

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

February 2015
Defer Elementary

Defer Dragon Burning News

What is your mindset? Mindsets are beliefs-beliefs about yourself and your most basic qualities. Think about your intelligence, your talents, and your personality. Are these qualities simply fixed traits, carved in stone or are they things that you can cultivate throughout your life?

People with fixed mindset believe that their traits are just givens. They have a certain amount of brains and talent and nothing can change that. People with a growth mindset, on the other hand, see their qualities as things that can be developed through their dedication and effort. They understand that no one has ever accomplished great things—not Mozart, Darwin, or Michael Jordan—without years of passionate practice and learning.

Compare how people with these two mindsets approach learning—

	Fixed Mindset	Growth Mindset
Challenges	Avoids challenges/Sticks to what they know	Embraces challenges/knows they will come out stronger
Obstacles	Gives up easily	Persists in the face of setbacks
Effort	Sees effort as an unpleasant thing	Sees effort as the path to mastery
Criticism	Sees criticism as negative feedback	Sees criticism as a source of information and possible improvement
Success of others	Feels threatened by the success of others	Finds lessons and inspiration in the success of others.

How do teachers support a classroom culture that supports a growth mindset? Lots of ways—but here are two:

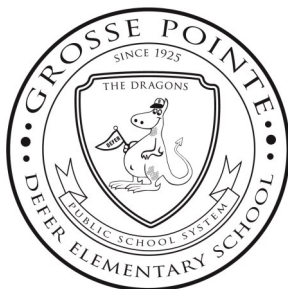
- Emphasize Challenge, Not “Success” - Learning tasks need to challenge every student in some way and include some problems or exercises that require students to stretch.
- “Not Yet” - The word “yet” is valuable in the classroom. Whenever students say they can’t do something or are not good at something, the teacher will add, “yet”. The message is delivered. You may not have mastered it “yet”, but with effort you will.

What can parents do to promote a Growth Mindset in your child? Lots of ways—but here are two:

- Praise the Effort and the Process they engage in—It took Edison over a thousand tries to find the right material to use for the filament of the light bulb.
- Approach Problems as a Mystery—Try different strategies, pick up the clues as you go that will help you solve the problem.

A growth mindset leads to long-term success in school and life.

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PBIS *Responsibility Pyramid*

In last month's newsletter I shared the procedures our staff is adding to the PBIS program. We have created a *Responsibility Pyramid* with expectations for each grade. During the month of January teachers taught these expectations at every grade level focusing on what *responsibility* should look like for them.

Beginning this month we will be adding *purple* cards to our class PBIS chart to reflect specifically on the grade-level expectations from the *Responsibility Pyramid*. A student will receive a purple card for not showing responsible behaviors. Listed below are the procedures around purple cards:

The maximum purple cards a student can earn in a day is one.

A student in grades 1st – 5th will miss the monthly Reward Party if they receive 8 or more purple cards.

Students will miss the monthly Reward Party if they receive 11 or more purple cards.

Please review once again the pyramid with your child.

Responsibility Pyramid

K – Personal Area Neat

1st – Desk and Locker Organized

2nd – Desk and Locker Organized, DOT

3rd – Desk and Locker Neat, Planner Written, Homework Completed

4th and 5th – Desk and Locker Neat, Planner Written, Homework Completed, Switch Materials

The Defer Food Drive *The Hunger Games*

Defer's January 90th birthday celebration focused on giving rather than receiving. Our goal for the drive was to hope that 90 items at each grade level would be donated during January giving us a total of 540 food donations. Thanks to your generosity we collected over 1,000 cans in the first week alone. The Defer community is truly amazing!

The work of the Drive was done by our Student Council leaders. Students in this organization unpacked bags, sorted donations into categories, and set up storage. During the upcoming months they will be packing individual bags of food to share with families. Under the direction of our Student Council sponsor, Mrs. Cross, and with additional help from Ms. Burrell and Mrs. Osborne these leaders were eager to have ownership of this project and they have done a fantastic job. As our *7 Habits* tell us – it was a **win/win** for everyone!



