

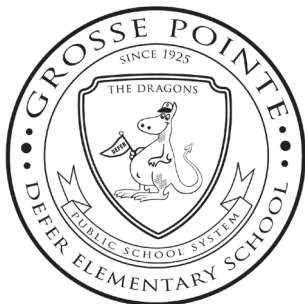
DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

OCTOBER 9, 2014

Defer Elementary



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www.gpschools.org/defer

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 has a tardy policy in place. Here's how it works:

- When a student has three times of being tardy in quick succession (with 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 students will miss their class recess on the day the 3rd tardy occurs.

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- If the student continues to struggle with tardiness, the principal will make a phone call home to talk to the parents about how tardiness is impacting the student, and to discuss ways to be on time. The student will again miss recess to help 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 when 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.

OCTOBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1			B 1 Student Count Day	C 2	D 3	4 PTO Progressive Dinner
5	A 6	B 7	C 8	D 9 PTO Pumpkin Patch	A 10	11
WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 10/6 -10/10						
12	B 13 4th grade to Lansing	C 14 PTO Meeting @Defer Library 7:00 p.m.	D 15 Market Day	A 16 Picture Retakes	B 17	18
19	C 20	D 21	A 22	B 23	C 24 PTO Haunted Garage 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	25
26	D 27	A 28	B 29 Safety/Service Kickball Game	C 30	D 30 HALLOWEEN 1/2 Day AM classes only	



Halloween schedule for the **morning** of Friday, October 31st.
 Parade @ 8:45 followed by classroom parties.
 Assembly — Basketball Jones - @ 10:15 in Gym
 Dismissal at 11:36 am
 No School in PM for students

NOVEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	A 3	4	B 5	C 6	D 7	8
Daylight Savings Time		Election Day No School				
9	A 10	B 11	C 12	D 13	A 14	15
		Veteran's Day PTO Meeting @ Defer Library 7:00 p.m.	Market Day Evening Conferences	NO SCHOOL AM, PM & Evening Conferences		
16	B 17	C 18	D 19	A 20	B 21	22
GPPSS Open House			Safety/Service TCBY			
23	C 24	D 25	26	27	28	29
		Records Day 1/2 DAY AM Classes ONLY	Thanksgiving Break 11/26 - 11/30			
30						



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, November 12th - Evening

Thursday, November 13th - A.M., P.M. & Evening



THIRD GRADE REV UP FOR READING

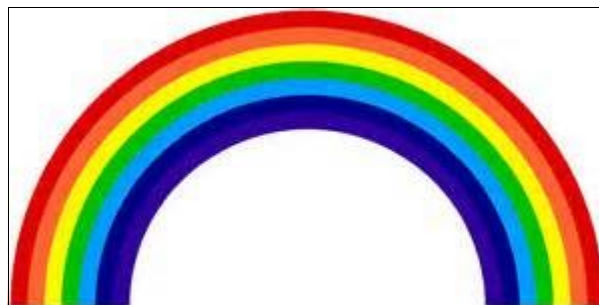
Good readers come in all shapes and sizes, but one thing that third grade readers know is that effort and enthusiasm are important. The third grade is holding a Rev Up for Reading Rally on October 15th. Each 3rd grade reader can bring an adult reader of their own to share an evening of tips & techniques, crafts and companionship as we rev our reading engines for a great year! Look for the muscle car on the front lawn as we start, take our mark, get set and GO!!!!

Dear Defer Families,

As part of our **90th anniversary celebration**, we want every child to feel like they are a part of the Defer family. This t-shirt is a **gift from the PTO** to each student. This means it is also a gift from you to your child. Through your continued support of the PTO and our fundraising efforts, we were able to purchase a t-shirt for every child. Thank you to Albatross Embroidery for their partnership.

Our hope is for these t-shirts to be worn throughout your child's time at Defer, year after year. Their color (and hopefully t-shirt!), will stay with them until 5th grade graduation. We encourage the kids to wear them for fieldtrips, field day, spirit days and more. Each grade has a specified color and together we create the rainbow. The rainbow is an amalgamation of light. A symbol of beauty, promise, and enlightenment; just like our students.

