

# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

March, 2015  
Defer Elementary

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March is National Reading Month, and the Defer students and teachers have joined in the celebration! Guest readers will visit many classrooms in March to share their favorite book. Classrooms are silent each day as students curl up and read for sustained periods of time.

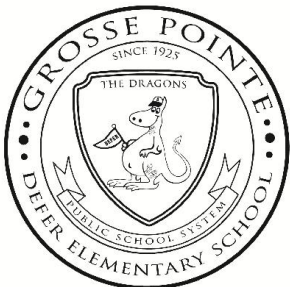
Reading together at home is extremely important for all children. You have the greatest influence on your child and you send a powerful message about not only the importance of reading, but the pleasure of reading when you read together. Try the following suggestions to make reading with your child both a fun and a learning experience.

**Make reading a priority.** Whether it's 20 minutes every night before bed or an hour every Sunday morning, it helps to set aside a specific time for reading.

**Choose the right book using the "five-finger rule".** When selecting a new book to read have your child open the book to any page in the middle and read that page. Keep track of how many words they don't know. If the child gets to five words before they finish the page, the book is too hard. If the child knows all of the words, the book is probably easy and is a good one to build reading fluency. If they don't know two or three words, the book is likely to be at a good level for their reading to grow.

**Create the right atmosphere.** Find a quiet place for your child to read. Your home is a busy place, but children need a 'reading spot' away from noise and distractions.

**Make reading fun.** There are lots of great a book that are filled with humor and that's always a 'hook' for children. Try 'hamming it up' a bit when reading at home. Play around with funny voices or acting out the scene you are reading.



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**Keep reading aloud to your child.** Don't stop reading aloud to your child once he/she learns to read on their own. When you do the reading, you allow your child to enjoy books that are beyond their independent reading level. Children learn new vocabulary, and it is a great chance for you to model reading smoothly and with expression.

**Introduce new books.** Sometimes one book will steal your child's heart and that is all they want to read. Remember, there are millions of books to enjoy. Ask a librarian or your child's teacher for a recommendation. Check out children's literature web sites.

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## Leader in Me

Has your child been using words and phrases like - *I'm going to be proactive. Let's put first things first! I think we should synergize around that topic and find a solution.* Or - *I'm going outside to sharpen my saw.*

Your students are speaking *Leader in Me!* As you know Defer has adopted four elements of the Leader in Me program this year. Each grade has studied their data and created a WIG (Wildly Important Goal) goal, each student is keeping a data binder of their work, each student is learning the 7 Habits of Happy Kids, and each classroom is using the Habit stories. Our goal is to build leaders at Defer, and it's working! We have now formed Assembly Leaders, Lunchroom Leaders, Peer Leaders, as well as our Student Council leaders. I'd like to share the work of our Assembly Leaders.

For the last two months we have held a *Leader in Me* assembly for the entire school run by our assembly leaders. Each of these assemblies focuses on one of the habits. In both assemblies students presented skits and asked the audience to decide how a *proactive* student would solve it in the first assembly, or what would have happened if they had *begun with the end in mind* in the second assembly. These students are taking ownership and they are proud of their accomplishments.

So, how do you support our Leadership goals with your child? Easy - the first step is for all parents to know the seven habits. Keeping them posted on the refrigerator and making them a part of your family conversation every day will help your child become a leader.

### 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

Sharpen the Wheel

# School Improvement

## *Four Areas of Intervention*

The Defer staff is committed to continuous improvement. *How do we meet the needs of our students? How do we maximize student learning? How do we support struggling learners?* Those are just some of the questions we ask ourselves daily and our efforts continuously focus around them.

So, what are some of the interventions going on right now for our learners? Let's take a look at four that are helping our students.

### Title 1 Support

Title 1 is a federally funded support program for our struggling learners. Mrs. Karen Labarge and her team of assistants, Mr. Stefan Harris, Mrs. Sheila Russo, and Mrs. Chris Hummel work with students every day. Their services are delivered in one of two ways: as a *push-in* supporting these students in the classroom or as a *pull-out* in which students receive direct instruction outside of the classroom by the Title 1 staff. Students qualify for Title 1 support in math and reading with some help given in writing.

