

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

September 17, 2015

Karen Sullivan

Defer Principal

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On behalf of our entire staff, I thank you for helping our Defer Dragons get off to a great start in the 2015 – 2016 school year! The elementary school years are a particularly exciting time for students and our “Defer Family” of staff, families and community members come together to serve each and every student in their unique needs and talents. Our school community strives to instill in each child the excitement that comes with learning. Our teachers and staff are highly qualified and committed to serving all aspects of each student, academically, emotionally and physically.

We appreciate the wonderful parent participation in our Back to School Night last week. Our *target* was to share our learning program and the ways in which you can best support your child and their learning. There was a *buzz of excitement* in the air that night and the first important steps were taken to ensuring a year of learning for all!

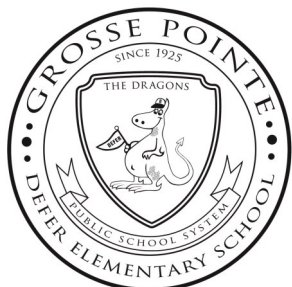
This week we kicked off our school-wide *One Book, One School* program. Our entire school is reading The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate. Families started on Monday reading about 20 pages a night and each day our students are excited to answer trivia questions, talk about the characters, and predict what will happen next. During lunch hour members of our PTO are reading the previous night’s chapters for any student who missed out at home the night before. No one wants to be left behind! Have you sent us a picture of your family reading yet? We’d love to add it to our *One Book, One School* bulletin board.

In closing, when we ALL work together as a learning community and do things with our students’ best interest as the focus, we are a GREAT school! There are many ways in which you can participate in school. Volunteering to work in the classroom, chaperoning field trips, volunteering in the clinic or lunchroom, becoming a member of our PTO and assisting with many activities, are just a few things that you can do to make a difference.

If I can ever be of assistance, please call or email me! It is through being a collaborative learning community with consistent, honest, and open communications that I can best serve our students. Your ideas, suggestions and involvement in our school help to make it a better place for our students. Thanks for the opportunity to serve our GREAT community as we welcome each of you back to George Defer Elementary School – *Go Dragons!*

Warmest Regards,

Karen Sullivan



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Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Phone: 313-432-4000
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www.gpschools.org/defer



The *Cornerstones* of Defer

PBIS

Positive Behavior Intervention Support is a program that allows us the opportunity to provide a consistent and fair behavior plan. Research shows us that students achieve at a higher level when they know the expectations and feel safe. We focus on three areas: Respect, Responsibility, and Safety.

At our kick-off assembly we focused on what it means to be respectful, responsible, and safe. Try this quiz below with your child tonight. In each case what is the student demonstrating in the scenario – respect, responsibility, or safety.

#1 During the school assembly I sit crisscross on the floor, listen to the speaker, and raise my hand to respond. *Am I being responsible, respectful, or safe?*

#2 I fill in my planner every day, bring home my homework, and complete all assignments accurately and neatly. *Am I being responsible, respectful, or safe?*

#3 I always stay seated on the swings and never jump off but wait until it slows down. *Am I being responsible, respectful, or safe?*

Leadership

At Defer we believe in student leadership. For the last two years we have focused on the 7 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, and Sharpen the Saw.

Try this quiz below. Can your child recognize each of the Habits?

#1 I eat healthy every day, ride my bike, and get plenty of sleep. *What habit are you using?*

#2 I listened to my partner's ideas about how to solve the math problem. *What habit are you using?*

#3 I make a schedule for how I am going to get my work completed and I follow it. *What habit are you using?*

#4 I pick up trash outside at Defer even without being told to do so. *What habit are you using?*

#5 My goal is to become a better reader and I am going to read 30 minutes every night to accomplish it. *What habit are you using?*

#6 We are taking turns being the captain of the team. *What habit are you using?*

#7 Our entire class worked to clean up our classroom at the end of the day. *What habit are you using?*

One Book, One School

The One and Only Ivan

Students received a book mark with a schedule for nightly family reading. Below is the daily schedule for those that may need it. The pages and the dates are listed for your convenience.

