

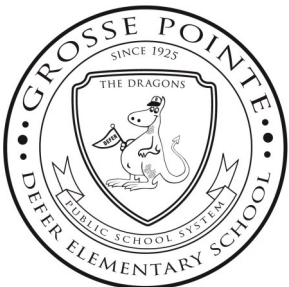
DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

May 7, 2015

Karen Sullivan

Defer Principal

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Teacher Appreciation Week

This is officially National Teacher Appreciation Week 2015 – May 4th to May 10th. National Teacher Appreciation Day is May 5th. 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 about teachers

Great teachers give us a sense not only of who they are, but more important, 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 love to write, as a singer loves to sing. They have a serious purpose and yet enjoy enormously what they do. They more than teach their subjects – math, reading, writing, science, physical education, music, art, or whatever – they get excited about the topic no matter how many times they have taught it before. They push themselves just as they push their students, and their classrooms become memorable learning experiences.

So what about Defer Teachers

Did you know that our teachers give up their lunch hours to work with students who are struggling?

Did you know that some of our staff taught Lunch Enrichment classes this winter even though that meant giving up their lunch hour?

Did you know that the Defer teachers attend evening PTO programs to support our school and to build relationships with our Defer families?

Did you know that the Defer teachers are giving up their planning periods to help grow leadership in our students?

Did you know that the Defer teachers wrap their loving arms around our students every day from a warm welcome, to providing a missing snack, to calling home to say a student did a great job?

Did you know that the Defer teachers worked hard to organize a Food Drive and are now feeding families in need of help?

Take time to thank a teacher before the school year ends..

We have all had teachers in our lives that made a big difference. For me, it was my high school biology teacher who planted the important message in me – *Keep asking questions. You don't need to know all the answers.*

Take time to send your child's teacher an email or a quick note whether it is today or before the year ends. Let them know how much you appreciate and value the impact they have on your child every day. I can tell you first hand – that's the best thank you any teacher can receive!

2015-2016 School Year

The Defer teachers and I are beginning the process of making classroom assignments for the 2015 – 16 school year. In grade level teams we will work to develop these classroom groupings. From working with your child all year long our teachers have valuable insights regarding the academic, social, and emotional needs of your children. Some of the factors we will consider as we do this work include:

- Academic ability
- Cluster grouping/ Learning partners
- Gender balance
- Learning styles (auditory, visual, hands-on)
- Student personality and interaction
- Student behavior
- Information provided by parents

We have one main goal in doing this work, and that is to create the most positive classroom environment we can to maximize student learning.

If you would like to complete an information form on your child to provide us further guidance in this process, please contact the Defer school office.

Year End Picnics

Wednesday, June 10	Kindergarten at Patterson Park	9:00
Monday, June 8	1st grade at Patterson Park	10:30
Tuesday, June 9	2nd grade at Patterson Park	11:00
Tuesday, June 9	3rd grade Windmill Pointe Park	10:30
Tuesday, June 9	4th grade Windmill Pointe Park	10:30
Tuesday, June 9	5th grade Windmill Pointe Park	10:30

SAFETY/SERVICE

In April, Defer Safety/Service crossed the street to the Pierce Swimming Pool. It was a chilly 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: Lukas Baer
Service: Adam Brien





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May 2015

ATTENTION: FAMILIES OF FIFTH AND EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

Effective Immediately

The Board of Education feels strongly about enforcing our residency requirements and not opening our district to School of Choice options. Rather than incur the cost of a total district re-registration, the administration is performing a **total re-verification of students entering sixth and ninth grades**. Families who have already verified their address this school year due to an address change are exempt from this process.

[This link for Residency Re-Verifications](#) you will find more information about the documents required for this process. You must bring all the required documents with you. We encourage you to come to the Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe by **August 1**. The office hours are: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:00 am - 3:30 pm on Friday. Questions may be directed to Denise Sharples at 313-432-3083, option 2.

Class assignments will not be shared in August if you have not completed this re-verification process.

Please remember, that only one parent/legal guardian must reside within the district for their child to legally attend our schools. Students found to be attending without meeting residency requirements, are removed immediately.

This is one more method to assure our community that the children in our buildings are our students.