### Reading Club

Reading Club is a district-wide program in which a Reading Specialist works with small groups of students who need additional support in reading. Mrs. Suellen Lohr along with Mrs. Kathleen McClannahan are the Reading Specialists at Defer. Students in grades 1 – 3 qualifying for this support meet every day for 30 – 40 minutes of additional reading instruction with our Specialists. For many students, getting this intense form of intervention in the early grades helps them to make large gains and become competent readers. Support is also provided in grades Kindergarten, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Homework Club

This opportunity is available to students identified by their teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5. Every Monday and Thursday from 3:45 to 4:30 a team of two Defer staff members along with South High School NHS students work with individual students to help with homework, drill on math facts, practice reading for fluency, and help do Math boxes. It is a joy to watch students as they greet their families at 4:30 and are excited to share all they accomplished during Homework Club!

### Fact Practice

One of our school goals is Math Fact mastery. A big measure of success in Math is based on the ability to know your math facts as well as you know your name. Students struggling in this area in grade 3 will be working with Mrs. Denison and Mrs. Eckert along with a parent volunteer in the computer lab four times a week to gain mastery. Starting shortly the same opportunity is being offered to our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders struggling in this area.





# Parent Notification & Opt-Out

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Michigan Attorney General's office will be conducting presentations on student safety featuring the Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative (CSI) and the student safety hotline, OK2SAY. The presentation will be given for Defer students in grades K- 5 on March 16, 2015.

The primary theme of the K – 1st grade presentation is the “3 Keeps.” Students are instructed to (1) Keep Safe by carefully guarding their personal information online; (2) Keep Away from Internet strangers; and (3) Keep Telling parents or a trusted adult about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. This presentation features videos from Common Sense Media that discuss import rules for being safe online and videos from Sesame Street that encourage children to seek the help of an adult they trust when faced with challenging situations like bullying.

In addition to the topics covered in the K – 1st grade seminar, the 2nd – 3rd grade students see two videos by BrainPOP Jr. The first video discusses the need to have permission to go online and to visit only sites where permission has been granted from a teacher or trusted adult. The second video emphasizes how to recognize and respond to a bully.

The 4th – 5th grade presentation teaches students to recognize common Internet predator grooming techniques, as well as additional appropriate responses to bullying and cyberbullying. Dynamic videos are provided compliments of SweetHigh, the Ad Council, the National Crime Prevention Council, ShakeState, and Ahmir.

Lastly, the students are introduced to the OK2SAY student safety hotline, which is an early warning program designed to prevent violence in schools before it occurs.

### **OPT-OUT INFORMATION**

**PLEASE RETURN your child to participate within the bottom of this sheet to your student's teacher BY MARCH 16, 2015.**

Sincerely,

Karen Sullivan

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do NOT want my child, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian name- PRINT) (Child's Name – PRINT)

to participate in the Michigan CSI/OK2SAY Internet Safety Presentation.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2015 ILLUMINATE—Camp Invention

Camp Invention is where BIG ideas become the next BIG thing! Join us as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year of reinventing summer fun!

In partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame, **Grosse Pointe Public Schools** is pleased to offer the nationally-acclaimed Camp Invention program to children entering grades one through six.

It's an exciting, weeklong summer adventure with lessons that explore connections between science, technology, engineering and innovation. Children will work together to seek solutions to real-world problems, turn ordinary into extraordinary and sharpen critical 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills while rotating through several fascinating modules.

In the *KartWheel™* module, children let their engineering skills glide them across the finish line as they build, enhance and upgrade their very own freestyle racing cart. Boys and girls will explore what it means to prototype a product from scratch as they become an entrepreneur during the **Design Studio: Illuminate™** module. In the *I Can Invent: Next Level Gamers™* module, participants will take apart broken or unused appliances using real tools to create a physical video game model in the 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension! Finally, in the *Inducted™* module, personalized video challenges from National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees are introduced along with hands-on activities like constructing super-structure mega-towers, assembling out-of-this-world space rockets and so much more!

Local educators will facilitate program modules and enthusiastic high school and college students will serve as Leadership Interns ensuring that one staff member is in place for every eight children.

**Register on or before March 20, 2015 to receive \$25 OFF the base price of \$260.** Every registration includes a complimentary Camp Invention t-shirt. Availability is limited, so visit [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org) or call 800.968.4332 to secure your child's spot today!