February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 GPNinspire 7:00 pm	7
8	9 Jump Rope for Heart	10 PTO Meeting Defer Library 7:00 p.m. Jump rope for Heart	11 Student Count Day Jump Rope for Heart	12 Jump Rope for Heart	13 PTO Muffins with Mom 8:00 a.m. Lunchtime Enrichment Ends Jump Rope for Heart	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Mid-Winter Break 2/14–2/22						
			Market Day			
22	23	24	25 Safety/Service Party @ Lakeshore Lanes 3:50– 5:45 p.m.	26	27	28

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Records Day 1/2 Day AM only PTO Meeting Defer Library 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Market Day	19	20 PTO Donuts with Dad 8:00 a.m. Report Cards Distributed	21
22	23	24	25 Evening Conference Safety/Service Party @ Pierce 3:50— 5:45 p.m.	26 NO SCHOOL AM, PM & Evening Conferences	27 Vaudeville Night Scholastic Book Fair 3/26—4/1	28
29	30 Scholastic Book Fair 3/26—4/1	31				

SAFETY/SERVICE

In January, Defer Safety/Service celebrated at the Pierce Pool. It was a freezing cold day and perfect for swimming in a warm pool. We enjoyed Faygo, and snacks together. Mr. Senska joined us as our Life-guard to supervise the safety of our swimmers. Thank you, Mr. Senska. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing swim. It was great to reward all these students for volunteering their time serving Defer on a daily basis.

Thank you to Mrs. Budziak and Mrs. Weidig for joining us at the pool and keeping everyone safe.

The Safeties are loving their hot cocoa to "Warm the Safeties." Thank you, PTO it is greatly appreciated.

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

Thank you,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-January

Safety: Peyton Grieser

Service: Grace Whitaker

Post Times

Safety: 8:10-8:20a.m.

3:35-3:45 p.m.

Service: 8:15-8:25a.m.

3:35-3:45p.m.

Late Start Monday

Safety: 8:50-9:05a.m.

3:35-3:45 p.m.

Service: 8:55-9:10a.m.

3:35-3:45p.m.

Safety Patrol Members check the weather before leaving their houses in the morning and if the weather is below 0° degrees with the wind-chill, then the Safety Patrol Members will not be at their posts.



Jump Rope for Heart 2015



Our Defer students have been jumping rope in physical education class over the past few weeks. Chinese jump rope, short ropes, long ropes, basketball jumping, and jump bands were a hit!

Thank you Defer families for donating on-line or sending in your pledge envelopes and fundraising for our 2015 Jump Rope for Heart event by February 27th.

The American Heart Association's thank you prizes should be at Defer sometime in April.



Stay Strong and Healthy!

Defer physical education staff would like to remind all our students to lead a healthy active life by eating healthy foods, exercising every day, and getting the proper rest for

August will be here again before you know it.....