Spotlight on Students

4th Grade Geography Detectives

Mrs. Nugent's 4th grade class participated in a Mystery Skype lesson with a class from Skillin Elementary School in South Portland, Maine. The class asked a series of yes or no questions to figure out where in the United States they were located. The 4th graders also answered their questions so they could use the clues to figure out that we were from Michigan. We want to thank Mrs. DePlace for her help with this activity. She helped us during the Skype session and also brought in some fun Microsoft items for the class.



3rd Grade Living Biography Museum

The Third Grade hit one out of the ballpark May 1st with their second annual Living Biography Museum. Students presented their biographical research to family members, friends and other Defer Dragons. We learned about everyone from George Washington and Albert Einstein to Amelia Earhart and Bill Gates. The students did a wonderful job sharing their knowledge with the Defer community. Bravo!



Congratulations to Ema Ellefson

Congratulations to Ema Ellefson! Ema was the runner-up in the 32nd Annual Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission's Arbor Day Poster Contest. She was recognized at the Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting and presented with an award and gift of \$25. 139 students from Grosse Pointe Park participated in this contest. Her poster was a beautiful collage of about 50 pictures made into a large tree. The pictures illustrated the uses of trees and tree products. Her slogan was "Trees Provide Our Planet With Life!" Her poster is on display in the Park Municipal Building.



Physical Education ROCKS!



Our 2015 Field Day is just around the corner and we will need parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and college age student volunteers. Volunteer signup sheets will be coming home soon or check out our Defer website to volunteer for this exciting event.

Field Day is Friday, May 22nd!!! Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd grades will be out on the field in the morning. Third, 4th, and 5th grades will be out on the field in the afternoon. Defer PTO will be hosting a station of juice box drinks and a snack.

If there is a forecast of rain or unseasonable weather we will cancel and re-schedule 2015 Field Day on Wednesday, June 3rd.

Also, two field day baskets will be raffled off in May. Raffle tickets are \$1 and are sold during lunch time hours. Field day baskets include 4 tee shirts, 4 water bottles, and 4 speed passes. Field day basket winners participate all day with their team on field day.

Don't miss out—come and volunteer at Defer.....Friday, May 22nd!!!

We look forward to seeing you on the field!

Yours in health, Ms. Raab, Mr. C and Mr. Williams

Library Dates for Year End

The school year is coming to an end and the library is preparing to perform its annual process of collecting and organizing its materials before year end. Below are some important dates for staff and students.

Last days to check out books:

Wednesday, May 20th (A Day)

Thursday, May 21st (B Day)

Friday, May 22nd (C Day)

Tuesday, May 26th (D Day)



All books checked out on the above dates will be due the following A, B, C, and D days (May 27, 28, 29 and June 1st).

Defer Field Day is scheduled for Friday, May 22th. ALL LOST OR SEVERELY OVERDUE BOOKS (BOOKS CHECKED OUT BEFORE MAY 26th) MUST BE RETURNED OR PAID FOR BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES.

Thank you for all your help in assisting us with the returning of these materials 😊

Defer Library

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 PTO Teacher Appreciation Lunch	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 PTO Meeting In Library 7:00 pm	13	14 Spring Vocal Concert 7:00 pm	15 AM school only PM Staff Devel- opment	16
17	18	19 PTO Spring Social 6:00-8:00 pm	20	21 Service and Safety Picnic 3:45 Windmill	22 Field Day	23
24	25 Memorial Day No School	26	27 5th Grade to Camp	28 5th Grade Camp	29 5th Grade Returns	30
31						

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Rain date for Field Day	4	5 Talent Show 10:00-11:00	6
7	8 • 1st gr picnic 10:30 Patterson Park	9 • 2nd gr Picnic 11:00 Patterson Park • 3rd, 4th, 5th picnic 10:30 Windmill PTO Meeting 7 pm	10 AM School Only • Kindergarten Picnic 9:00 Patterson Park • 10:00 Awards Assembly	11 AM School Only 10:00 am 5th Grade Promotion	12 Last day Teachers	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Digital Picks

*From your School Library
Media Specialists*



In an effort to keep our students reading all summer long, your Elementary School Media Specialists have compiled online lists and helpful strategies. We hope you find these links helpful, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Website: [ALA's 2015 Summer Reading List](#)



The Association for Library Service to Children's annual list includes recommendations for grades K-8

Website: [Reading recommendations](#)



Our very own GPPL's link to reading lists by grade level, award-winning and popular genres! Don't forget to register for the reading club at any branch!



