

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

Defer Behavior

Pledge

**Today I will DO my
best to BE my best**

I will be respectful

**I will practice respon-
sibility**

I will always be safe

**I will show my Drag-
on pride.**

Seven Habits

Be Proactive

**Begin with the End
in mind**

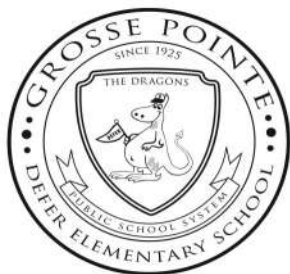
Put first things first

Think Win-Win

**Seek first to under-
stand, then to be
understood**

**Synergize— together
is better**

Sharpen the Saw



Defer Elementary School
15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Phone: 313-432-4000

Fax: 313-432-4002

www.gpschools.org/defer

October 8, 2015

Karen Sullivan

Defer Principal

Tardiness Hinders Student and School Success

Having trouble making it to school on time every day? Then it's time to come up with a new plan. Tardiness is sometimes a chronic problem for some students at Defer and this creates problems for all students and teachers as well.

Did you know that some of the most important learning of the school day occurs between 8:20 and 10:00 am? Students are the most alert and attentive at this time of day, so important subject matter and concepts are taught at this time. When students arrive late to school, they miss out on some or all of these important subjects. They also create a distraction when they walk into the classroom after other students have already begun working. Teachers must stop what they are doing and refocus the group.

Studies show that students, who have perfect or near-perfect attendance, and are not tardy have much better grades and overall success in school than students who miss many days and are tardy.

An occasional tardy is not really a big problem and sometimes cannot be avoided. However, consistent tardiness creates not only the problems discussed above, but also does not help to prepare students for future success in middle and high school, or for the job market.

What can be done about this? Defer will continue to enforce our plan for chronically tardy students. Here's how our tardy policy works:

When a student has three tardies in quick succession (within a two week period), a letter will be sent home notifying the parents that their student has been tardy three times. This will let the parents know that they need to work together with their student to get to school on time each day. The student will miss their class recess on the day the 3rd tardy occurs.

If the student continues to struggle with tardiness, the principal will make a phone call home to parents about how tardiness is impacting the student, discuss ways to be on time, and the student will again miss recess to make up for missed instruction.

If tardiness continues to be an issue, the principal and teacher will have a conference with the parents to discuss the problem.

Remember that being on time means being in line and ready to walk into the classroom with the bell rings. Students who are at school but not in their classrooms after the tardy bell are marked tardy.

Defer is a great school with bright students and involved parents. By refocusing our efforts on being on time each day we can be even better!

Tips for Getting to School on Time

If your student is having trouble making it to school on time, try using some or all of these tips so that you're out the door at school before the bell rings.

Plan for the 'little things' that always come up. People who are always on time are really people who arrive early every day. That way, when something unexpected comes up, they may not be early, but they will be on time.

Understand the importance of being on time. Students who are always on time earn the best grades, and enjoy the most success. The same is true in the workplace. Start training your student to be on time now, and develop this good habit that will last a lifetime.

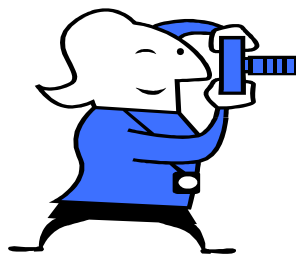
Get enough sleep. If getting out of bed in the morning is a problem, make a serious effort to get to bed earlier. Getting enough sleep also helps students focus better in the classroom, and is important for overall good health.

Prepare for school the night before. Don't wait until you are already rushed in the morning to pack up that backpack, or sign homework papers. Get it done the night before and put the backpack by the door.

What time do you expect to be at school? If the bell rings at 8:20, you should plan to arrive at 8:10 and be in your line by 8:15.

If one person in the house is running late, everyone is running late. Make a family commitment to be on time to school every day.