We strongly encourage you to label your child's shirt immediately with his/her name on the tag.



- Red: Kindergarten
- Orange: 1st Grade
- Yellow: 2nd Grade
- Green: 3rd Grade
- Blue: 4th Grade
- Indigo: 5th Grade

Picture retakes will take place Thursday, 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. Kaiser Studios will be here right after lunch.



SAFETY/SERVICE

This year we have 41 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 41 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. Brien and Mrs. Weidig 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 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
LUNCH POST	12:25 - 12:35 pm
Mondays	12:43 -12:53
AFTERSCHOOL POST	3:34 - 3:45 pm

Safety/Service Members of the Month - September
Safety: **Brendan Downey**
Service: **Gabriel Huttemann**

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

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

- 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, students will be asked to not wear it while they are in the parade or building. Another concern is safety, we do not want students to have any 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 make 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 questions 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 truly looking forward to another Halloween at Defer, and can't wait to see all of you along the parade route!



Halloween Safety Tips

- Always go haunting with an adult.
- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, NEVER on 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 strangers home, accept all treats at the door.
- Be cautious of animals, strangers, and flying saucers.
- All treats should be inspected by a grown-up before eating and sharing.



November Millage Requests are 25% of our Budget

On Tuesday, November 4, our community will decide whether to continue two millages. GPPSS staff members have been going to each building making informational presentations and answering questions at each of the Back to School Night, PTO and Booster meetings. These are key points:

- These two millages make up 25% of our district's budget (~\$25 million).
- These are continuations of existing millage tax levies, although the ballot language must say "increase" as the State sets the rate back to zero (0) when they expire.
- All of the funds raised remain within the Grosse Pointe schools for our students.
- The first proposal (homestead and non-homestead) funds program costs, technology tools, textbooks and other instructional materials.
- The second proposal is a 1 mill sinking fund to maintain our school buildings and update allowable technology. Sinking fund dollars cannot be used for salaries or other human resource expenses, but keep a majority of building repair and improvement projects out of the general fund.
- Both millage proposals are for a period of five years (2015-2019).

Presentations on our current balanced budget, these ballot proposals, monthly financial statements, Michigan school funding and the budget process have been made at televised Board of Education meetings (Comcast channel 20, AT&T 99 and online). Additional information, a list of Frequently Asked Questions, and the ballot language can be found on our district website www.gpschools.org under *Millage 2014*.

We encourage your questions on any topic related to our public schools, as the quality of education we provide directly impacts home values, the quality of life within our community, and the future of our children.

Please educate yourself on this important topic and **vote November 4.**

**DEFER
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

2014-2015

OCTOBER:
Volume 10, Issue 2

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



**UPCOMING
PTO
EVENTS:**

Walk to School Week

Oct. 6—10

Defer Pumpkin Patch

Thurs. October 9 3:30-6:30

Haunted Garage

Fri., Oct. 24 6-9pm

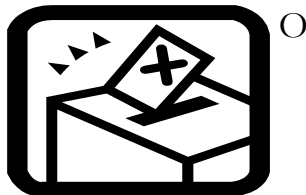


**Cutest Table
Award!!**



DRAGON SPEAK:

It is great to see so much hustle and bustle as our 90th school year takes off! We are clearly off to a wonderful start, thanks to your active participation, and our outstanding principal, teachers, and staff. Back to school night was a success, and we hope you enjoyed the talented Kevin Ozar. Have you been keeping your balloons in the air?



On another note, are you aware an election is coming this November? Voters will be asked to consider a millage renewal, and candidates for open seats on the school

board. It is not the PTO's job to tell you HOW TO VOTE, but we do need to encourage you TO VOTE, and to assist you in becoming an INFORMED VOTER.

To that end, please plan to attend the October 14th meeting of the PTO. We have invited school board candidates to attend (watch for details soon). This is your opportunity to learn more about each of them, and to gain knowledge regarding the millage renewal. These are important issues, so be sure to do your homework, and know we are pleased to offer this "study hall"(smile).