Week 1 – Sept. 14th

Monday	1-19
Tuesday	20-39
Wednesday	40-59
Thursday	60-78
Friday	79-100

Week 2 – Sept. 21st

Monday	101-117
Tuesday	118-140
Wednesday	141-160
Thursday	161-179
Friday	180-199

Week 3 – Sept. 28

Monday	200-220
Tuesday	221-240
Wednesday	241-260
Thursday	261-279
Friday	280-300



Choir Rehearsals

The Defer Choir rehearsals begin on September 22nd. Get your permission slip into Mrs. Moses by Monday, September 21st.



Safety/Service

This year we have 40 Safety/Service members. They are the highly visible helpers in their fluorescent yellow belts in and around the school.

The position of Safety/Service is a respected one, whose roots trace back to approximately 1920. Helping children to cross the street safely, become safe pedestrians and to become leaders and good citizens are some of the aims of the Safety/Service at Defer.

To reward their hard work and dedication, Defer School and its PTO sponsor several fun events throughout the year.

In September our members will be sworn in by the Honorable Judge Carl Jarboe at the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court.

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

Thank you,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Coordinator

SAFETY TIMES

MORNING POST	8:10 - 8:25 am
Mondays	8:50 - 9:05 am
AFTERSCHOOL POST	3:34 - 3:45pm

SERVICE TIMES

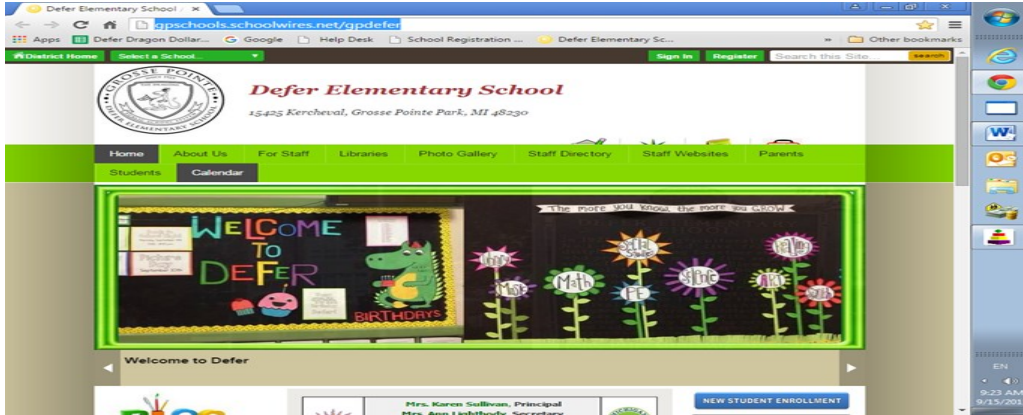
MORNING POST	8:15 - 8:25 am
Mondays	8:55 - 9:05 am
	12:25 - 12:35
LUNCH POST	pm
Mondays	12:43 -12:53
AFTERSCHOOL POST	3:34 - 3:45 pm

Exporting the Defer Calendar

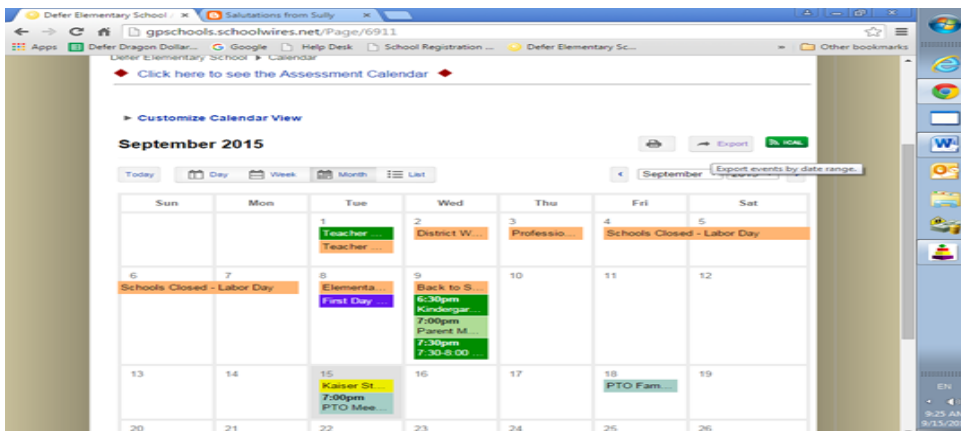
One of the most well used features of the Defer website is the Defer Calendar. All important dates for both the district and school are recorded along with the Defer PTO events and meeting dates. Parents can “export” the Defer calendar to their own personal calendars. Below is a list of steps to walk you through the process.