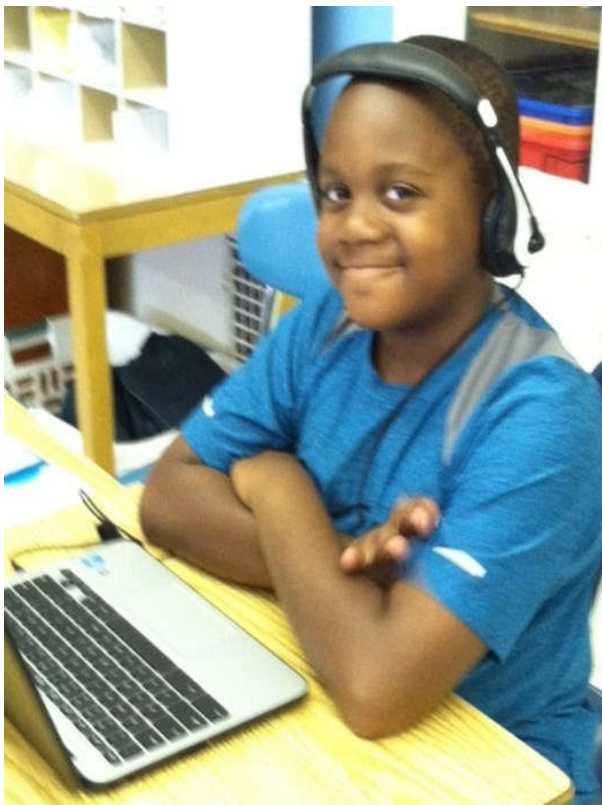
Picture Retake Day Reminder



Picture retakes will take place Friday, Oct. 16th. Those students who were absent on Picture Day or who wish to have their picture retaken will have an opportunity for a retake on this date. Please bring your picture packet to school on that day if you are doing retakes and the photographer will collect it.



WE LOVE OUR PTO





One Book – One School

The One and Only Ivan

What a great way to start the school year – with a *good book*! The Defer students and their families just finished their first home *read aloud* and it was a great success! For the last three weeks families have poured over Ivan's tale and fell in love with a cast of animal characters. Students answered daily trivia questions, reread important passages, and discussed what might happen next.

Our book has ended and from Kindergarten through 5th grade students wrapped up their discussions with the question – *What is the message of the book The One and Only Ivan*? Here's what the Defer students had to say:

Mrs. Forcillo's Kindergarten Class – Ivan is about being friends.

Mrs. Richards's Kindergarten Class – Ivan is about friendship with all different kinds of friends, and about keeping our promises.

Ms. Caroselli's 1st grade Class – We learned that Ivan was a good friend. He was always doing kind things for his friends.

Mrs. High's 1st grade Class – Even when you don't look like someone you can still be a friend. Animals should have nice homes. You are not alone – you can make friends anywhere!

Mrs. Gerlach's 2nd grade Class – It teaches us about kindness, friendship, and keeping promises.

Mrs. Lapensee's 2nd grade Class – The book teaches us about friends, family, and freedom.

Mrs. Denison's 3rd grade Class – The theme of the story is FRIENDSHIP! Friends can be different from one and another.

Mrs. Eckert's 3rd grade Class – It doesn't matter what shape or size or color your friend is – only that they are kind.

Mrs. Bergeron's 2/3 Class – Even though you're different you should still be friends. This book is about friendship, love, and treating animals with respect.

Mrs. Gout's 4th grade Class - Never give up your dreams. You can be friends with all different kinds of people.

Mrs. Nugent's 4th grade Class – Nothing is impossible when you have a positive attitude.

Mrs. Cross's 5th grade Class – Friends come in all shapes, colors, and sizes. Keeping promises is important. Treat animals kindly.

Mr. Senska's 5th grade Class – Friends come in all sizes and keep your promises.

Mrs. Mannino's 4/5th grade Class – Anything is possible.



HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

As you begin to prepare your child's costume this year, please do so with the following guidelines in mind for school:

No toy guns, knives, or swords. Bringing these to school would be a violation of the Grosse Pointe Schools Code of Conduct.

No scary costumes. Although scary costumes may not bother the older students at Defer, they can create anxiety and fear in many of the younger children. If a costume has a mask student will be asked to not wear it while they are in the parade or the building. This is a safety concern. We don't want students to have difficulty navigating the parade route, or their way through the halls when wearing a mask.

No fake blood. Again, older students may not have a problem with this, but we want to be sure that everyone in the Defer community has the opportunity to enjoy all aspects of our Halloween celebrations.

If students come to school with any of the above, we will ask them to remove the item. If there were any question as to whether or not the costume is appropriate for school, my suggestion would be not to wear it. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation in this matter. We are all looking forward to another Halloween at Defer, and can't wait to see all of you along the parade route!