Quality leadership is why we've had 90 successful years. With your thoughtful contemplation and preparation before heading to the ballot box, we can expect our strong tradition to continue. Thanks for making Defer fantabulous, and here's to a year of working together to keep our many balloons aloft!

Michele Hodges
PTO President



**Have you been
keeping your
balloons in the air?**

PTO Meeting & Meet the Candidates Night

Please join us Tuesday, October 14th.

6:30pm SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES will be there and have
5 min each to speak with us. Be informed!!

Immediately after, Mrs. Sullivan will be presenting the PA-25 for
Defer School.

7:00pm PTO Meeting

Please come and support your community & school.



Please take a moment to
"LIKE" us on Facebook.

Get important announcements, see
pictures, ask questions and have
up to the minute details about
Defer PTO happenings.

Defer Elementary Alumni Facebook Page

By request, we have
created a Defer alumni Facebook page.
Please share this with other past Dragons!

"Like" Defer Elementary PTO



YAHOO!! A New School Year.

The Defer PTO will continue its PTO email distribution list to make it easier for parents to stay connected with what's happening at school. It is strictly used for announcements of school events, requests for volunteers at school events, and other important school-related information. If you have not signed up and wish to do so or need to change your email information, send an email request to:

deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you were a member of the group last year, you do not need to sign up again.

If you need help or have any questions about how to subscribe, you can contact

Christina Michaud
tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net



FOLLOW US on TWITTER
DeferElementaryPTO

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

October 6-10, 2014



Students are encouraged to walk to school every morning of **THIS** week to promote healthy living and also raise money for the **American Heart Association!**

Students can bring their loose change each day of the week and drop it off in their classroom. They will also get incentives for walking. Walking routes are along Kercheval from Whittier to Wayburn and down Nottingham and Balfour up to the school.

Thank you to our adult volunteers walking these routes.

We hope to see you out there!

Contact Kim Rhodes with any questions:
kimrhodes127@gmail.com

Haunted Garage Productions and the Defer PTO
invite you to

Mr. Williams Haunted Garage

Friday, October 24, 2014 from 6-9pm

19520 Mack, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

DONATION: \$9/person (students must be accompanied by paying adult)

Recommended Times: (K-1:6-7pm) (2-3:7-8pm) (4-5:9-9pm)

www.hauntedgarageproductions.org



We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to our Defer families. We had a great turnout at our first Defer Family Picnic and 75% of families have already joined the PTO this year. If you would like to become a member of the PTO, please stop by the office to pick up a form or contact: Becca Ozar at beccaozar@hotmail.com

Defer Family Picnic Pix





A great big Defer Dragon ROAR goes out to parent, Theresa Zuerblis, who volunteered to create a more welcoming entrance.

The mums and mom are beautiful!!
THANK YOU!!

Thank you!

Messages of THANKS are still being accepted for our TEACHER APPRECIATION bulletin board. If you have not done so already, please send a quick email to Christina Michaud or Sandy Adams
tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net james6440@att.net
and tell our Defer teachers what makes them so valued.

The many we have received have been so heartfelt. Defer Teachers are so appreciated for their love, guidance & energy. Let's tell them!

PTO PROGRESSIVE PARTY

87 DRAGON PARENTS HAD A GREAT TIME LAST SATURDAY EVENING. THANKS TO ATWATER BREWERY, VILLAGE WINE SHOP & CABBAGE PATCH CAFÉ FOR THE 'NEIGHBORHOOD DISCOUNT.' PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES, IN RETURN.

THE VETHACKE AND SQUITIERI FAMILIES DESERVE A SPECIAL THANKS FOR OPENING THEIR HOMES TO ALL FOR THE APPETIZER AND AFTERGLOW. THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DINNER HOSTS:

**LEMMON OZAR RYAN SQUITIERI MEAGHER/WARD
WIEGAND WEIDIG JOHNSON GRIESER SUMMERFIELD**

THE APPS & DESSERTS BROUGHT BY EAGER PARTY GOERS WERE DELICIOUS. THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING.

THIS NIGHT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE BEHIND THE SCENES CO-CHAIRS OF MATT HODGES & VIKAS RELAN.

**"FUN IS GOOD."
~DR. SEUSS**

