

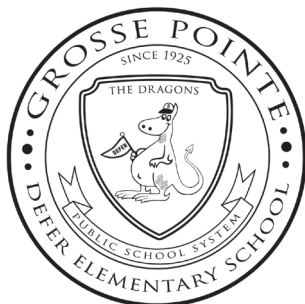
DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

Defer Elementary



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www.gpschools.org/defer

Welcome to the 2014 - 2015 school year!!! We are off to a great start! The staff and I are eager to set our learning plan into motion. Our mission is simple - *Every Student learns Every Day*. We believe that, we plan for that, and we work hard to be sure it happens every day.

So what's going on right now at Defer?

- Last Thursday, Sept. 4th was our *Back-to-School Night*. It was a great opportunity for parent to learn about their child's learning program, get a *feel* for the culture of Defer, and learn about our parent organization, the Defer PTO. If you were unable to attend please contact your child's teacher. They'll be glad to *fill you in*.
- This year the Defer staff will be implementing four aspects of the *Leader in Me* program in all classrooms. *Leader in Me* is a program based on Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective Adults*. The four habits we are piloting include: learning the 7 Habits, reading the *The 7 Habits of Happy Children* book in all classrooms, having students set goals and track their own data toward that goal all year in a data binder, and finally set a grade-level goal. These grade-level goals, called WIGS - *Wildly Important Goal*, will be posted in the main hallway and progress toward those goals will be charted throughout the year.
- Building relationships - Teachers are getting to know your child. That's really what's going on right now at Defer. They are planning activities that help them get to know each child as an individual. One of our *PBIS* procedures in *Morning Meet and Greet*. Your child's teacher meets every student at their door each morning and engages them in a morning welcome. From a simple, *How are you today* to *What happened last night in your soccer game* - The Defer staff is busy engaging students in conversation. The goal is to build a relationship, a relationship that is the stepping stone for our students to learn, even when it is difficult, because they know their teacher cares.

continued on p. 2

- Establishing routines – Part of being ready to learn means that you feel safe. Knowing what the routines are in classrooms builds that safe environment for learning. *Where do I put completed homework? How do I fill my book bin and where do I keep it? What time is Gym and when day is Art? What nights do I have math homework?* Right now the Defer staff is teaching students the routines of the school year.



Defer students on the first day of school

F4 DAYS (First 4 days)

The Defer students kicked off the 2014 – 2015 school year by using the first four days for building a sense of culture, a sense of belonging. As a school we focused on PBIS – *Positive Behavior Intervention System* – on each of the four days. Students in grades 1 – 5 were formed into *Dragon Dens* and each teacher in the building worked with a cross-grade level team each of the four days. *Dragon Den* discussions focused on the three *pillars* of PBIS – *safety, responsibility, and respect*. On Friday all *Dragon Dens* met in the gym to review F4 Days and then set outside to face a team challenge. *Could your whole Dragon Den pass a hula- hoop around a circle with all arms connected?* Our challenge moved outside at the end of the day and Dens not only rose to the challenge, but joined other Dens to extend the team work.

Our *Dragons Dens* were so successful that the staff hopes to continue building school-wide culture through them this year. They will be a part of our *Leader in Me* work as well as *PBIS*. The real impact to your child is that instead of just being linked to his classroom teacher and classmates they are linked to whole other set of students from a variety of grades across the school and to another staff member – their Den leader. Building these relationships helps a child experience school success. Be sure to ask your child about their *Dragon Den*.

SEPTEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 A	2 B	3 C	4 D Back to School Night 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	5	6
7	8 A PTO Meeting @ Defer Library 7:00 p.m.	9 B	10 C Picture Day	11 D	12 A PTO Family Picnic @ Wind- mill Pointe Park 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	13
14	15 B	16 C	17 D	18 A	19 B	20
21	22 C	23 D	24 A	25 B	26 C	27 PTO Family Fun Movie Night Movie Starts @ 8:00 p.m.
28	29 D	30 A				



PTO Family Fun Night

Outdoor Movie - "Muppets Most Wanted"

Saturday, September 27th @ Defer
7:00 p.m. - Concessions open
8:00 p.m. - Movie starts

FREE ADMISSION



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 PTO Meeting @ Defer Library 7:00 p.m.	C 8	D 9	A 10	11
12	B 13	C 14 PTO Pumpkin Patch	D 15	A 16	B 17	18
19	C 20	D 21	A 22	B 23	C 24	25
26	D 27	A 28	B 29	C 30	D 30 HALLOWEEN 1/2 Day AM classes only	



PARENT POWER

Each month our newsletter will include a *Parent Power* article. It will be a few tips for what parents/guardians can do to support their child that month at school.

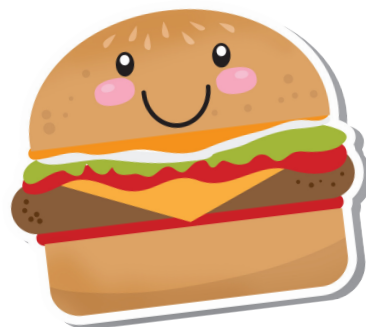
September's Tips:

- Let your student know that you value education as an important part of his/her future. Talk about your child's future. Discuss going to college and what they might be interested in studying.
- Communicate with your student's teachers and let them know you want to be involved. Ask questions if you don't understand a procedure or an assignment.
- Check your student's school planner regularly for homework assignments. Students in grades 2 - 5 will use planners this year. This is a great guide.
- Talk to your student about their day at school. Ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer.
- Know your student's friends and their families. *Come to the Defer Family Picnic Friday, September 12th at Windmill Pointe Park.*

You're Invited - was the message Kevin Ozar, a parent of a 3rd grader and Kindergarten student at Defer, sent out at our Back -to-School Night. The gym was filled with gales of laughter at parents struggled to keep inflated balloons aloft. His message wasn't really about balloons though, it was about our students. It truly takes all of us to keep them *aloft*. His message was that all of us are a part of the Defer community.

So, *you're invited!* **The Defer community is having a picnic this Friday, Sept. 12th at Windmill Pointe Park and you're all invited.** Bring your dinner and bring your family to meet other Defer families. Meet families you don't know yet and join together as the Defer family.

You're invited - I hope I see you there!
- Karen Sullivan



DEFER CHOIR

Does your child like to sing, dance and perform?? The Defer Choir is just the ticket for success in music! The 4th and 5th grade choir will be starting up on Tuesday, September 16, during lunch recess from 11:55-12:30. It is open to all current fourth and fifth graders interested in joining a group that loves to sing, dance and perform together. There will be a choir registration letter going home soon, so look for it in your child's backpack. I am looking forward to a wonderful year of music with the students! If you have any questions, just send me an email at Elizabeth.Moses@gpschools.org.



MARKER RECYCLING @ DEFER

This year, Defer is participating in the Crayola ColorCycle program. This amazing new program devised to turn used markers into energy! All around Defer students and teachers will be collecting used markers that are ready to be discarded. The markers will be sent to a facility where they will be converted into clean fuel. This fuel can be used to power vehicles, heat homes, cook meals and more!

Please help support our efforts by sending your kids in with any used markers you may have around the house - even non-Crayola brands, dry erase markers and highlighters can be recycled. A special drop-off box is locating in the art room.

Thank you in advance for participating! With the help of parents like you across the country, the Crayola ColorCycle program can keep tons of plastic out of landfills each year.



SPANISH NEWS

Dear Parents and Guardians:

My name is Sara Powrozek and this is my second year as the Spanish teacher here at Defer Elementary. I am a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy with a degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in mathematics and Spanish. I will be teaching third, fourth, and fifth grade Spanish on A, B, C and D days in the mornings. I am very excited to be here!

