

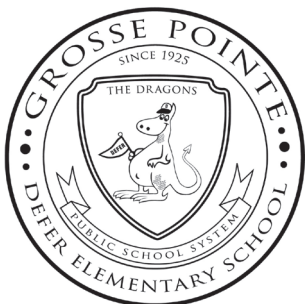
DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

JANUARY 10, 2014

Defer Elementary



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www.gpschools.org/defer

Dear Defer Families,

Welcome back and welcome to 2014! I hope all the Defer families had a wonderful holiday break filled with family, friends, and fun! We are excited to pick-up where we left off in our school year. I'd like to thank all the families that attended our December Student-Parent-Teacher conferences. It provided the opportunity to review student achievement and growth and to set goals as we continue the school year. We look forward to this continued progress as school and home combine efforts to help students grow as learners and thinkers. Your support in this process is essential.

Here are three great New Year Resolutions for families:

- Spend time reviewing your child's homework
- Be sure reading is going on every night in your home
- Practice basic math facts until they become as automatic as reciting your own name

5th Grade Parents

Pierce Middle School is beginning the orientation process for the in-coming 6th graders of the 2014-2015 school year. Please mark your calendar for the following events:

Thursday, January 16th: Pierce "Coney Night" in the Pierce Gym from **6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** Get to know your new school for next year!

Thursday, January 23rd: Pierce Middle School will be hosting a **Parent Night** for in-coming 6th Graders at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Pierce Auditorium.**

Thursday, January 23rd: Defer 5th grade students will meet in the Pierce Auditorium to learn about the middle school program for next school year.



3rd Grade Nook Night

Kindergarten Meeting for the 2014 – 2015 School Year

Parents of children who will be eligible (5 years old on or before November 1, 2014) for Kindergarten for the 2014 – 2015 school year are reminded that our Kindergarten Parent Information Meeting will be held in the Defer Library beginning promptly at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 16, 2014.

If you know of any current non-Defer parents who have Kindergarten-aged children, please be sure to have them contact our office as soon as possible so that we can give them information about the up-coming parent meeting and enrollment process. Thank you for your assistance with this as it really has an impact on our staffing and budgeting for next school year.

Grosse Pointe Public School System

Kindergarten 2014-15 Information Night



Head to your home elementary school

7 p.m., Thursday, January 16.

JANUARY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Winter Break Classes Resume 1/6						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library		Pierce Coney Night 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Kindergarten Parent Night 7:00 p.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	MLK Day NO SCHOOL		Market Day	Parent Night @ Pierce - 7:00 p.m. 5th graders visit Pierce	Staff Development NO SCHOOL	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			Safety/Service @ Pierce			



FEBRUARY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	12	13	14 PTO Muffins with Moms 8:00 a.m. - Gym	15
16	17	18	19 Market Day	20	21	22
Mid-Winter Break Classes Resume 2/24						
23	24	25 Technology Bond Election	26 Safety/Service @ Lakeshore Lanes Bowling	27	28	