Go to the Defer website: <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Domain/1099>

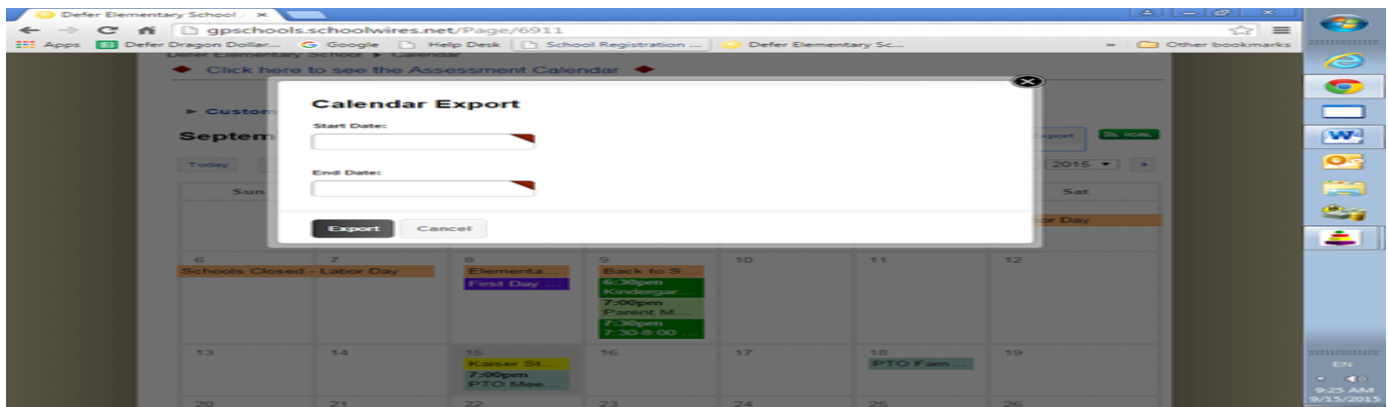
Click on the “Calendar” tab (highlighted in grey).



Click on “Export” to download to your calendar (top right hand portion of the page).



Enter September 8, 2015 as the *start date* and June 30, 2016 as the *end date* and then click on “Export”.



September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 PTO meeting 7 PM	16	17	18 Defer Family Picnic Windmill Point 6-9	19
20	21	22	23	24 Dragon Run Kick-Off Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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 6:30)	14	15 Pumpkin Patch (after school-6PM)	16 Picture Retake	17
18	19	20	21	22 Dragon Run	23 Haunted Garage	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 AM School Halloween Parade Dragon Run Dona- tion Deadline	31



DEFER PTO

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

S*E*P*T*E*M*B*E*R

~

2015-2016

DEFER

PTO BOARD

Renee Palazzolo

Becca Ozar

Vice President

Emily Summerfield

Ryan/Mary Beth Coffey

Christina Michaud

Aaron Oestreich

Kim Rhodes

Kevin Ozar

OPEN

Heather Wiegand

Volunteers

Welcome back to school Defer Families!!!

I would especially like to welcome all the new students and families to Defer. We have a great school community here at Defer and we are glad you are here!!!The Defer PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) has already been working over the summer to get ready for the new school year. We are very excited about all the great events and activities we already have planned.

Our first event is the Defer's Back to School Family Picnic on Friday, September 18th at Windmill Pointe Park. Please join us for this casual family fun evening seeing old Defer friends and making some new ones.

PTO meetings are typically the second Tuesday of each month in the Defer Library at 7:00 pm. All parents are welcome. A great way to get involved in your child's school community is to join the PTO.