Website: [Read Kiddo Read](#)

Author James Patterson inspires parents to promote reading to children of all ages.



Website: [Finding the best children's books](#)

Check here to find a compilation of children's book lists, reviews and blogs. A great way to get informed!

Website: [Tips for encouraging summer reading](#)



Originally posted in 2011, this link is an excellent resource for parents of all ages.

Website: [Reading Rockets](#)



Recommendations on how to encourage reading to parents of babies through 3rd grade.

Website: [100 Great Children's books](#)



According to the New York Public Library—See how many you've read. Generate your own list!

Website: [Library of Congress: Kids](#)



Online children's classics available and many unique resources!

Media Specialists

Jeanne Dolson	Poupard
Amy Hermon	Maire, Mason, Monteith, Trombly
Sherry Martin	Ferry, Mason, Poupard
Anne Maurer	Kerby, Mason, Richard
Cheryl Quinlan	Defer, Monteith
Rachel Walpole	Richard, Trombly

**DEFER
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

**MAY:
2014-2015**
Volume 11, Issue 3

**P.T.O.
DRAGON
TAILS**



**UPCOMING
PTO
EVENTS:**

Tuesday, May 12

PTO Meeting in library 7pm

Happy Birthday!



Tuesday, May 19

**90TH Birthday Party &
Rhubarb Bake off**

**Rejoice
with your
family
in the
beautiful
land of life!**

~ Albert Einstein

DRAGON SPEAK:

Does the school year really have to end, especially when it has been a great one of celebration and learning in the Defer community? It seems sad to say goodbye to our 90th, but that is what we are faced with, and we should do so with the satisfaction of knowing it was a success, and with the hope of knowing there is more to come.

The staff team and volunteer corps deserve a hearty round of applause for continuing the tradition of academic excellence, as do our students that seized every opportunity to learn and excel. The parents that supported the education of each child, whether your own or one you chose to bring under your wing in a classroom or on the playground, also enabled Defer to rise above its peers.

And then there are many people who volunteered to make sure we partied all year long,

and the rest of the awesome PTO team that worked so very hard to bring outstanding programming, teacher support, and student resources to the forefront. All of it was full of heart, style, creativity and spirit. Who could ask for anything more? So, yes, I guess a school year must draw to a close, but I hope we can keep the spirit of our 90th alive, well into the future. However, before we say goodbye, make sure you celebrate one last time at our 90th Birthday Party on Tuesday, May 19th. And don't forget to enter the rhubarb bakeoff—I already have!! Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

Michele Hodges

PTO President

Introducing....

Defer Elementary PTO Board (2015-16)

President: Renee Palazzolo

Vice President: Becca Ozar

Treasurer: Emily Summerfield

Secretaries: Mary Beth & Ryan Coffey

Communication: Christina Michaud

Fundraising: Aaron Oestreich

Hospitality: Kim Rhodes

Membership: Kevin Ozar

School Board Observer: Susan Vethacke

Defer Volunteer Vibe

A random media tool to communicate volunteer happenings at Defer Elementary

WELCOME To Heather Wiegand, Defer PTO Volunteer Director

It is with great pleasure the Defer PTO welcome our new Defer PTO Volunteer Director, Heather Wiegand! Heather and her husband currently have 2 children at Defer and Heather is a seasoned PTO board member. Having served (and still serving) on other PTO boards, Heather's steadfast persistent enthusiasm will be a welcome addition to the Defer PTO Board. You may have seen Heather volunteering at many Defer School sponsored and PTO sponsored events! Please give a special Defer Dragon shout-out to Heather Wiegand! Please tell Heather how YOU can help Defer!



Rhubarb Bake-off



It's time to throw down and celebrate Defer by going back to our 'roots.' Rhubarb roots!!

Enter our 90th birthday Rhubarb Bake Off to take place at the birthday party on May 19th.



Individual, partners, groups of all ages are welcome to submit a recipe & prepare a dish.

Please contact Holly Ryan for information:

hryan6@yahoo.com

You're Invited...



