

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

November 5, 2015

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

The Spirit of Defer

The *Dragon Run* was a phenomenal event. Yes, our PTO listened to our families and went out on a limb and decided to hold just one fundraiser this year. And yes, through this fundraiser we were able to far surpass our wildest expectations and raised over \$15,000.00. And yes, there are going to be wonderful opportunities made available to our students because of the *Dragon Run*. But, for me, the *Dragon Run* was so much more than raising money. For me, it showcased the true spirit of Defer. And for me, it was the overwhelming number of memorable moments. Hard to say what was the favorite.

Was it the group of spirited 5th graders who lead the entire school in our warm-up version of *Whip NAY NAY* and the sea of rainbow colored t-shirts dancing along and putting their own special moves into the mix?

Was it the students' faces when they walked through the green and white balloon arch?

Was it the lower elementary students lining up at the starting line with their official *Dragon Run* running bibs pinned to their shirts?

Was it the Kindergarten students taking off in a pack at the start line only to run a few paces, tumble to the ground, pick themselves up, and keep charging around the course?

Was it the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders sitting around the outside of the course yelling out cheers to every Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade student as they participated?

Was it the spirited *shout outs* that every family took time to send into us so that their child got that message that says – *I love you and I'm proud of you!*

Was it the parents that ran the course with the students?

Was it the students who ran for all their might losing shoes along their way and never stopping or caring?

Was it the students who asked me to run a lap with them and were proud to hold the principal's hand as they ran the course?

Was it the *Dragon stripe* of green paint on their cheeks that students proudly displayed on their faces?

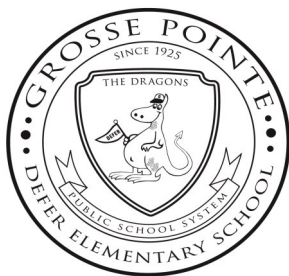
Was it the red faces who with a sense of pride and accomplishment picked up their bottle of water as they completed the run?

Was it the 5th grade boys sitting on a bench with a Kindergarten student calling themselves his training team?

Was it the parents, grandparents, younger siblings, and guests cheering our Defer Dragons along the sidelines and sharing the moment as a community?

Hard to say

So, if you are still reading - the ramblings of this sappy principal will stop with yet another piece of spirit from our *Defer Dragon Run*, 2 of our Kinders saying.....



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Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support

The PBIS program continues to be a backbone of Defer. It is based on the premise that all students will benefit from well implemented, evidence-based practices for improving student behavior. School-wide PBIS provides a positive focus to encourage desirable student behaviors. A set of universal expectations for behavior, positively stated, are established for all students in all locations of the school. These expectations generally promote core values of **respect, responsibility, and safety**. Interventions and strategies are implemented to teach and reinforce these expectations. These include:

Periodic direct instruction in specific student behaviors that demonstrate respect, responsibility, and safety in various locations in the school.

Generous quantities of positive adult/teacher attention and other kinds of reinforcement to students for demonstrating positive behaviors, especially specific behavior expectations identified by the school.

Predictable consequences for behavior infractions that are delivered consistently by all staff in a professional manner throughout the entire school.

Each month Defer school celebrates the good behavior of our students. The October PBIS party was entitled: *Choose Your Own Adventure*. Teachers each offered a unique activity in their classrooms and students signed-up for the one they were most interested in participating in as their Reward Party. Student choices included watching a movie, playing bingo, building with Legos, bring your own technology device and many more. Whatever the choice – a good time was had by all!

Winter Coats Available

For the third year in a row the Jaycees have generously given us brand new winter coats for students at Defer. Please call the school office at 432 – 4000 and let us know if your child is in need a coat.



Leadership



Each month our students meet in *Dragon Dens* to work on leadership. The two Kindergarten classes hold their Dragon Dens together, but in the remaining grades students are mixed together and every staff member has a Dragon Den, including Mrs. Sullivan. Our Dragon Dens meet once a month to focus on one of our leadership habits. Yesterday our Dragon Dens focused on Habit 1 – Be Proactive. This habit tells us:

I am in charge! *I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.*

Our Dragon Dens will be using a picture book each month as the focus for this work. Enemy Pie by Derek Munson was our featured book for *Be Proactive*. Below is a summary of the story –

One boy's perfect summer seems to be ruined when his worst enemy, Jeremy Ross, moves in down the block. Fortunately, though, Dad has a recipe for enemy pie. But it seems that the pie will only be effective if the recipient is treated kindly before eating it. Reluctantly, the boy agrees to spend time with Jeremy.

