.

We are so proud of our students. This award has been existence for only three years. The first year Defer received this award for our Hunger Games Food Drive. Last year we received honorable mention for our work around solar lanterns for students in Somalia. The Defer students are a living example of putting others first and giving back to those in need. We couldn't be prouder!





Each May there is a week that is designated as National Teacher Appreciation Week. 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.

The Defer PTO and community has been celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Week and honoring the Defer staff every day this week. It has truly been both humbling and overwhelming. We have enjoyed a special treat every day including lunch from Park Grill, desserts from Cornwall, appetizers at Atwater, chili from Farifax Deli, a coffee and juice cart, and two drawings for prizes a day. You have made our staff feel so appreciated and valued and for that, I personally can never thank you enough.

I would conclude by saying, I have been in teaching for a very, very long time and over the years I have been fortunate enough to have students and parents take the time to write me notes about my teaching. I have saved each and every one of those notes in a special box at home and I can honestly say that this box of notes is one of my most prized possessions. Thank a teacher, whether it is in writing, or a quick conversation – you couldn't honor them in any greater way.



Absences and Late Arrivals

We appreciate your cooperation. Please be sure to utilize our attendance line at 432 – 4001 with all absences/late arrivals. The attendance line is a dedicated line available 24 hours, 7 days a week. If you know of a future absence (trip, appointment, etc.) please let the office know with a call to this number as soon as possible. Your cooperation will save a considerable amount of time during the morning rush and avoid office calls to locate students



Tardy or Absent

Mondays – A student is marked tardy if they arrive after 9:10 but before 10:00 for AM instruction or after 12:26 but before 1:35 for PM instruction. A student is marked absent if they arrive after 10:00 in the AM, or after 1:35 in the PM.

Tuesday through Friday – A student is marked tardy if they arrive after 8:25 but before 9:15 for AM instruction or after 12:46 and before 1:15 for PM instruction. A student is marked absent if they arrive after 9:15 in the AM, or after 1:15 in the PM.

When a student is signed out 50 minutes or less before the dismissal bell, they are marked ‘withdrawn early’, over 50 minutes is an absence.

Ask the Principal

Q: What should I do if we arrive late for the start of school?

A: Being late for school happens to everyone at one time or another. If you are arriving late with your child please pull into the parking lot and walk your child into the office. Sign your child in with the office staff and let them know what your child’s lunch plans are for that day. Your child will then be given a ‘tardy’ pass to take with them to the classroom. This lets the teacher know that the office is aware of their arrival and has taken care of their lunch plans.



Keeping Safe

The weather improves every day. More students are walking and riding their bikes to school. Our school has two bike racks for student use. One is located on the front of the building near the Nottingham entrance. There is a second bike rack near the batting cage on the Defer field. Students riding their bikes need to lock it to one of these two racks. Students should also be wearing bike helmets. In the "Journal of Safety Research," a study published in 2010 found that just 48 percent of 5- to 14-year-olds wore bike helmets when riding. This age group is at the highest risk of bicycle-related injuries. Bike helmets not only keep you safe but make you more visible to drivers and provide protection against the weather.

Kindergarten 2017-2018

The district is presently registering next year's incoming Kindergarten class. The **Transition to Kindergarten** event was **May 2, 2017**. In order for an incoming Kindergartener to participate they needed to be registered by April 25th. Please help spread the word to families you know in our community that have children that will be entering Kindergarten.

Office News

Please go over any after school plans with your student such as play dates, Kids Cub and transportation home, **before** the beginning of the school day.

The office is very busy at the end of the day and it is often difficult to get messages to students before the dismissal bell rings.

Safe Play

Many students arrive early for school or stay afterwards at the end of the day to play. Please keep in mind that there is not school supervision during this time. Students should follow the same behavior expectations at these times as during our school recesses. There is no tackle football, no running or playing with sticks, and when there was snow – no snow throwing. Please help to keep all students safe on our school property.

PBIS REWARDS PARTY

We celebrated our success with our *Choose Your Own Adventure* PBIS party for April. Each teacher offers a class and students select the adventure they wish to be a part of for the party. Classroom choices include: Bring your own device, Legos, dance, art creations, and much more. Ask your child what *adventure* they chose this month!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Great Raffle

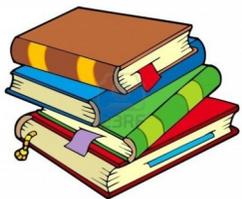
Have you wondered what it might be like to be a music teacher, an art teacher, or a gym teacher? The Defer students had the opportunity last week to win a chance at being the teacher! Our Student Council continues their work to raise funds for soccer nets. Students entered The Great Raffle for a chance to win the prize of teaching one of these three Specials for your class! We raised over \$300 towards our goal! Any money earned past our goal will be donated to a Grosse Pointe charity in our community. A big thanks goes out to our *Specials* teachers for supporting the Defer Student Council.