It is my goal to teach your child Spanish in an engaging manner and I will incorporate many different types of activities into my lessons which will include Spanish culture, art, music and games. Students should come prepared to class by bringing their Spanish folder and a pencil. I encourage students to bring their folders home and practice Spanish outside of school.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. My email is sara.powrozek@gpschools.org and my voicemail is 313-432-5200. I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,
Sara Powrozek

DEFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2014-2015

SEPTEMBER:
Volume 10, Issue 1

P.T.O. DRAGON TAILS



UPCOMING PTO EVENTS:

PTO Family Picnic (6-8pm)

Fri. Sept 12

Family Fun Night

Sat. Sept 27

PTO Progressive Dinner

Sat. October 4

Defer Pumpkin Patch

Tues. October 14

PTO Meeting @ 7pm Oct. 14

Defer Library. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Happy Birthday Defer!!

1924-2014



DRAGON SPEAK:

CAKE!!!!!!! OK, now that I've got your attention, I would like to warmly welcome you to the 2014/15 school year, here at our wonderful Defer Elementary School. This year will be special, because we get to celebrate our 90th birthday all year long and, yes, there will be CAKE (hopefully lots of it).

Did you know Defer was built in 1924 atop a rhubarb patch, which was part of the Ludwig Meininger Farm? That's a nifty fact, huh? In honor of it, our students will be served rhubarb at lunch every day. Rhubarb pancakes, rhubarb topped pizza, rhubarb slaw, rhubarb ice cream, rhubarb smoothies, rhubarb nuggets.....do we have the attention of your taste buds now? Well, maybe serving rhubarb isn't such a good idea if this PTO wants to stay in business but, it would be amusing, that's for sure.

Seriously, though, we DO have a LOT to celebrate, and we get to do it together, united, as an exceptional corps of parents and educators. Watch for many fun activities, all of which are geared toward raising friends, and funds, both of which build a strong school.

For starters, the iconic Defer Progressive Dinner will occur on October 4th, and the FREE Outdoor Family Movie Night on September 27th, here on the Defer grounds. Please be sure to enjoy these events, and renew old friendships, while building new.



Through events such as these, the generous donations of our PTO members, and the hard work of many, the Defer PTO has been able to fund teacher requests, support family needs, purchase air conditioning, lockers, smart boards, playscapes, and so much more. We salute those that make these accomplishments reality, and who serve with enthusiasm, and generosity.

We need everyone on board, along with your multitude of talents that can come in many shapes and sizes. Maybe you are a graphics whiz, a fund raiser, an event planner, a garden-

er, a painter, an artist, a donor, a baker, a cook, a volunteer, an educator, or maybe you just LOVE Defer students and want to do something, anything, to make our school grand. Whatever your forte, whatever your love, whatever classroom you represent, whatever street you live on, whatever, whatever, whatever, we want YOU. Know you will be warmly embraced, so get on board, and feel the power of the Defer family.

My hat is off to you all for committing to the education of your child, and for being an important part of the team that strives for educational excellence. Special thanks to fellow PTO board members, our principal and teachers, students, and George Defer himself, who was a trustee and president of the Village of Grosse Pointe, and later a state senator.

CAKE. I like the frosting. Who likes the cake? I want to sit by you. Smile. Happy 90th Defer! Let's get this birthday celebration started!

Michele Hodges

PTO President

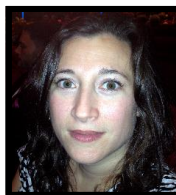
2014-15 PTO Board Members



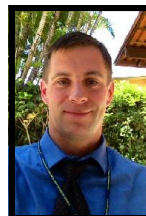
President: Michele Hodges
4hodges@sbcglobal.net



Vice President: Renee Palazzolo
renee.palazzolo@aam.com



Treasurer: Emily Summerfield
emilysummerfield@yahoo.com



Secretaries: MaryBeth & Ryan Coffey
mbcoffey@att.net



Past President: Matt Hodges
Matthew.hodges@shawinc.com



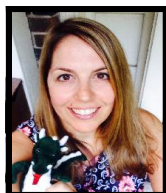
Membership: Becca & Kevin Ozar
beccaozar@hotmail.com