As the boys spend the day shooting hoops, jumping on the trampoline, and throwing water balloons at the girls, our protagonist begins to realize that Jeremy isn't a bad kid at all; in fact, he and Jeremy share many traits and interests. So imagine his confusion and consternation when the pie is finally served. He desperately wants to tell Jeremy, "Don't eat it! It's poison!" But then he realizes that Dad, wise old Dad, is eating the pie as well, and enjoying himself immensely. The lesson here is pretty clear, and well delivered.

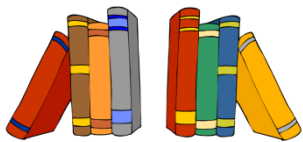
Ask your child how the our main character is *proactive* in the story Enemy Pie.

4th Grade in Lansing

Defer 4th grade students went to Lansing to complete our study of state government . The students toured the Michigan History Museum and the State Capitol Building. We had a fun learning experience!



The Defer Staff dressed up as a Word Wall for our Halloween Celebration!



Library News

The Defer Book Fair will be held during the week of conferences November 9-13th . Library class will start November 16th for Defer students in grades 3-5. We will have lots of new books to choose from!

Students in grades K-2 have been reviewing Library procedures (shelf sticks, due dates), manners (book care at home and school), organization, and learning about research with fact- finding in nonfiction books. Please stop by the library during conferences!

Mrs. Quinlan ---Defer Library Media Specialist

Defer Walk/Bike to School

Congratulations to our Defer students that walked/biked to school during the International Walk/Bike to school week!! Defer families made a commitment to walk or bike with their students....don't stop now....enjoy more walking throughout the year! Great benefits for all! Over \$180 in change was collected to donate to the American Heart Association. A huge shout out thanks goes to Mrs. Rhodes for her time in organizing this mini event this Fall. **AWESOME!!**

Walking is the best strategy for improving your health.

Quality time with parents and friends

Improve academic performance at school and home

Fantastic for your health.....healthy heart, strong muscles and smart brain

Enjoy the great outdoors

Avoid drop off/pick up parking congestion

Creates independent and responsible learners

Ask a friend to walk to school—WALKING ROCKS!

Yours in active health, Defer Physical Education



Safety/Service

In October a kickball fest took place in which the members competed between themselves in an aggressive game of kickball. We enjoyed a snack and drink, thanks to the Defer PTO.

Thank you to Mrs. Bocci and Mr. Greer who joined us and to the PTO who sponsors these events.

I hope you noticed all the awesome 4th graders who volunteered to take over for the 5th graders who went to camp. They wore bright orange belts and I am so proud of all of them. To volunteer for a job full of responsibility, is commendable.

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

Thank you,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Coordinator

Safety/Service Members of the Month-October



Safety: Jack Vethacke

Service: Ethan Meyer

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 No School Staff Development	4 Robot Garage	5	6	7
8	9 Scholastic Book Fair Begins	10 Scholastic Book Fair PTO Meeting	11 Scholastic Book Fair Parent/Teacher Conf. 5-8	12 Scholastic Book Fair	13 Scholastic Book Fair	14
15	16	17	18 Safety Service TCBY	19	20	21
22	23	24 Half Day AM	25 NO School	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Vocal Concert 7 pm	2	3	4	5 Defer Book Fair PTO Craft Fair
6	7	8 PTO Holiday Gathering 7 pm	9 Report cards home	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Holiday Sing Along 1:15	19
20	21 	22 WINTER	23 BREAK	24	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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.



WEBSITE: www.mel.org

This is a website that the whole family can use. Click on the Kids button, then Homework Helpers, which reveals a list of resources: Scholastic Bookflix, Michigan, Kids InfoBits, World Book Kids, World Book Spanish edition, Britannica School Elementary, eBook K-8, plus more. For High School and Adults, there are Health, Legal, Government, Jobs, and more categories to check out, and also ACT test preps.



APP: Hopscotch

Platform: ipad

FREE

For: Upper Elementary and above, to teach coding. Players can make their own games as they drag blocks of code. Parents' Choice Award.



APP: Cargo-Bot

Platform: ipad

FREE

For: Ages 10+ Challenging puzzler that teaches kids to think like programmers.