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### SAFETY/SERVICE

In February, Defer Safety/Service celebrated their work at Lakeshore Lanes for a bowling extravaganza. It was wonderful. Everyone bowled two games and enjoyed pizza and pop. We have some very good bowlers at Defer; our top bowlers were Ben Domzalski with a 93 for the boys and Chelsea Green with a 87 for the girls.

Thank you to Mrs. Brien, Mrs. Budziak, Mrs. Cielieska, Mrs. Weidig, Mrs. Whitaker, and Mr. Moorhead for transporting us to Lakeshore Lanes. A special thanks to all of them for joining us and making sure everyone was on their best behavior to represent Defer Elementary School.

Thank you to the PTO for supporting "Warm the Safeties." Thank you, they really need it for this cold winter!! If you see a Safety/Service doing a good job, please tell them.

Thank you,  
Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-February  
**Safety: Eva Teranes**  
**Service: Blair Cromwell**

## Defer 2015 Jump Rope for Heart Event

Defer students know how to stay active! The month of February in physical education classes all Defer students were involved in learning about keeping their hearts healthy. Our Jump Rope for Heart event was again successful!!! From kindergarten to fifth grade our students learned how to use a Chinese jump rope, jump sticks, individual jump roping, partner jump roping, long jump roping, hurdle jumping, and basketball jumping. Staying active is important for your heart and your health. Jump roping is a great activity that helps keep your body strong.

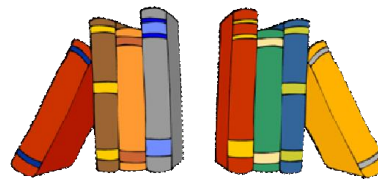
Many thanks to our Defer families that donated on line or made donations to the American Heart Association with their pledge envelopes. The American Heart Association thank you prizes will be delivered soon.

Defer Elementary raised \$1,342! The Heart Hero duck pond in the gym was full of student names from all the donations. Congratulations!



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## March Library News



March is Reading Month, and the Defer Library thanks all the boys and girls who entered our Bookmark Contest. We had so many wonderful entries that it was hard to choose winners! Congratulations go to our 2015 winners:

Lily O. (K)

Isabella L. (Gr.3)

Nicholas O. (Gr.1)

Ema E. & Natalie C. (Gr4)

Josie D. (Gr2)

Peyton G. & Lukas B. (Gr. 5)

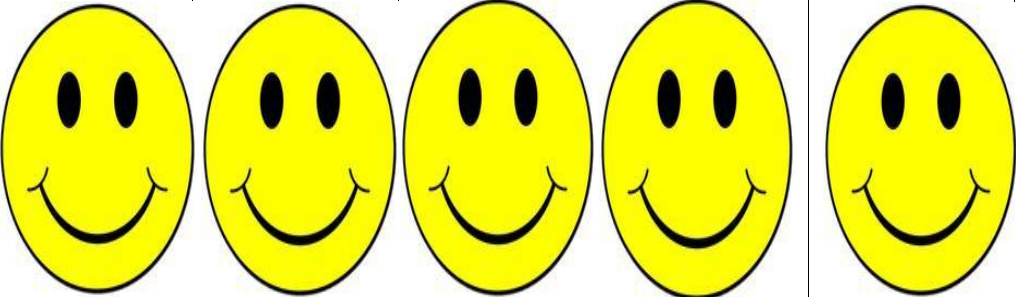
**Stop by the library to see these terrific bookmarks!**

Celebrate Reading Month!

# March 2015

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

# April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Spring Break Begins	4
			Scholastic Book Fair 3/26-4/1			
5						11
12	13	14 PTO Meeting 7 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Instrumental Concert 7 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29 Safety Service Swim 3:50-5:15 pm	30		





## What is Yellow?

Yellow is the color of a gold finch.

The sun that's thousands of miles away.

Sunflowers that bees hang around by.

The yellow leaves that fall on to the ground in October.

At night when the stars are out and the moon is shining bright.

Fireflies that fly all night.

The pencil that we use in our everyday school life.

That yellow cat down the block.

The brightest highlighter of them all.

Yellow is part of the google corm symbol.