Library News

The library would like to thank the PTO parents for their hard work at the Book Fair and for the wonderful books that we were able to pick for our Defer library! Thank you so much, and a special thank you to Mrs. Ozar and Mrs. Wiegand for organizing this terrific event. The students loved it!

April was poetry month, and Kindergarteners were busy memorizing rhymes and searching for Everybody books in the library. First graders learned interesting facts about snakes and made a class book of them. Now we are studying geese and reading fiction and nonfiction books. Second graders finished studying biographies in the library and will be starting the Caldecott Award books unit.

Mrs. Quinlan, Library Media Specialist



Music News

The Spring Concert is coming up on May 11th for grades K, 2nd (Mrs. Lapensee/Bilicki's class only), 4th and the Defer Choir. The performance will start at 7:00pm in the Pierce Auditorium. A letter will be coming home shortly with more details. Email Mrs. Moses if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



Art News

Mark your calendars! The Defer Art Show will take place on May 23rd during the PTO Spring Social from 6 - 8 p.m. in the gym. Over 600 pieces of art will be on display! ALL students will have work exhibited. Students will be able to take their portfolio and 3D work home with them the night of the art show.



2nd Grade Field Trip

April 12th found out 2nd graders continuing their animal research at the Detroit Zoo! As a part of the non-fiction research unit of study all 2nd grade students selected an animal to investigate. Their work led them to learn about their animals' physical features, habitat, food, and defenses. After sharing their research with families and the other students at Defer the 2nd grade got a first-hand chance to meet their animal at the Zoo. Zoo docents toured groups of ten students through the grounds making sure to spend time with each child's animal. What an amazing learning opportunity for all of our young researchers!

Gilda's Club

This month Mrs. Lapensee's class had a special presentation from Gilda's Club. For those of you that are less familiar, Gilda's Club Metro Detroit has been providing support, education, and wellness programming to children and adults on any kind of cancer journey. The organization reached out to me as well as Mrs. Lapensee to develop a classroom presentation for our students that would help them understand the disease. It was a positive presentation and was open not only to the students in the class but to their parents. Our thanks to Jessie Miller for helping to provide this opportunity for our students.

Raising Global Leaders

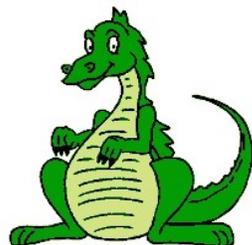
On April 12th the Grosse Pointe Public Schools presented *Raising Global Leaders* at Pierce. Maureen Bur and Keith Howell presented the District Diversity Plan. This plan is an integral part of the District Strategic Plan. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session and this was moderated by Tom Wells from the League of Women Voters. The diversity panel did an excellent job of providing a county and state perspective. The League of Women Voters recorded all of the questions and our superintendent will post answers to the remaining questions as soon as possible.

Defer Performs

Talent abounds at Defer! We have two exciting evening concerts coming up in May so be sure to mark your calendar! Our 5th grade Instrumental students will be performed on May 3rd at 7:00 PM in the Defer gym. These young musicians began formal instruction this year and we are proud of all they have accomplished. Join us! Our Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 4th grade will be performing in our Spring Vocal Concert. The concert is on May 11th at Pierce auditorium beginning at 7:00 pm. Come enjoy an evening of music!

Dragon Dens

April's Town Hall brought a group of special visitors. Staff from Trombly Elementary spent the morning doing Instructional Rounds at Defer and seeing first-hand our work around Leadership. After celebrating our Leaders at the Town Hall, Dragon Dens met to focus on the Habit – *Put First Things First*. Each Den participated in an activity in which students identified for themselves three levels of importance in their own life. The 'big' things included – Family, Food, Shelter, Education, etc. The 'medium' things included things like playing soccer, riding my bike, etc. and finally the 'little' things including such items as going to a movie, or eating junk food. Students then tried to fill their bucket with all of these things and realized that we start first with the most important things in our life – those are the priorities and the other things fit in around it. Staff used mason jars along with ping pong balls to represent the big things and then beans and rice for the smaller things. We soon learned that we can fit it all if we start with the 'big' things!



Safety Service News

In April, Defer Safety/Service crossed the street to the Pierce Swimming Pool. It was a beautiful 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 and also Mr. Kirkland for joining us.

On April 21st and 24th 31 fourth grade students filled the positions of Safety/Service.

I hope everyone noticed them in the orange belts. I am so proud of all of them for volunteering and doing a great job!

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: Cassidy Woolums

Service: Karoline Baer



Thanks PTO!