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

N*O*V*E*M*B*E*R ~ 2015-2016

DEFER PTO BOARD

Renee Palazzolo
President

Becca Ozar
Vice President

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Ryan/Mary Beth Coffey
Secretaries

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Aaron Oestreich
Fundraising

Kevin Ozar
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OPEN
School Board Observer

Heather Wiegand
Volunteers

BREATHING FIRE:

WOW, the month of October was a busy!!! What great events and activities happened last month!!! I would like to personally THANK everyone who was involved in making these great events happen.

I would like to thank the multiple host families who opened up their homes for the Progressive dinner including the Vethacke and Squitieri families. What a wonderful evening put together by Rachel Fermani along with Wendy and Vikas Relan.

I would also like to thank all of the families and staff for supporting the Defer Dragon Run. We could not have asked for better weather for our run. The children had a wonderful time. It was so nice to see all the families on the field supporting our kids. As most of you know we far exceed our fundraising goal for this year. Thanks to all the parents and children for getting those pledges. I also want to give a shout out to the fun run chair, Aaron Oestreich, for all his hard work.

The next PTO meeting is Tuesday, November 10th in the library at 7:00 pm. Please join us!! There will not be a meeting in the month of December.

Don't forget to stop by the Defer Book Fair in the library when you come in for conferences. Books make great gifts for the Holidays.

Best wishes,

Renee Palazzolo

PTO President



Defer Elementary

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

Defer Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair runs:
November 9-13
Various times. See insert.
Also during conferences.

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, November 10
7:00pm
Defer library
Everyone welcome.

Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, December 5
9am-1pm
Craft examples in showcase
Order forms home Nov. 6

Reminders



DRAGON RUN 2015

**Wow, we've surpassed \$15,000!
(and we're still counting...)**

www.thegetmovincrew.com

We thank you for making this a fun filled success with lots of great memories.



THE
ROBOT
GARAGE™



Hungry Howie's

FLAVORED CRUST PIZZA

We want to thank our sponsors and remind you that the top 25 fundraising kids and their families were notified Saturday, November 1.

They will be attending a special dinner celebration at The Robot Garage on Wednesday, November 4, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

Congratulations and THANK YOU to all.

A HUGE thank you to Aaron Oestreich for his efforts in this

VERY successful inaugural run! Great work.



The Defer PTO would like to thank the entire staff, students, and families who participated in Walk to School Week this year. Our students collected about \$180 for the American Heart Association!

Our thanks to the Okulski Family Theatre for their generous donation of movie passes that were raffled off in each classroom for 5 day participants.



If you are interested in volunteering your time or talents for any of our programs or events, please contact:

**Heather Wiegand
hwiegand712@gmail.com**

DEFER HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR



Save the Date: Saturday, December 5th from 9-1pm.

Our elves have been busy creating craft ideas and will place them in the showcase in the main hallway when complete. Once there, you may decide which crafts you would like to make.

An order form will be coming home on Nov. 6th where you may select your craft on the form and return with payment to school.

Come to the North Pole (Defer's gym) on Dec. 5 at your allotted time and be ready to have some festive holiday fun, make some crafts with the help of elves & parents, and enjoy another wonderful Defer tradition.

**We are always looking for additional parent volunteers (elves)!!
You do not need to be crafty to help us out on the day of the event.
If you can volunteer an hour or two of your time,
Please contact Aimee (amcmiller@att.net) or
Sara (tenckinck@yahoo.com)**



We hope to see you lurking in the library!

Nov 9: 1:00 - 1:30 Ms Nugent Nov 10: 1:00 - 1:45 Ms Forcillo
1:35 - 2:05 Ms Gout 1:50 - 2:35 Ms Caroselli
2:45 - 3:15 Ms Eckert 2:40 - 3:25 Ms Gerlach
3:30 - 4:40 After School Shopping BOTH days

Nov 11: 1:00 - 1:45 Ms Richards Nov 12: Open during conferences
1:50 - 2:35 Ms High 9:00 - 11:00 am
2:40 - 3:25 Ms Lapensee 1:00 - 4:00 pm
5:00 - 8:00 pm Open BOTH days

Nov 13: 12:30 - 1:05 Ms Bergeron
1:10 - 1:40 Ms Mannino
1:45 - 2:15 Ms Cross
2:15 - 2:45 Ms Denison
2:45 - 3:15 Mr Senska

To volunteer,
contact Mary Beth Coffey (mbcoffey@att.net)
or Becca Ozar (beccaozar@hotmail.com)