Popcorn that is so yummy with yellow butter on it.

Speaking of butter, what about butterscotch candy?

The banana peels that monkeys throw on the gowned.

Campfires that last all night.

Butter that goes on to our toast.

Shiny gold that miners find in the deep mines.

Corn that the squirrels munch all day on.

Mrs. Cross's dog Lola who is so happy.

The sour lemon used on fish.

The beautiful sunset on the beach.

Rubber duckies that swim all day.

The yellow minions from Despicable Me.

And these are some of the things that are yellow.

By Peyton Grieser

## What Is Green?

Green is the primary color of MSU.



Green is also the color of Bryan's daily shoes.



Green is the color of grass when it hasn't died.



Green is the color of leaves in summer and spring.

Green is The Wally's huge fire truck.

Green is tastiness of a Granny Smith apple.

Green is the color my classes small class point chart.

Green is the freshness of a green mint.

Green is the primary color of the Norsemen.

Green is the brightness of a sour grape.

Green is the beauty of Defer.

Green is the bottom color of a stop light when it's time to go.

Green is the Primary color of the Green Bay Packers.

Green is also the one of the bright colors of roshes. These are all the thing that are green.

James Borowicz

## What Is Red?

Tyler Brien

Red is Bucky Badger's shirt.



It is a big juicy apple.

Red is the colossal fire truck at the police station.

Red is a red pen that you write with.



It is the stop sign you stop at.

It is the red roses at Rosary Gardens.

It's the shiny red ruby at the museum.



It is Santa's suit when you see him.

It is the Detroit Red Wings uniform.

It is red leaves in the fall.

It's the Kansas City Chiefs uniform.

It is the bricks that builders use.

It's the inside of a watery watermelon.



It is a red balloon you get at the carnival.

It is the Wisconsin Badgers uniform.

It is the Wisconsin W.

# 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 Roslyn, 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

**Poupart 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](http://www.gpschools.org)

# DEFER 90

PRESENTS.....



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...

**FREE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

(BRING A FAMILY BLANKET TO SIT ON!!)

- POPCORN & WATER WILL BE SERVED FREE OF CHARGE
- PLEASE EAT DINNER PRIOR TO ATTENDING

**DEFER  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

**2014-2015  
MARCH:**  
Volume 11, Issue 6

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



**UPCOMING  
PTO  
EVENTS:**

**March 10** PTO Meeting 7pm

**March 20** Donuts w/ Dad  
8-8:20am  
Students may come with ANY special adult to this event.

**March 25-26** Conferences

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

**March 27** Vaudeville Night



**Please join us for  
"Donuts with Dad"**

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

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

**DRAGON SPEAK:**

Your PTO is interested in your opinion as it works to ensure Defer has the best possible learning environment. Thanks to your generosity, we have resources to expend, and we need your help in determining how they are allocated. You are our customer, after all, so shouldn't you guide us to what will please you?

Should we purchase technology? Teacher support tools? A sound system? Paint? Green house renovation? Gardens? Supplies? Lunchtime enrichment programming? Child care? A carpeted playground? That last one is a joke, obviously, but hopefully it makes the point that all options are on the table and, if there is enough interest in any one thing, you can be certain your PTO will pursue its fruition.

**WE'RE ALL EARS!!!**




On a related note, we realize incessant fund raising is most annoying, so we are also seeking your opinion on which initiatives are least obtrusive, and most palatable to you. Events, as well. We'd really like to know which you prefer as we consider how to keep them simple, yet meaningful.

Your chance to convey your opinion is coming soon, and we hope you will make every effort to complete the survey that will be shortly arriving in your inbox. Have a great March!

Michele Hodges PTO President





**DONUTS with DAD**  
**Friday, March 20th**  
**8-8:20am**

**\*Defer students are invited to bring  
ANY special adult & enjoy  
a very sweet morning.**

# DISABILITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, MARCH 31(AM/PM shifts)

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Please consider donating your time to help the 4th graders experience this very worthwhile day. Students learn compassion, empathy and gain knowledge about individuals that are differently-abled.  
(visual/auditory impairments, physical & cognitive limitations, etc)

We need lots of volunteers (even those w/o 4th graders!).  
Please check your calendar and sign up below.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ca5af2fa5fb6-disability>