Student Council

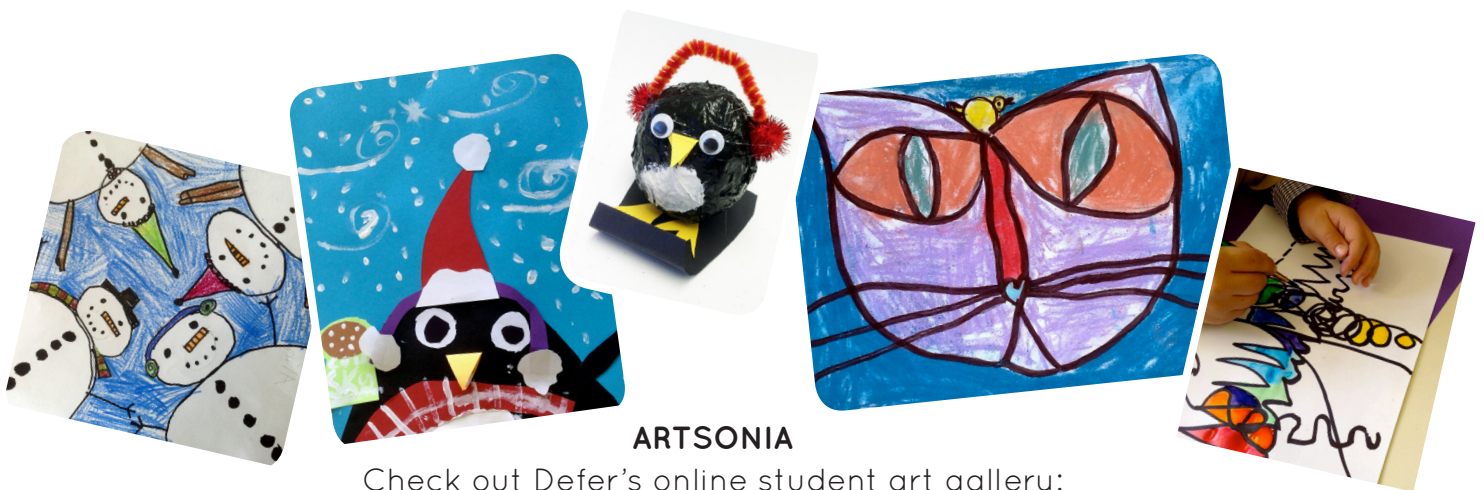
Jack Michaud, President of the Student Council, came up with an idea in early December to help the victims of the Philippines who are suffering as a result of Typhoon Haiyan. He presented his idea to the Student Council and it was decided (via a vote) that our Student Council would sponsor a Pajama Day to raise money for this cause. A goal of \$200.00 was set. Our Pajama Day was on December 19th and it is my pleasure to report that Defer School raised \$319.10! A check was sent to the Red Cross on behalf of the staff and students of Defer Elementary. Way to go, Defer! We appreciate your support immensely.

Soaring to PBIS Heights!!

Congratulations to the Defer Dragons!!! Our December Reward Party was attended by 98% of the students. Our students worked hard all month long to demonstrate school-wide behaviors that reflect respect, responsibility, and safety. During December students demonstrated these behaviors daily. Our Reward Party was an afternoon movie at Pierce on Thursday, Dec. 19th followed by a candy cane. A good time was had by all!!!

As a school our goal is for all students to attend the monthly Reward Party. When a student's does not earn the privilege a learning opportunity is provided for them during the Reward Party. These students meet with a staff member who reviews their behaviors from the month and provides instruction on interventions that would help the student achieve the expected behavior. A sub-committee of staff members and I met once a month to review each of these students and further interventions are provided to assist this child. For example, the student may be assigned a staff mentor who touches base with them regularly and discusses their behavior and the choices the student is making. All of this, is in an effort to achieve our behavior goals that support a respectful, responsible, and safe learning environment at Defer.

- Karen Sullivan



ARTSONIA

Check out Defer's online student art gallery:
<http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=40783>

www.deferart.com

Safety/Service

In December, Defer Safety/Service celebrated in the Defer Gym. We enjoyed Mr. C's pizza, drinks, snacks, and desserts together. Afterward we played an aggressive game of Turtle Soup. It was great to see the teams working together and encouraging each other to stay in the game.

Thank you to Ms. Panzenhagen, Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Reno, Mrs. Lapensee, and Mrs. Tengler for joining us and serving pizza.

Mr. Alan has been getting our water ready every morning for hot cocoa to "Warm the Safeties." Thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

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

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

Happy New Year,
Helen Srebernak

Member of the Month-October

Safety: Jordan Paton

Service: Emma Riley

Member of the Month-November

Safety: Katherine Bshara

Service: Noah Petropoulos

Member of the Month-December

Safety: Jake McBride

Service: Robert Byrd

SAFETY TIMES

MORNING POST	8:10 - 8:25 am
Mondays	8:50 - 9:05 am
AFTER SCHOOL POST	3:35 - 3:45 pm

SERVICE TIMES

MORNING POST	8:15 - 8:25 am
Mondays	8:55 - 9:10 am
AFTER SCHOOL POST	3:35 - 3:45 pm

WINTER RECESS REMINDER

Defer students go outdoors for recess two times each day throughout the school year unless it is raining hard or the wind chill is below zero degrees Fahrenheit. All students must have boots and snowpants to play on the field once the snow is on the ground - otherwise they must stay on the black-top areas. Please make sure your child comes to school dressed properly for the weather. We ask that you write your child's name on his/her gloves, hats, boots, and coat.