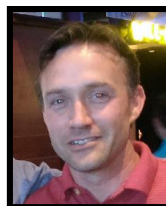
Volunteers: Melony Johnson
lenmel@comcast.net



**School Board
Observer: Sue Vethacke**
smvethacke@comcast.net



Hospitality: Rachel Fermani
rfermani11@gmail.com



Fundraising: Aaron Oestreich
aaronoestreich@gmail.com



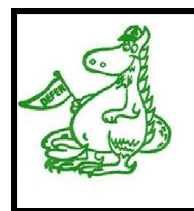
**Communications:
Christina Michaud**
tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net



Faculty Rep: Janette High
Janette.high@gpschools.org



Principal: Karen Sullivan
Karen.sullivan@gpschools.org



YOU!!!!
Members at Large

Please join us each month on the 2nd Tuesday @ 7pm in Defer's Library.
We welcome any questions or concerns you may have but mostly encourage you to attend to find out what is happening at our school and to meet other parents/teachers.
Our next meeting is October 14th.

Facebook and Yahoo and Twitter...Oh My!!

The goal of the PTO Communications committee is to get YOU important information as quickly and efficiently as possible. Therefore, we will send communications in a variety of ways and hope that you can follow the yellow brick road and choose any/all that suit you.

Please take the time to quickly set up an account with any/all of the options below. If you need assistance, click your heels together 3 times and say, "There's no place like Defer!" then contact:

Christina Michaud (tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net)



"Like" Defer Elementary PTO



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!

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@yahogroups.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

The Twitter logo, featuring the word "twitter" in white lowercase letters and a white bird icon, set against a blue rectangular background.

FOLLOW US on TWITTER
DeferElementaryPTO

Defer Volunteer Vibe

A random media tool to communicate volunteer happenings at Defer Elementary



Let's Go DRAGON Volunteers!

Welcome Back To School and Welcome Back To Volunteering for Defer Dragon events!!! We all know Defer Events are the funnest for kids and super fun to work! Come on out and join the Defer Dragon Volunteers!

Don't Delay...Volunteer Today!!! Did you miss the on-line Volunteer list this year? Prefer Pen and Paper...No worries we have pink-paper volunteer forms in the office! Please stop by, fill out the pink volunteer and leave with the great office staff.

If you volunteer to assist in **just one activity**, you will help out tremendously!!

Did you Know: 135 Defer Families registered this school year to volunteer via the on-line volunteer form!
[estimated 45% volunteer rate assuming registration of 300 families]!

The Defer PTO wants to say thank-YOU to all our Event Chairperson(s). Without you are great Defer Community Events would not be possible. Take a look at our Chairperson(s) below and be sure to contact them with how YOU can help too!