Halloween Schedule for the morning of Friday, October 30th:

Parade @ 8:45 followed by classroom parties

Assembly – Doug Scheer - @ 10:15 in Gym

Dismissal at 11:36 am

No School in PM for Students

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

With superheroes, witches, and ghosts preparing for a ghouls night of trick-or-treat remember the following tips:

- Always go haunting with an adult
- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, NEVER in the street
- Be sure to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars
- Always cross the street at the corner
- Wear light-colored or reflective type costumes so you can be seen
- Light your path with a flashlight
- Only trick or treat at homes with a porch light on
- Never go inside a stranger's house, accept all treats at the door
- Be cautious of animals, strangers, and flying saucers
- All treats should be inspected by an adult before eating or sharing



Choir News

Defer 5th Grade Team Building in Music Class

This year both 5th grade classes did a team building activity called "The Spider Web" on the first day of music class. We started by sitting in a circle on the floor. Each student stated their name while holding a ball of yarn and also stated their favorite song. Next, they would hold onto the loose piece of yarn without letting go and toss the ball of yarn to a friend across the circle. Eventually, a large spider web of yarn is formed as the students continue to toss the ball of yarn to each other. After the web was formed, we discussed how the web formed by the teamwork of each person. We also discussed how each person is important to the team!

The kids had a lot of fun ---as you can see in the picture.



Safety/Service

In September our 39 members were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Carl Jarboe at the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court. Judge Jarboe does a wonderful job swearing our safeties in and insuring they understand the importance of their volunteer job.

Thank you to Mrs. Michaud and Mr. Palazzolo for walking with us over to the court. We appreciate your help and guidance.

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-September

Safety: Connor Stafford

Service: Giuliana Lutfy

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Walk to School Week	6	7 Student Count Day	8	9 Kindergarten Walk to firehouse.	10 PTO Progressive Dinner
11	12	13 PTO Meeting 7 PM (PA-25 begins	14	15 Pumpkin Patch (after school-6PM)	16 Picture Retake	17
18	19	20	21	22 Dragon Run (1:45 for K-2) (2:35 for 3-	23 Haunted Garage 6- 9pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 AM School Halloween Parade Dragon Run Dona- tion Deadline	31

November 2015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Scholastic Book Fair Begins	10 Scholastic Book Fair PTO Meeting 7 pm	11 Scholastic Book Fair	12 Scholastic Book Fair	13 Scholastic Book Fair	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Half Day AM	25 NO School	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

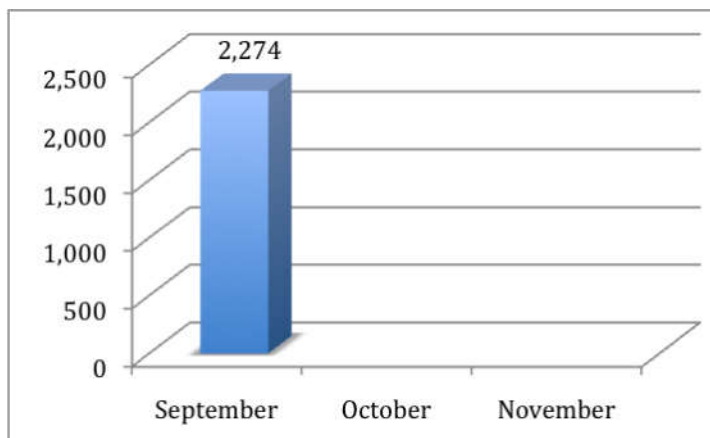


Your Clipping matters! Many thanks to the families who clipped, clipped their way to hard cash for Defer PTO programs that benefit our students.

The Defer Elementary – In September, students clipped and submitted 2,274 box tops....That's \$227.40 for future programs for the students!

Let's make the October count...even higher!!! Did you know, the classroom with the most returned box tops for the month earns themselves a reward party (popcorn, extra recess, ect)?

Watch those boxes, bags and boards, clip those coupons and turn them in TO-DAY. Don't delay!!



Clipping hints~Please, Please, Please:

Must have a valid expiration date shown on box top

Do NOT tape them to paper! Glued or taped box tops will are not accepted by the reimbursement company.

Parents supporting Parents

“Strengthening the journey for a stronger special needs parent”

Students with disabilities of all ages, and their families
come join us for an evening of BOWLING!

Tuesday October 20, 2015

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Lakeshore Lanes Bowling:

31025 Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores



We will start the year off with some networking and fun for the kids and adults.

Here's what's in store for meetings and topics the rest of the year:

Jan: Estate Planning & planning for your young adults future (parents w daycare for kids)

March: Resources & Networking (parents with daycare for kids)

April: TBD (parents & students)

*Please **RSVP** if you are interested so we can determine # of lanes and cost. We will accept contributions at the event.*



DEFER PTO

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

O*C*T*O*B*E*R

~

2015-2016

DEFER PTO BOARD

Renee Palazzolo

President

Becca Ozar

Vice President

Emily Summerfield

Treasury

Ryan/Mary Beth Coffey

Secretaries

Christina Michaud

Communications

Aaron Oestreich

Fundraising

Kim Rhodes

Hospitality

Kevin Ozar

Membership

OPEN

School Board Observer

Heather Wiegand

Volunteers

Hello!!! Happy October!!! I hope everyone has settled back into the school routine.