ANNUAL PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONEY DINNER



THURSDAY,
JANUARY 16, 2014

6:00-7:30 PM

Pierce Middle School's Faculty,
Student Body and PTO Cordially Invite
5th graders and their parents to attend our
Coney Night Exhibits, Club Activities,
Athletic Teams, Snacks by Life Skills,
Questions & Answers

Coney Dog	\$2.00
Ice Cream	\$1.00
Pop	\$1.00
Chips	\$1.00

***DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE BOOK FAIR IN
THE PIERCE LIBRARY 6:00-7:30 PM***

***Pierce 5th grade Parent Night
Thursday, January 23rd 7 PM Pierce Auditorium***

Digital Picks

*From your School Library
Media Specialist*



Please enjoy this month's educational, informational, and entertaining websites and apps...our "digital picks" reviewed and suggested by your Elementary School Media Specialists. We hope you find our reviews helpful and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

WEBSITE: <http://www.bookappalliance.com/>

This site is provided by a group of authors that create interactive books for kids. It helps parents confused with ebooks and book apps. Also tells how to find great apps for kids.

APP: Nstional Geographic Birds of North America Platforms: iPad and iPhone \$9.99

This is an interactive field guide. You can look at all of our winter birds in Michigan and more!

APP: Sushi Monster platforms: iPad, iPhone FREE

This is a game produced by Scholastic that lets kids practice their math skills!

Media Specialists

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

programs & presentations

Calendar of Events
Winter/Spring 2014

Register online at familycenterweb.org or call 313.432.3832

Thursday, January 23, 9-Noon @ St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, G.P. Woods **FREE**

Meet & Greet for Professionals

A gathering for school, mental health and other professionals working with youth and families. Plus: optional 45 minute complimentary Stress Management Workshop offered by Jill Wrubel, Family Center Association of Professionals member.

Thursday, February 6, 5:30-8:30pm @ Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores **FREE**

Ask the Experts Talks

Taking Care While Giving Care: Coping with the Challenges of the Sandwich Generation

An Ask the Experts Talks evening of **three** brief presentations:

"Survival Tips for the Sandwich Generation" with Sharon Maier and Heidi Uhlig

"The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia" with Barbara Roden

"Comfort Care: Understanding Palliative Care and Hospice Services" with Kathleen Blazoff

Plus: vendor information booths. 5:30pm: light food and refreshments also served.

Thursday, February 27 @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods **FREE**

Ask the Experts Multi-Program Night

Choose from **one** of **four** in-depth presentations:

6:30pm "Kindergarten Essentials - Ensuring a Successful

Transition for Your Child" with Pam Cronovich, Chris Miller and Melissa Sharp

7pm "Infant Massage: Learning the Language of Touch" with Emily Robson

7pm "Experience FAMILYoga" with Angela Hill

7pm "Building Better Brains - Teaching Strategies that Work for
Dyslexic and ADD Students" with Stephanie Cork

Thursday, March 20 @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods **FREE**

Ask the Experts Multi-Program Night

Choose from **one** of **three** in-depth presentations:

6:30pm "Self Defense for Mothers & Teen Daughters" with Ian Kinder of Live Safe Academy
(A Beaumont Mothers & Daughters Presentation)

7pm "Infant Massage: Learning the Language of Touch" with Emily Robson

7pm "Raising a Reader" with Stephanie Cork

Saturday, March 1, Noon - 3:00pm @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods **\$10/\$5**