Event	Chairperson	Email Address
Defer 90 th Birthday Celebration	Christina Michaud	tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net
Morning Office Support	Taryn Isaacs	tarynleisaacs@gmail.com
Clinic Volunteer	OPEN – could be YOU!!	Lenmel@comcast.net
Lunch Assistant	Dori Downey	dadowney@aaamichigan.com
Publishing Center	Kellie Finger	kelliefinger@yahoo.com
Art Show	Mrs. Makowski	Stefani.makowski@gpschools.org
Bake Sales	Courtney Bocci Rachel Fermani	courtcat@gmail.com rfermani11@gmail.com
Beautification Committee	Christina Michaud	tcmichaud@sbcglobal.net
Book Fair	Mary Beth Coffey Becca Ozar	mbcoffey@att.net beccaozar@hotmail.com
Fall Event	Jennifer O'Bryne Renee Palazzolo	Obyrne.jennifer@gmail.com Renee.palazzolo@gmail.com
Defer Wear	Vikas Relan	wendyandvikas@yahoo.com
Disability Workshop	Michelle Kramer	mekmlk@att.net
Euchre Party	Charlie Palazzolo Mike Vethacke	charliepalazzolo@aol.com smvethacke@comcast.net
Field Day	Ryan Coffey	rkcoffey@att.net
Fun Run	OPEN – could be YOU!!	lenmel@comcast.net
Gardening	OPEN – could be YOU!!	lenmel@comcast.net
Holiday Prep and Holiday Event	a. Aimee Miller b. Open co-chair!!!	amcmiller@att.net
Hospitality	Rachel Fermani	rfermani11@gmail.com
Lunchtime Enrichment	a. Elizabeth Tengler b. OPEN – could be YOU!!!	b-beth@sbcglobal.net
Market Day	Don Kuhnlein	donlar@comcast.net
Progressive Dinner	a. Matt Hodges b. Open Co Chair –	4hodges@sbcglobal.net
Pumpkin Patch	Renee Palazzolo	Renee.palazzolo@gmail.com
Spring Social	Kim Rhodes Amy Koenig	Kimrhodes127@gmail.com koenigamy@att.net
Walking Bus	Kim Rhodes	Kimrhodes127@gmail.com

Defer Family Picnic



You are invited to join other Defer Families at
Windmill Pointe Park

Friday, September 12th, 6-8pm.

Bring your family, your dinner, your beverages...
and the PTO will bring dessert.

It will be a fun evening of getting to know other Defer families,
catching up with old friends and enjoying the Park one last time before fall.



Defer's Annual PTO



Saturday, October 4, 2013

Is this your first year at Defer? Is this your 12th year?

No matter if you're brand new or have been around forever....this is the event for you!!

The Progressive is a fantastic way for parents at Defer to meet other parents.

This is a fun, relaxed atmosphere filled with friends, food and drink.

The party consists of all guests meeting together for appetizers at one house. From there, you will receive your 'assignment' and find out where your next destination/address will be for dinner. Dinner is broken into smaller groups and is a super opportunity to bond with other parents at all grade levels and get to know them better. We encourage ALL parents to attend. All food, drink and 'atmosphere' are included at \$25/person.

Checks made payable to Defer PTO.

You can sign up for the Progressive Dinner using Sign Up Genius online. Details to come.

Sign up online and send check (memo line: Progressive) to Defer Office

We need volunteers to host dinner. Food will be again catered by Cabbage Patch Cafe.

The food is delivered to your door for warming in your oven.

Wine and beer are provided for you to serve.

Please contact the chairperson with any questions or to volunteer:

Matt Hodges 600-9652

DEFER SPIRIT WEAR

COMING SOON!

Adult hoodie S-XL \$40
Youth hoodie \$35

1/4 zip sweatshirt men's and ladies S-XL \$40

Polos men's and ladies S-XL \$22

Softshell Jacket men's and ladies S-XL \$60

Pocketed shorts \$18

Applique crewneck \$45

ball caps \$16

Fleece hat \$14

Knit hat with stripes \$15

Striped scarf \$20

Contact
Vikasgpp@yahoo.com
for info



Available NOW: Kid's tshirts (modeled above) in dark grey & sangria pink. \$15/(sizes S, M, L)
Adult tshirts are also available in new design above.
Please email Vikas Relan for questions or to arrange pickup.

Watch for Defer Spirit Wear going electronic in a few months....

Coming October 16th

3rd Annual Defer Pumpkin Patch

Defer's front yard turns into a pumpkin patch & you get to pick your perfect pumpkin.
As always, cider and donuts will be available for purchase.



The Defer PTO Invites You to a

Family Fun Night

Saturday, September 27



Brought to you by the Defer PTO

@ Defer Elementary School
15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park

Saturday, September 27
Concessions open at 7PM
Movie Begins at 8PM

Free Admission

Concessions



- * Popcorn
- * Candy
- * Beverages
- * Glow Sticks

Outdoor Movie Night! Bring Your Chairs and Blankets!