I would like to thank all the parents, staff, and students that took the time to complete the Defer PTO Survey at the end of last school year. We appreciate your valuable feedback. The PTO Board is using the information gained from the survey to make important decisions including how PTO funds are spent, events the Defer families enjoy and the view on fundraisers.

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

Best wishes in the new 2015-2016 School Year,

Renee Palazzolo

PTO President

reneepalazzolo@gmail.com



Defer Elementary

15425 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Park, MI
48230

Office: (313) 432-4000

Defer Family Picnic

Friday, September 18
6-9 pm
Windmill Pointe Park

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

Defer Annual Family Picnic

Friday, September 18

6-9 pm

Come picnic with other Defer families at Windmill Pointe Park.

Meet new friends, connect with old friends and start the year off right!!

Bring your own food & drinks for your family.

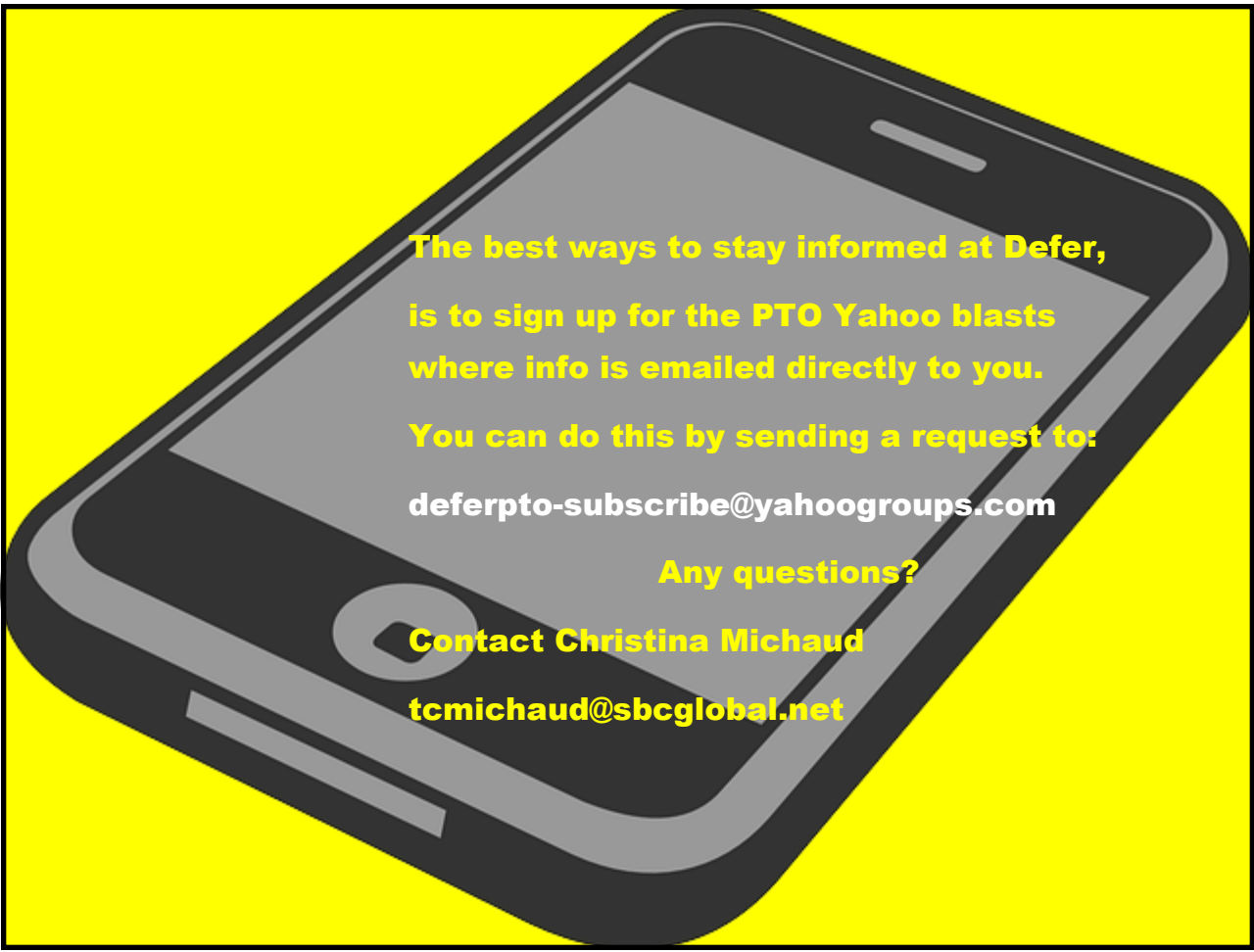
ALL are welcome.