LEGO Artists Challenge for students grades K-12

Pre-Registered Entries drop off: February 28, 5-7pm

New!! Featuring Play at The Robot Garage Display

\$10 Student LEGO Artists Challenge Entry Fee (includes Play at the Robot Garage Display)
or Play at the Robot Garage Display only (Student Fee \$5)



Sharon Maier



Barbara Roden



Melissa Sharp



Ian Kinder



Stephanie Cork

The
Family Center

Enriching Our Community Through Stronger Families

info@familycenterweb.org
familycenterweb.org

313.432.3832

More



ChariTea Bear



Gail Elliott-Patricolo



Lynn Kaiser



Michelle Balconi

Register online at familycenterweb.org or call 313.432.3832

Sunday, March 23, 1:00 -3:00pm @ Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores \$10

ChariTea Bear's Royal-Themed Tea Party

Calling all princesses and knights! Children accompanied by their favorite adults will enjoy a royal-themed dress-up Tea Party featuring special activities along with 'tea' refreshments, sandwiches and desserts.
Party Fee: \$10 per person.

Thursday, March 27 @ Barnes School, 20900 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods FREE

Ask the Experts Multi-Program Night

Choose from **one** of **four** in-depth presentations:

6:30pm "Finding Peace in a Stressful World" with Gail Elliott-Patricolo
(A Beaumont Mothers & Daughters Presentation)

7pm "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" with Lynn Kaiser

7pm "Experience FAMILYoga" with Angela Hill

7pm "Family Friendly Economics" with Michelle Balconi

Thursday, May 1, 9-Noon @ Grosse Pointe Academy's Lakeshore Parlor, 171 Lakeshore Rd., G.P. Shores FREE

Meet & Greet for Professionals

A gathering for school, mental health and other professionals working with youth and families. Plus: optional 45 minute complimentary Stress Management Workshop offered by Jill Wrubel, Family Center Association of Professionals member.



The Family Center is committed to enriching our community through stronger families. *Ask the Experts* programs and presentations address the entire spectrum of family life.

Articles appear weekly in the Grosse Pointe News and online

Presentations by leading practitioners and educators

Talks bring a group of speakers together on timely topics

Videos available online 24/7 and on DVD

The Family Center 20090 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods

The Family Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies solely on the support of community contributions.

Ask the Experts presentations have been approved by the Grosse Pointe Public School District and the Harper Woods School District for staff development hours. This flier has been approved for distribution within the Grosse Pointe Public School District and Harper Woods School District. Distribution of this flier does not constitute an endorsement of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Printing costs for these fliers are paid for by the sponsoring organization.

PARENT CORNER

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT - MATH

One of our most important school improvement goals in math is mastery of math facts. Mastery is defined as being able to recall the answer to 6×7 as quickly as you can remember your name. In 1st grade addition facts are the goal and 2nd grade expands that to include subtraction facts. By mid-year in 3rd grade and through 4th and 5th the focus is multiplication facts.


Often parents ask why it is so important that students have instant recall of math facts. There are two places in elementary school math where we lose kids: long division and fractions. Long division hits first... During one problem, they'll have to divide, multiply and subtract several times. Without knowing those times tables off the top of their heads, this will seem like an impossible task. I've had many, many college kids tell me that long division is what turned them into a life-long math-hater... Until I got a hold of them and changed their minds, of course!

There are some tricks that can help students as they put these multiplication facts into their memories.

The Best Trick

Every multiplication has a twin, which may be easier to remember. For example if you forget 8×5 , you might remember 5×8 . This way, you only have to remember half the table.

Tricks by Number

To Multiply by ...	Trick
2	Add the number to itself Ex: $2 \times 9 = 9 + 9$
4	Add the number to itself and then double Ex: 6×4 ($6 + 6 = 12$; $12 + 12 = 24$)
5	The last digit goes: 5, 0, 5, 0 Is always half of $10 \times$ Ex: $5 \times 6 = \text{half of } 10 \times 6 = \text{half of } 60 = 30$
6	If you multiply 6 by an even number, they both end in the same digit Ex: $6 \times 2 = 12$, $6 \times 4 = 24$, $6 \times 6 = 36$, $6 \times 8 = 48$
9	 Your hands can help! Ex: to multiply 9 by 8, hold your 8th finger down, and count "7" and "2", the answer is 72.