Our wonderful Defer PTO is sponsoring an assembly on May 5th for the entire school. The *Macomers* will be performing! Family entertainment in a "something for everyone" performance best describes the highly choreographed show choir ensemble known throughout the state as The Macomers, the Goodwill Ambassadors of Macomb Community College. Founded in 1970, The Macomers are Michigan's oldest college show choir. The group performs dozens of shows a year throughout the Detroit area and beyond. All members are full-time scholarship students at Macomb Community College. The Macomers have performed for everyone from American Presidents and major corporations to local school children

Three Cheers for our Volunteers

On May 19th the Defer staff is hosting a Volunteer Tea from 8:00 – 8:20. We really want to honor all of our volunteers. We truly recognize that our school has so many opportunities because we have wonderful parent and grandparent volunteers that impact us every day. Each week we have volunteers running our clinic at lunch, volunteering in the lunch room, making copies for staff, and volunteering in the classroom. Each month we have volunteers that drive on field trips, bring in a snack for the teachers on Tuesdays, reward students with popcorn parties, and organize class parties. Each school year we have parents that volunteer to be a part of our 4th grade Disability Awareness program, serve as counselors at 5th grade camp for three days, and orchestrate PTO events for the entire building. Our Volunteer Tea couldn't begin to thank everyone as much as we would want to thank you but it is our small way of showing our gratitude. Please join us – The teachers are baking muffins and will prepare trays of fruit along with coffee and tea. Our choir will perform for your entertainment and our student leaders will express their thanks. We hope to see you on May 19th.



MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Kindergarten Transition Visit	3 7:00 pm Instrumental Concert	4 Student Council to Tigers Game 12-4:30	5 Macomber Vocal Concert	6
7	8	9	10	11 5th Grade Promotion Picture Spring Vocal Concert 7:00 pm Pierce Gr K, 2, 4 and Choir	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Safety Service Windmill Park	19 Am school Only Volunteer Tea—8 am	20
21	22	23 PTO Spring So- cial / Art Fair 6-8 pm	24	25 Field Day	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day No School	30	31 5th Graders To Camp			

Important May Dates

May 11 - 5th Grade Promotion Picture

Spring Vocal Concert

May 19 - AM school only

May 25 - Field Day

May 29 – Memorial Day No School

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 5th Graders return from camp	3
4	5 Field Day Rain Date	6 5th Grade to Pierce 10:15-11:15	7 4/5 Magnet Play 2:45 in the Gym	8 Talent Show 10:00 am	9	10
11	12 1st grade picnic 11:00- 1:00 Patterson Park 2nd and 2/3 11:30-3 :00 Windmill	13 All 4th, 5th, 4/5 Picnics 11:30-3:00 Windmill Y5, K picnic 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

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. Many of these resources are STEM based and can be changed based on your child's skill level.



Crazy Gears

Grades: K-2

\$3.99

iPad, iPhone

Crazy Gears is a problem-solving game that gets kids thinking critically, problem solving, and exploring physics and other STEM topics. This engaging puzzle-like app asks students to construct gears to complete each level. Users will be introduced to important STEM skills that connect to tasks across disciplines. This is a really creative, highly accessible and fun option for exploring physics and engineering.



Hopscotch

Grades: 4-5

Free

iPad, iPhone

Hopscotch provides a scaffolding learning for coding. This app empowers the students to experiment and create their own coding. Students need to be independent readers and can access the many levels in the Levels section to solve coding problems. Once these have been mastered students can create their own coding programming stories.



Bridge Constructor

Grades: K-5

Free

Android, iPad, iPhone

Prove yourself as an accomplished master bridge builder! Test your construction skills and build bridges over deep valleys, canals, and rivers. The stress simulator reveals whether the bridge you build can hold the weight of cars and trucks or if the construction will crash.

The FREE version contains the first world (8 levels) of the full version. You can upgrade to another version for \$1.99.

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



May 2017



Defer Staff Appreciation Week — May 1-5

PTO planned daily appreciation to our beloved teachers, administrators and support staff including: Muffin Monday; Souper Tuesday; Wednesday Luncheon; Thirsty Thursday; Fresh Fruit Friday.

Defer PTO Meeting — Tuesday, May 9 @ 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!

Half Day of School — Friday, May 19

Students will be dismissed at half-day bell time due to professional development afternoon for staff.

Defer Spring Social

& Art Show —

Tuesday, May 23 6-8 p.m.

Join us for an outdoor gathering on Defer's playground and field featuring music, photo booth, bounce structures and more entertainment with pizza, water & ice cream available for purchase.

This is a family friendly event!

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 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 to respond by simply hitting the reply button.

Follow Defer Elementary PTO on Facebook:

(<https://www.facebook.com/Defer-Elementary-PTO-153168848088901/>)



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.

Interested in Chairing a PTO Committee next school year?

Contact parent Brooke Macuga



→ brookemacuga@yahoo.com

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		
Men's	Hunter Gray		A\$23
	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		
Men's	Hunter Gray		A\$18
	S M L XL 2XL		
Ladies	S M L XL		
Youth	S M L XL		
1/4 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!



Attention Defer Families: We Need Your

To help improve Defer Spirit Wear, please complete a quick online survey about your experience this school year and ideas for future spirit wear. The survey can be completed here:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Preview/?sm=jHwgilDa0Xsy6kAgt_2F30oJCWTi_ccRYjX4h9a7FI_2ByziYqJIFDKnBsww_sytC9uUi6



Defer earns money for every Box Top submitted. Keep clipping please!