The PTO has lots of great events in the month of October; Walk to School Week, Progressive Dinner, and Pumpkin Patch, just to name a few. I hope to see all of you at the Progressive Dinner. It is a fun and enjoyable adult evening and I encourage everyone to attend

Please support our PTO activities by participating in the Defer Dragon Run.

Remember this will be our one and only fundraiser this year so let's make it count.

So please help your child register on the website today. We welcome parents to come and cheer on the runners on the afternoon of October 22nd.

The next PTO meeting is Tuesday, October 13th in the Defer library at 7pm. Mrs. Sullivan will be presenting the PA-25 at 6:30. Please join us!!

Please feel free to reach out to myself or anyone on the board if you have questions or concerns.

Best Wishes

Renee Palazzolo

PTO President

Defer Elementary

15425 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Park, MI
48230

Office: (313) 432-4000

PTO Progressive Dinner

Saturday, October 10

6:30 -?? pm

First stop: 1044 Devonshire

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, October 13

7pm (6:30 Annual PA-25 report)

Defer Library

Everyone welcome.

Defer Dragon Run

Thursday, October 22

This is a DAYTIME activity and our
MAIN fundraiser of the year.

Volunteers needed.

Reminders

4th Annual Defer Pumpkin Patch

Thursday, October 15 from 3:50-6pm

Plan to bring \$1 to receive a donut and cider right after school and enjoy
our very own pumpkin patch appear on the front lawn.

Also available for purchase are pumpkins, hay bales and corn stalks.

One of our favorite days of the year at Defer!!



**Thanks to all of our families that are getting
up and walking to school with the students of
Defer this week.**

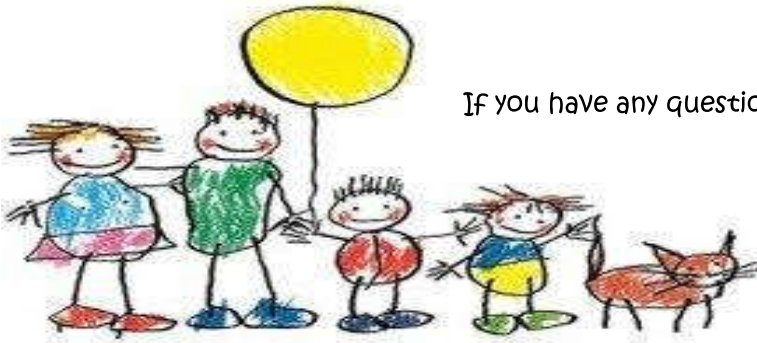
**It is important that we
promote community spirit
and a healthy way of living
for our students!**



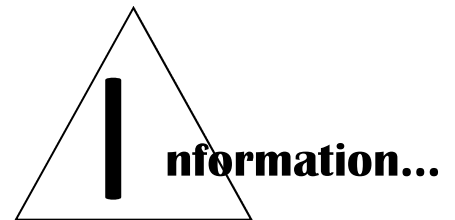
Defer Family Directory

We are LIVE!! An email was sent out last week regarding the Defer PTO online school directory. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to read through the email and verify your information on A to Z Directories. You DO NOT need to re-enter your information or ask to be a part of the directory if you signed up at registration.

The online directory is FREE to everyone until October 31. On November 1st it will only be available to families who purchased a \$10 (online directory only) or a \$25 (online and print directory) PTO membership. If you did not sign up for one at registration back in August, you still can. We currently have 110 families and 21 staff members signed up and supporting the PTO, let's keep it going!



If you have any questions regarding the directory or becoming



The PTO also shares timely information, pictures, and has a place where the Defer community can communicate.

It is by liking our Facebook page.

Defer Elementary PTO

We hope to see and hear from you!

Sign up for the PTO Yahoo blasts where info is emailed directly to you. You can do this by sending a request to:

deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Any questions?

Contact Christina Michaud

tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net



DRAGON RUN

Defer Elementary has ONE fundraiser...this is IT!!!