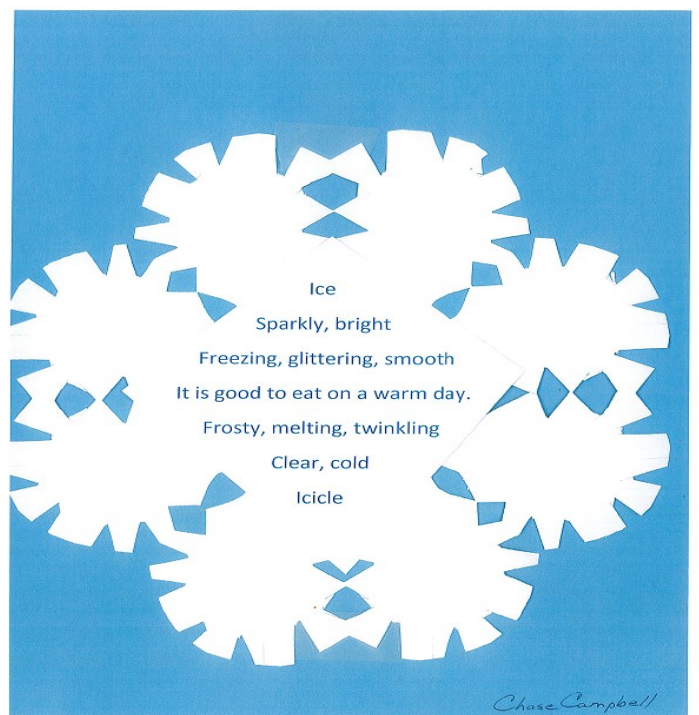
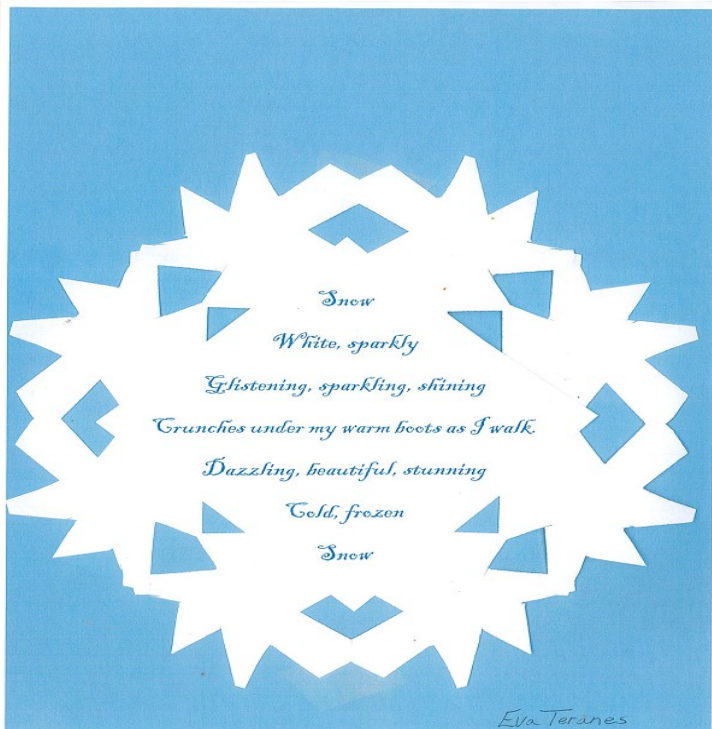
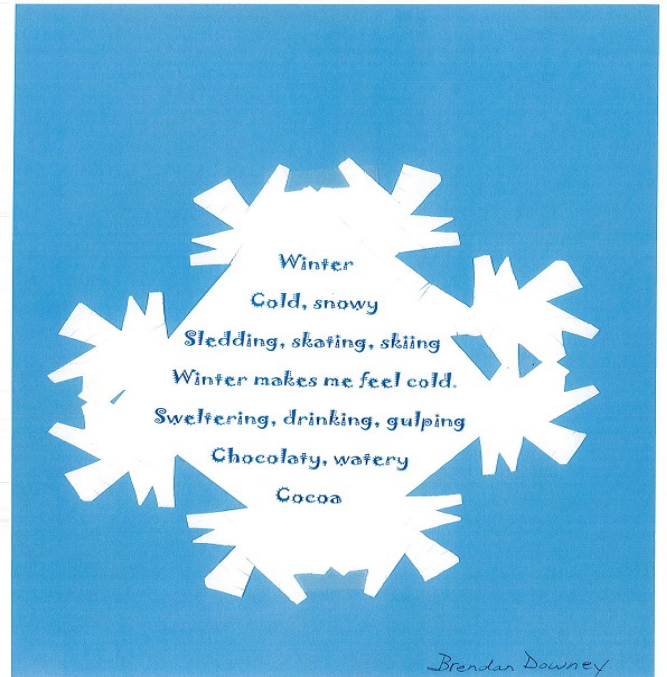
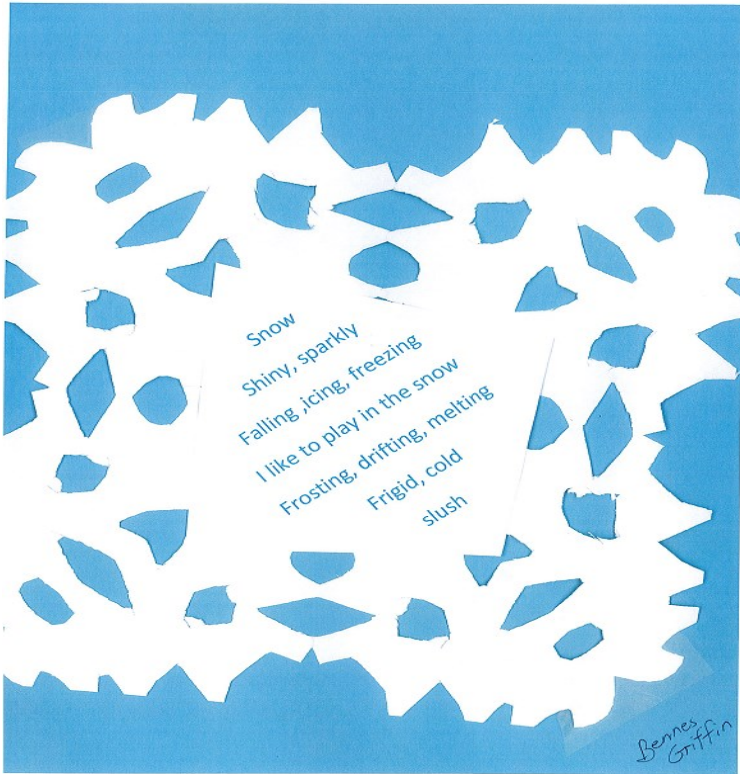
A few important reminders about online registration:

Online registration will be mandatory again this August. Please make sure all info phone numbers and emergency contacts are updated in MiStar.

Phone numbers in MiStar must be updated by July 24th, 2015 to be accurate in the student directory. Anything that needs to be changed after that will have to contact the PTO person in charge of the directory.

Summer School students will use the same K12 login access keys.

5th Grade Poetry Corner



Register by May 1 for Kindergarten

To be eligible to attend a Fun Transition to Kindergarten event at your neighborhood school! This gives us a snapshot of your child's learning needs. Each registered child that attends this event will be awarded a learning backpack with goodies to support summer learning!



Register today for Kindergarten

Register at the Administration Building
389 St. Clair, GP • 313-432-3083
No appointment necessary 8-4, Monday-Friday

Defer Elementary - 15425 Kercheval, GPP

Principal Karen Sullivan - 313-432-4000

Ferry Elementary - 748 Raslyn, GPW

Principal Gloria Hinz - 313-432-4100

Kerby Elementary - 285 Kerby, GPF

Principal Sara Delgado - 313-432-4200

Maire Elementary - 740 Cadiux, GP

Principal Sanja Franchett - 313-432-4300

Mason Elementary - 1640 Vernier, GPW

Principal Elaine Middlekauff - 313-432-4400

Monteith Elementary - 1275 Cook, GPW

Principal Keith Howell - 313-432-4500

Poupard Elementary - 20655 Lennon, HW

Principal Penny Stocks - 313-432-4800

Richard Elementary - 176 McKinley, GPF

Principal Mary MacDonald-Barrett - 313-432-4900

Trombly Elementary - 820 Beaconsfield, GPP

Principal Walt Fitzpatrick - 313-432-5000

Brownell Middle School - 260 Chalfonte, GPF

Principal Mike Dib - 313-432-3900

Parcells Middle School - 20600 Mack, GPW

Principal Dan Hartley - 313-432-4600

Pierce Middle School - 15430 Kercheval, GPP

Principal Chris Clark - 313-432-4700

Community Campus - 17006 Mack Ave., GPP

Kathy Dykstra - 313-432-5704

Barnes Early Childhood - 20090 Morningside, GPW

Director Student Services Stefanie Hayes - 432-3800

SERVE Volunteer Program - 313-432-3770

North High School - 707 Vernier, GPW

Principal Kate Murray - 313-432-3200

South High School - 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., GPF

Principal Moussa Hamka - 313-432-3500

All enrollment forms online
www.gpschools.org

The GP Nspire Talks

INSPIRING STUDENTS. INSPIRING IDEAS. INSPIRING OTHERS.

WHEN

FRIDAY, FEB. 6TH 2015 AT 7-10PM

WHERE

260 CHALFONTE AVE
GROSSE PTE FARMS, MI

MORE INFORMATION

This event will take place on stage in the multipurpose room of Brownell Middle School. Doors open at 6:00pm

@gnspire

Check out video, audio, images and more from the event and get a flavor for the inspiring ideas that kids have to share.

Email: gnspire@gmail.com Website: j.mp/gnspire



EVENT OVERVIEW

Students from the Grosse Pointe Public Schools, and several Metro Detroit schools, will come together to give a series of short and inspiring talks in front of a live audience. This event will benefit the [Michigan Eye Bank](#).

WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

The GP Nspire Talks will feature students delivering short and inspiring talks, which bring their ideas to life, in front of a live audience. This year, all of the talks will focus on answering the question: "What's your vision for ____?"



THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS!