Save the date:

Tuesday, May 19th

on the lawn

Ice cream, food, entertainment

Volunteers are needed. Please follow



Defer's 90th Birthday Party



The Grosse Pointe Board of Education recognizes the service provided to our country made by veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam era.

Since many of these veterans left high school in order to fight for their country, the Board would like to recognize their efforts by awarding a high school diploma to these veterans.

If you know of anyone that might qualify for this special recognition, please contact the board office at 432-3000.

TIME CAPSULE

Defer Kid's Choice Award Winners

The following are the results from the survey Defer students participated in a few months ago.

These results have been included in our 90th Birthday Time Capsule.

Favorite Color: GREEN

Favorite Animal/Pet: DOG

Favorite TV show: SPONGE BOB

Favorite Movie: LEGO MOVIE

Favorite Song: UPTOWN FUNK

Favorite Artist: TAYLOR SWIFT

Favorite Sport: SOCCER

Favorite app: MINECRAFT

Favorite thing to wear: SWEATSHIRT

Favorite restaurant: VILLAGE GRILL

Favorite after school snack: FRUIT

Favorite athlete: MIGUEL CABRERA

Favorite Book: DIARY OF WIMPY KID

Favorite Car: MINI VAN

Favorite positive role model: MOM

SURVEY SAYS.....

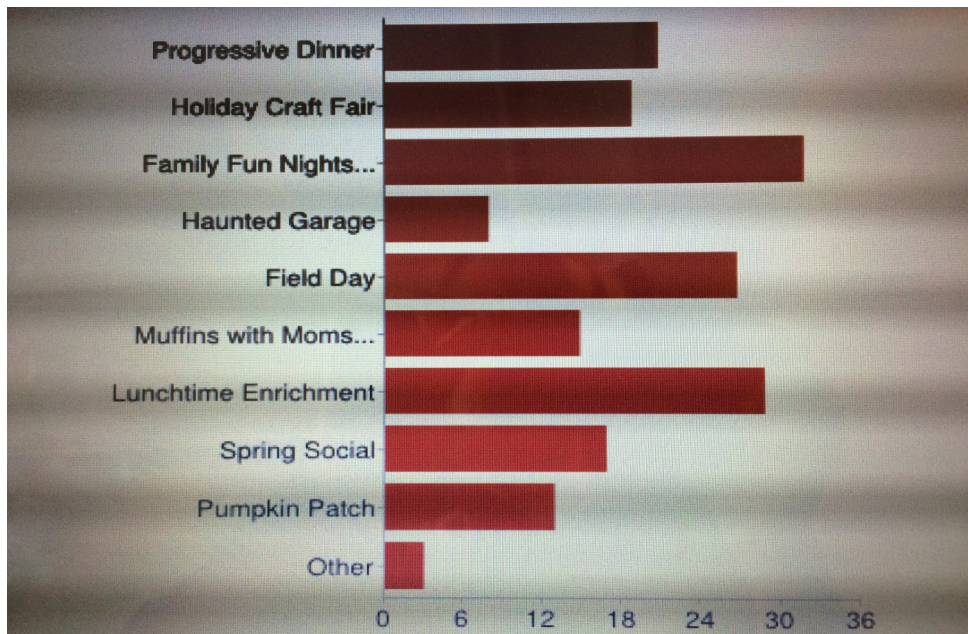
The PTO survey results are in and compiled. Thank you to the many of you who chose to have your voice heard. Here is one sampling of the results.

The rest may be found on the Defer website. Click on 'parents,' then 'PTO.'

Won't you come to our last official meeting of the school year on

Tuesday, May 12 @ 7pm?

Which Defer PTO sponsored events do you enjoy the most? Please Check 3.



Progressive Dinner	(21)	33.9%
Holiday Craft Fair	(19)	30.6%
Family Fun Nights (Bingo, Pancake Dinner, Movie Night etc)	(32)	51.6%
Haunted Garage	(8)	12.9%
Field Day	(27)	43.5%
Muffins with Moms/Donuts with Dads	(15)	24.2%
Lunchtime Enrichment	(29)	46.8%
Spring Social	(17)	27.4%
Pumpkin Patch	(13)	21%
Other	(3)	4.8%

The Defer PTO thanks the staff and the following families for joining this school year. Your support is vital to our mission of helping Defer Elementary School continue its tradition of being a special place for all our children.