9 Tips for Parents That Will Help Us Keep Defer Running Smoothly

1. Please use the buzzer system to enter the building - For the safety of all, please don't hold doors open for parents to enter and for late students. We can't keep your child safe if we don't know who is coming into the building.
2. Please allow your child to come into the school on their own - We have been in school for over four months and all students can make it into the building alone and be independent. Coming into the building interrupts our morning meet and greet by our staff. For the safety of all, please do not enter the building when the bell rings.
3. Please greet your child outside at the end the day - Each classroom teacher has a dismissal procedure. Please wait outside for your child to be released at the end of each day.
4. Don't park in the parking lot - The parking lot is not intended for parking for morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up. Please park on Kercheval, Balfour, or Nottingham in areas designated for this.
5. Only using the Nottingham lane closest to the building for pick-up/drop-off - Please do not park in this lane. If you wish to park on Nottingham, you must use the south side of the street.
6. Cross Kercheval and Nottingham with a Crossing Guard - Please don't have your child cross between cars on Nottingham or down the street on Kercheval. There is constant traffic in this area and your child's life is being endangered as they weave between cars and dodge traffic.
7. Help your child be on time for school each day - Students that arrive late are missing out on important instruction and interrupt the learning of others.
8. Make after school plans before your child leaves in the morning - Be sure to establish what your after school procedures will be with your child. We cannot supervise students after school in our office. You will need to sign up for Kid's Club if you can't pick your child up at dismissal or make arrangements with another family.
9. Watch the weather- As the snow flies this winter, generally students will not be allowed on the field to play without wearing boots and snow pants. Mittens are lost on a daily basis. Considering labeling your child's outer wear.



Kudos to Defer PTO

December was a busy month for our fabulous Defer PTO! On Saturday, December 7th the PTO held its annual Holiday Craft Fair. Holiday crafts filled the gym as families moved from table to table and students created one-of-a-kind masterpieces. Christmas carols played in the background and hot chocolate and sweet treats awaited families after a hard morning of creating their holiday wonders! A very special thanks goes out to Kristi Kline and her team of volunteers who has orchestrated the Holiday Craft Fair year after year. Kristi will be sorely missed as her youngest moves on to middle school, but in true Defer PTO style, she is already working closely with Kym Kinsley who has stepped up as our 2014 Holiday Craft Fair chairperson.

December also brought our school-wide Book Fair run by the PTO and this year our chairpersons were Becca Ozar and Mary Beth Coffey. The Fair kicked-off at the Holiday Craft Fair and ran for the entire following week. Students had an opportunity to visit the Fair with their class as well as attend with their parents during the Craft Fair and during Parent/Teacher conferences. The excitement and joy that the gift of reading through the Book Fair brings into the building aligns with all of our school improvement goals. We can't thank the PTO enough for supporting all the learning that is going on every day at Defer.

On Line Registration is coming to GPPSS elementary schools in 2014

All Defer parents, Is your e-mail current with the school district? Like our secondary schools, the elementary schools are moving to a mandatory online pre-registration for all Grosse Pointe Public School students next school year. Your "access key" for the online pre-registration will be coming to you this summer via your current e-mail that is on file with the school district.

If you need to update your e-mail with the school district, log in to Parent Portal and click on "My Information" in the upper right corner.

You can also e-mail Parent.Connect@gpschools.org from your email we have on file, or call 313-432-3131 from the phone number in our records so we can verify who you are, and provide:

- your name
- child's name
- present school name and
- your old and new e-mail address as soon as possible.

We are asking families to do this by February 1 to ensure you receive registration communications in a timely manner. However, we always seek to have your most current contact information on file in case of emergency.

If you do not have an email address or access to a computer, please know that our school computer labs will be open and stations are available at the administration building, 389 St. Clair Avenue, to complete the online registration process.



Photos from the **PTO Craft Fair** on 12/7/13