1. [Grosse Pointe Public Schools](#)
2. [Galileo Consortium](#)
3. [Michigan Eye Bank's Millennial Council](#)
4. [University of Michigan Chapter of the Delta Gamma Foundation](#)

© Full Circle
Foundation

RAISE the ROOF

A Talent event ...

III

BENEFITTING OUR *Special*
NEEDS COMMUNITY



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 · 7 P.M.

Grosse Pointe War Memorial

32 Lake Shore Rd. • Grosse Pointe Farms

TICKETS: \$25 ADULTS · \$5 CHILDREN

Join us for **live, on-stage entertainment** showcasing the talents of our special needs community. Afterglow following in the ballroom.

You can purchase tickets at Full Circle Upscale Resale Shop, League Shop, Posterity Gallery or online at www.fullcirclefoundation.org • 313.469.6660

Sponsored by:



DEFER 90



EXPERIENCE AN EVENING OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS!!!

MARVELOUS MOVIE SHORTS,
EXTRAORDINARY LIVE ACTS,
REFRESHING REFRESHMENTS!!!

MARCH 27TH @ 6:30 ~ 8PM

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS...

**DEFER
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

**2014-2015
FEBRUARY:
Volume 11, Issue 5**

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



**UPCOMING
PTO
EVENTS:**

Feb. 10 PTO Meeting 7pm

Feb. 11 Student Count Day

Feb. 13 Muffins w/ Mom 8am

**Feb. 16-20
Mid Winter Break**



March 10 PTO Meeting

March 20 Donuts w/ Dad

**March 26, 27, 30, 31, April 1
Scholastic Book Fair**

March 27 Vaudeville Night

**Please join us for
"Muffins with Mom"**

**All Defer students who
are accompanied by
ANY adult, may enjoy a
quick morning snack
from 8-8:20am.**

**A great way to spend
special time together!**

DRAGON SPEAK:

The quality of the leadership team working on behalf of an organization is an essential factor in determining its success. The Defer PTO is no exception, and is in need of high quality individuals interested in serving our school so that it can continue to be an exceptional place to learn and grow.

Hopefully you have already noticed the call for individuals to serve on committees, and as members of the board. Serving in either of these capacities is a won-

derful opportunity to ensure a quality education for your child, to become actively engaged in making it happen, and to work alongside fellow parents that share your passion.



Even though we are in the throes of winter and the 2015/16 school year feels eons away, it actually isn't; in fact, we are actively working to create a slate of di-

rectors and to identify committee chairs. So, time of the essence, and we need to hear from you as soon as possible if you are at all interested in serving. Please email me:

michelehdodges@gmail.com.

Our 90th birthday year is in full swing, and great people are putting considerable effort into making it memorable. Why don't you join the team that will make certain another 90 years are in order?

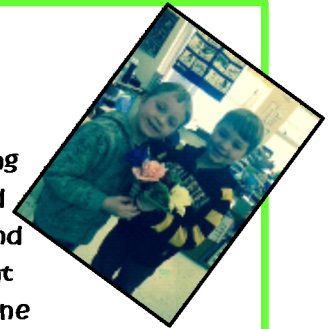
Michele Hodges
PTO President



Enriching Lunches

This year we have 13 parents, teachers and friends who are teaching 12 different classes. We have the perennial favorites of Legos and Computers, as well as some great new offerings- Italian, Chinese and Cupstacking. 200 Defer children are taking advantage of this great program and participating in the vast selection. Next time you see one of these volunteers, please make sure to thank them for their time and talent!

Elizabeth Tengler + Tracey Secco (Co-chairs)



CLASSES + TEACHERS

Mrs. Gout~reading + coloring
Mrs. Secco~Euchre + Italian
Mrs. High~knitting
Mrs. Raab~cupstacking
Mrs. Wagstaff~computers
Mrs. Xu~Chinese

Mrs. Doelle~Legos
Mrs. Tengler~science
Mrs. Humphrey + Mrs. Secco~yoga
Mrs. Vethacke + Mrs. Verjinder~Greenhouse
Mr. Kuhnlein~chess

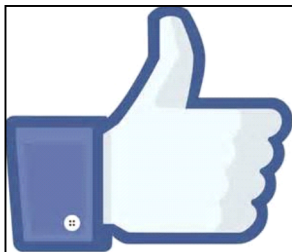


** I have been part of Lunchtime Enrichment for the past 6 years. I have always been amazed at how many people volunteer to donate their lunchtimes to spend time with our children...either to teach a new skill or to provide them time for an alternative to outdoor recess. Thank you to everyone who makes this program a success!!