James & Sandy Adams
Timothy & Sharalynn Apice
Jeff Balfour & Johanna Delp
Jon & Fatima Beacham
Stephen & Laura Benard
Robert & Lisa Biter
Jerry & Courtney Bocci
William & Renee Borowicz
Chris & Claudia Bower
Ryan & Sarah Boyd
Scott & Kathleen Bradley
Todd & Andrea Brien
James & Kate Budziak
Jeremy & Heather Byrd
Todd & Jill Campbell
Robert & Jennifer Cielieska
Ryan & Mary Beth Coffey
Chris & Angie Cole
Nicole Delano-Clark
Joseph & Kathryn Combs
Chris & Jennifer Constantino
Mickey & Thuong DelPlace
Darren & Brenda DeSmyter
Steven & Gail Detweiler
Stephen & Lynn Domzalski
Mike & Dori Downey
Benjamin & Jela Ellefson
Mark & Michelle Ezop
Neim & Besa Fama
David & Rachel Fermani
The Fluitt Family
Garrett Fontes & Jennifer Kelly
Craig Fowler
John & Tiffany Gelle
Mike & Nadia Gentile
Steven & Rachelle Grieser
Peter & Shawn Henry
Matt & Michelle Hodges
Benjamin Holochwost & Angelique Day
Stephanie Hooks
Mark & Brigit Hutteman
Fred & Taryn Isaacs
Melody Jackson
Leonard & Melony Johnson
Adam & Melissa Keagle

The Kimmel Family
Charles & Cindy King
Tim & Heather Klepp
Peter & Amy Koenig
Chuck & Sherrie Kosmas
Mark & Michelle Kramer
Don & Lauri Kuhnlein
Dean & Nicole Kuhnlein
Scott & Amy Leech
Thanh LY Leech
The Lemanski Family
Gerrit & Stephanie Lemmen
George & Mary Lutfy
John & Kathleen Lynch
Joseph & Marita Maffesoli
Elias & Brenda Majoros
Mark & Andrea Marcaccio
John & Sara Martin
Roberta Robson McGlone
R. Daniel & Kelley McLean
Thomas & Christina Michaud
Marc & Aimee Miller
Justin & Jessie Miller
Ahmed & Saima Mohsin
Bob Moorhead
Colin and Robin Moulder- McComb
Mark Northcross & Lynda Casabar
Mike Novak
Brendan & Jennifer O'Byrne
Aaron Oestreich
Kevin and Becca Ozar
Charlie & Renee Palazzolo
Bradie Paling
David & Susan Parlangeli
Justin & Sarah Peruski
Rich & Shannon Piornack
Leon & Pamela Rahmaan
Mark & Kim Rhodes
Shawn & Holly Ryan
David & Michele Sabella
John & Alana Sabol
Awni & Ghada Safadi
Scott & Jennifer Schaupteter
Charles & Liana Schlissel
Jaime Schoenfeld

John & Angela Scott
John & Tracey Secco
Scott & Janna Sendra
Aamir & Parveen Siddiqui
Vasilios & Stamtia Simopoulos
Kristi Spiller
Conrad & Jan Squitieri
Craig & Jennifer Stafford
Derek & Ellen Starks
Dan Stewart & Iris Steinberg
Hans & Lori Stricker
Brian & Emily Summerfield
Stephen Tenckinck & Sarah DeYoung
Steve & Elizabeth Tengler
Dan & Kayla Teranes
Jeffery & Laura Bush-Terry
Borivoje & Zeljka Trifunovic
David & Marie Vanderwerp
Sarah Verlinden
Mike & Susan Vethacke
Brian & Lisa Vosburg
Nathan & Tammy Wagstaff
The Wallace Family
James & Rachelle Ward
William & Erin Wass
Spencer & Kathryn Weidig
Gary & Amy Marie Whitaker
Andrew & Heather Wiegand
Chad & Kelly Woolums
Suxuan Xu Xia
William & Theresa Zuerblis
Mrs. Gout
Mrs. High
Mrs. Bergeron
Mrs. Lightbody
Mrs. Richards
Ms. Burrell
Mrs. Mestdagh