A BIG thank you to those of you that signed up to volunteer for a Defer event/program during the online registration process. If you signed up to Volunteer, a chairperson will be contacting you shortly to let you know More specifics about it. If you have any questions regarding volunteer Opportunities, please don't hesitate to contact Heather Wiegand, volunteer

Coordinator, at hwiegand712@gmail.com.

Volunteer efforts big & small make Defer amazing!



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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!





DRAGON RUN

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

We heard you loud & clear when you said you wanted to eliminate various small fundraisers and to do something more meaningful. THIS IS IT! Our Dragon Run. Please note the dates below & get ready for a ROOOOAAAARRRRing great time.

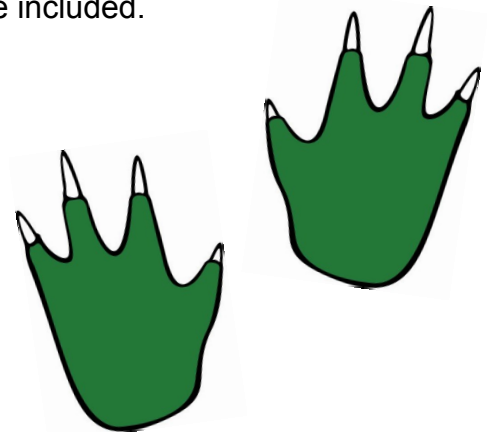
Thursday, September 24:

KICK OFF DAY

Be sure to check your child(ren)'s backpacks today for the Dragon Run information packet. Be sure to review the packet carefully. Opportunities for winning prizes, creating and sharing with friends and relatives online, and school spirit parties are included.

Weekly prizes for top earners:

- 3 memberships to Robot Garage (one every week)
- Coupons for sweet treats at local restaurants
- Defer party at Robot Garage after the fundraising
- Top fundraising classes receive party or special perks



Friday, October 30 DONATION DEADLINE

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

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. Please consider volunteering at this 'ONE AND DONE' event.

Parents are encouraged to participate/volunteer.

For more information, please contact Aaron Oestreich at: aaranoestreich@gmail.com

Defer Family Directory

Our family directory will now be available online AND in paper form this year through a company called A to Z.

It will be free to everyone online until October 31st. After this date, the online directory will be available with a \$10 membership to the PTO. A \$25 membership will give you access to both the online AND paper directory.

Please stop by the office to buy a membership or contact Becca Ozar at beccaozar@hotmail.com



save the date

ANNUAL DEFER PARENT

PROGRESSIVE PARTY

SAT., OCTOBER 10

sign up & details to follow



Coming Soon! Defer Spirit Wear

Welcome back Dragons! When you are proud of your school— one of
The best ways to share your pride is to wear it on your sleeve.

The Defer PTO is proud to bring you the 2015/2016 Dragon Spirit Wear.
Keep your eyes peeled for information on the first round of new styles.

New this year-online ordering!!

You will be able to place your order online through the school website
and it will be delivered to the school. Watch the display windows on the
Main floor for your first look at new styles.

Go Dragons!

Defer Annual Pumpkin Patch

Thursday, October 15

3:50-6pm

Pumpkins, hay bales & cornstalks for purchase right on the front lawn.

Cider & donuts, too!



Walk to School Day 2015

Wednesday October 7, 2015

In honor of Walk to School Day, the Defer PTO would like to encourage students to



Walking to school helps promote healthier habits, a cleaner environment, safety on our streets, and a sense of community.

This year we are encouraging parents to walk with their children to school. We ask that if you cannot walk, try to get at least 20 minutes of activity in your day.

This year there will be incentives for the students who participate each day they walk to school!