~Elizabeth Tengler

THANKS ELIZABETH!!!!!!

ARE YOU MISSING OUT???



Our [Defer Elementary PTO](#) page on [Facebook](#) is a great way to stay connected to things going on at Defer, ask questions, see photos of PTO events, and have fun all in one place. All you need to do, is go to our page and "LIKE" us!!



Another great way to hear of all things Defer, is to join our [Yahoo Group](#). This is an email version of the above. Only important reminders & messages will be sent. Please send an email to tcnichaud@sbcglobal.net and request to be included. You will then receive (by email) an invitation to join the group.

P.T.O. Positions and Committees

**Below are the current PTO positions and committees
associated with the 2015-2016 school year.**

Please thoughtfully consider where you can volunteer your time and talents.

**Contact: Michele Hodges (michelelhodges@gmail.com) with your selection(s)
or return this form asap to the office with your interests circled.**

Please don't hesitate to ask for



more information.

Thanks, in advance, for your ef-

forts.

President

Euchre Night

Vice President

Fun Run

Treasurer

Gardening

Secretary

Lunch Duty

Communications

Market Day

Volunteers

Progressive Dinner

Hospitality

Bake Sales

Membership

Holiday Craft Fair

Fundraising

Publishing Center

School Board Observer

Pumpkin Patch

Historian

Waking School Bus

Spring Social Committee

Beautification

Morning Office Assistance

Clinic Volunteers

Fall Family Event

Scholastic Book Fair



Defer 90

will be creating a TIME CAPSULE this month!
During the month of February, students will be voting on

The students will also write a letter to their future selves. These letters will be kept and stored at Defer. It is our hope that in 10 years (at the 100th birthday party),



HANDPRINT BANNERS



The handprint banners each student at Defer made before Christmas are dried, decorated, strung and hung!!! A huge thank you to the many hands that made this possible. We hope you have had a chance to see these as you enter our main hallway. Each individual handprint is creative and unique. Together, they make a place where our community gathers beautiful! Can you find yours??



A special thanks to Mr. Doug for hanging each banner. We have dubbed him "Mr. February" for his hard work!!

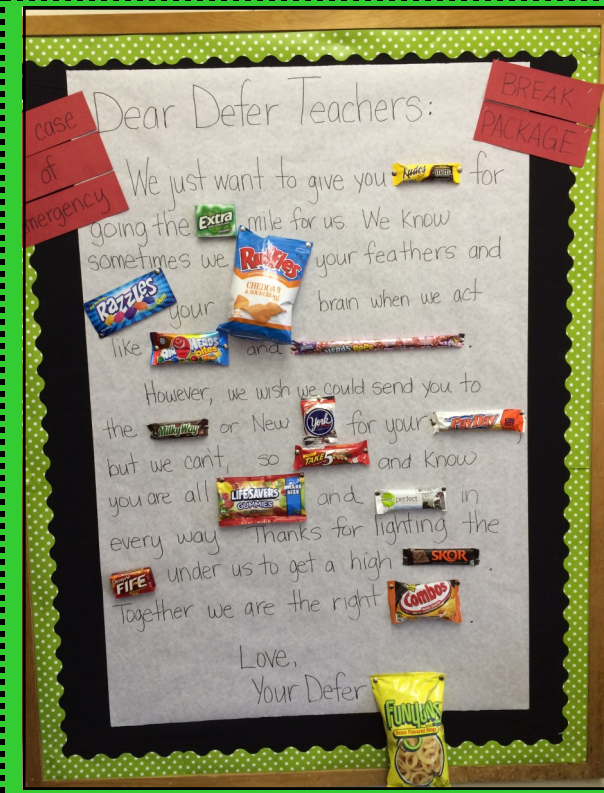




BINGO NIGHT



Thank you to all the families & friends that attended our 2nd Annual Family Bingo Night
Everyone had a great time & lots of prizes were awarded. A HUGE thanks to all of



SO SWEET!

Last month a note appeared in the Staff Lounge. Strangely, all items are missing!
Defer Teachers & Staff...you are amazing.