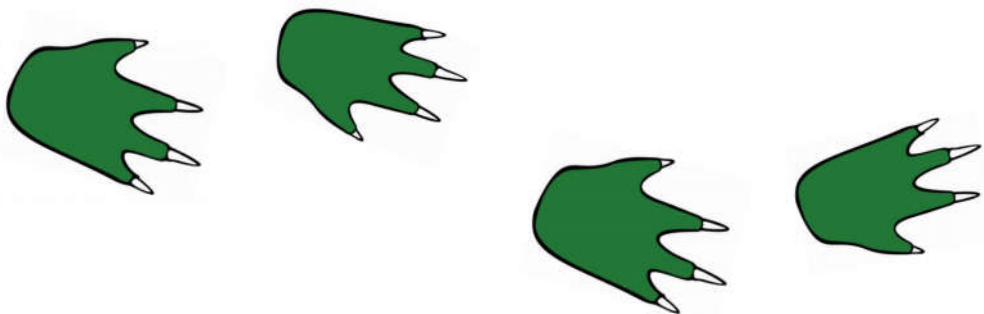
We hope you all have registered and have begun actively fundraising on your personal web page. Our goal for each student at Defer is to raise \$50. This donation comes right back to DEFER and aids the PTO in providing meaningful family activities, enhancing curriculum with fieldtrip opportunities, speakers, assemblies, supplementing technology, along with many other programs. We can not do this without your support. We truly thank each family for their efforts in this.

Thursday, October 22: Dragon Run DAY

The Defer field will be turned into a Dragon's lair and ALL students will have the chance to run/walk during school hours. The current schedule is (K-2nd grade) begins at 1:45pm and (3-5th grade) begins at 2:35pm. Please consider volunteering at this 'ONE AND DONE' event. Parents are encouraged to participate/volunteer.

Friday, October 30: DONATION DEADLINE

All donations need to be turned in to office or online by this date.





BIG HALLOWEEN EVENT

Haunted Garage Productions Presents:

MR. WILLIAMS HAUNTED GARAGE

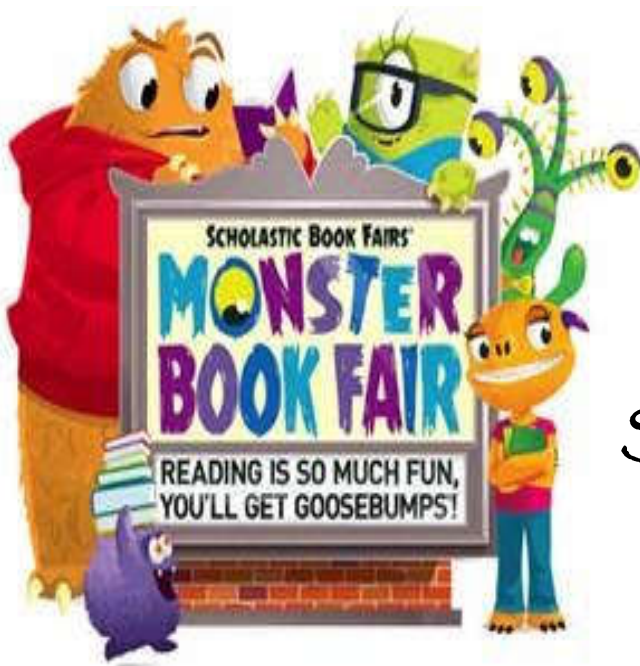
Friday, October 23, 2015 from 6-9pm (Raindate 10/30)

19520 Mack, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

DONATION: \$10 ** Students must be accompanied by a paying adult**

Proceeds from this event benefit Defer PTO. Mr. Williams (a GP and former Defer teacher) provides this event for our school.

For

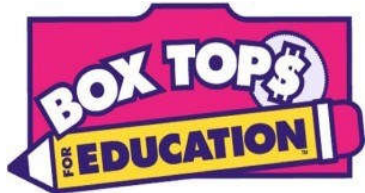


Lurking in the Defer Library

November 9-13

Stay tuned for more information

Odds & Ends



REMINDER:

Please collect and turn in any Box Tops to your child's classroom.

Defer benefits from this and top grossing classrooms get

**Thank
You**

...to Higher Grounds Coffee Shop for hosting the Defer parents gathering the first day of the year. We appreciate our local businesses.

BIRTHDAY BOOKCASE!!!



Introducing our new Defer Birthday Bookcase.

Each student (on their birthday) will be invited into Mrs. Sullivan's office and have the opportunity to pick a brand new book to keep.

****Summer, weekend and holiday birthdays will also be included.**

Brought to the students of Defer by your PTO. Thank you!!



Cabbage Patch Cafe & Catering

Do you have a minute? Literally, one (1) minute!?

www.thegetmovincrew.com

Open this website, look to the bottom right of the home screen and click on the above star "Register Your Child!"



Finnegan Cornwell is the winner, of this week's One Year Family Membership to The Robot Garage, as the school fundraising leader.

The top five students and two lucky students who simply registered will be having breakfast this Tuesday at the Cabbage Patch Café.