



Defer Dragon's Burning News

"To The Pointe"

September 18, 2008

Defer Behavior Pledge

Today, I will **DO** my best
to **BE** my best.

I will be **Respectful**.

I will practice **Responsibility**.

I will always be **Safe**.

I will show my **Dragon Pride**.

Dear Defer Families,

Thank you for your help and cooperation in getting the year off to such a great start! Our teachers and staff also deserve a tremendous amount of credit for all of their hard work in getting everything prepared for a successful first few weeks of school. It was wonderful to see all of the smiling faces of our students and parents as we began the 2008-2009 school year. Also, we want to give a HUGE "Defer WELCOME" to all of our new Defer students and families!! We look forward to a wonderful year working with your children and with you.

The **Defer PTO** also deserves thanks for the "Welcome Back Gathering" that was enjoyed by so many parents. Also, it has been **AWESOME** to have all of the parents who volunteered to help in the Lunchroom and on the Playground for the first few weeks. Thank you! We need your continued support as the year moves along – even on those very cold winter days.

The air conditioning in the first floor classrooms that was provided by the Defer PTO was greatly appreciated by all of the teachers and students during the warm, muggy days during the past couple of weeks. This has completed the air conditioning project – we now have AC in every classroom in the building, thanks to the PTO fundraising efforts and to the GPPSS Board of Education and the entire GPPSS community through the bond issue and the sinking fund.

We truly appreciate all of the parents who were able to attend the Back to School Night on Tuesday. We know that all of our Defer families have a lot of demands on their time, so we appreciate it when so many parents and families can participate in our activities. We hope that you found the evening informative and worth while for you. If you were not in attendance, you will want to stop in soon to sign up for your child's Parent-Teacher Conferences, which will take place on November 6 or 13.

Our Defer students have been demonstrating some outstanding behavior and cooperation thus far this school year. They seem eager to participate in our PBS (Positive Behavior Support) program and they are making every effort to meet our expectations for them in regards to their behavior and school procedures. Our weekly *Dragon Dollar* winners drawing has been exciting and we are looking forward to our first monthly reward activity on September 30 – extra recess time and freeze pops! ☺

Again, welcome to Defer! If you have a question related to your child's classroom or teacher, please contact the teacher first via email, voicemail, or by setting up an appointment. They are eager to work cooperatively with you for the success of your child. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you. I hope that you and your child truly enjoy your experience here at Defer!

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Wardie, Principal

Defer Website

www.gpschools.org/defer



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GROSSE POINTE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Defer School Directory

The PTO is compiling the Defer School Directory and needs your information! Please return your completed school directory information form to school ASAP. The forms were included in your back-to-school information packet. There are other forms available outside of the office if needed. You need to fill this form out and return it in order for your family to be included in this year's directory. We would also ask that you consider joining the PTO as a family membership if you haven't already. These envelopes are also available outside the office door. We hope to see your pink form and membership envelope returned by Friday, September 26th!

Welcome to Defer



Please join me in welcoming our newest staff members.

Mrs. Nancy Eckert will be taking over as our Instructional Support Program teacher.

Nancy is a former Defer parent and has taught previously. She also did some subbing at Defer last year.

Also, join me in welcoming **Mrs. Lee Ann Smith** to Defer as one of our ESL teachers. Lee Ann did some subbing in ESL for us last year, so she already knows most of the students.

Save the Date!

All First, Third and Fifth Grade Students, as well as the Defer Choir, will be performing in the **Winter Vocal Music Concert**. All Students should wear "dressy clothes".

The concert will take place on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Pierce School Auditorium. See you there!

Attention Preschool Parents!!



Grosse Pointe North Preschool located at Barnes Early Childhood Center has openings for the current school year.

If you have a child who is 3 to 5 years of age who would enjoy an environment that is fun as well as energetic, please contact us!!

313-432-3822 or karen.feringa@gpschools.org



From Mrs. Delgado

Welcome to a new school year and the second year of the Grosse Pointe Elementary Spanish Program. I am very excited to continue exploring the Spanish language and culture with the fourth and fifth graders.

I will meet with the students for 4 class periods of 45 minutes each. Then the students will rotate into library instruction. This pattern will continue throughout the school year. Every Spanish rotation will cover a different unit of study. At the end of each unit, the students will receive a homework assignment to be returned at the beginning of the next rotation. In order for the student to receive full credit for the assignment, it must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Please be sure to visit my website, <http://staff.gpschools.org/delgads> for the updated calendar of class sessions as well as any homework assignments, their due dates, and links to practice Spanish at home.

I look forward to an exciting year of exploration of the Spanish language.

DEFER F4!



Defer Fall Family Fun Fest
Saturday, September 27th from 10-3
Games, prizes, DJ, great food

Don't Miss It!

From Mr. Wolff

Hopefully everyone had an active and enjoyable summer. This summer was unique as it gave many of our students an opportunity to see many different sports through the Olympic Games. The exposure that children get to sports such as swimming, volleyball, gymnastics and others usually leads to an interest in participating in those sports. There are many opportunities through out the community (Community Education, Neighborhood Club, Parks and Recreation, and way too many others to list here) for children to participate in sports. Even if not in organized sports, I encourage all of our students, parents and families to become more active. This can be as simple as talking a daily walk or bike ride. Just 15 minutes of exercise daily can lead to the prevention or lessening of such conditions as diabetes, asthma and cardio-pulmonary diseases. Additionally exercise is valuable in reducing stress and preventing strokes and many forms of cancer.

I am looking forward to my third year at Defer and all of the great students that I come into contact with daily. Please remember to send gym shoes and socks with your students on Physical Education days.

Music Notes

Mrs. Pascoe

Congratulations to the following Defer students who participated in the Grosse Pointe Public School's **Summer Select Choir Camp**. These students attended rehearsals from August 11th through August 15th and performed in two wonderful concerts at the end of the week. **These students did an AWESOME job!**

Defer Students in the 5th Grade Choir

Lucy
Zoe
Katherine
Sam
Isabella
Evelyn
Hannah
Cameron
Madelyn
Celeste
Benna
Bianca

Defer Students in the 6th Grade Choir

Erica
Stephanie
Andrew
Zack
Katerina
Genevieve
Laboney
Ashley
Emily
Samantha
Cara
Elise

Report Card Dates

Student Report Cards will be sent home three times during the school year:

December 11
March 11
June 11



Half-Days of School

School will be in session for just one-half day on the following days:

Thurs., Oct. 31 PM (12:29-3:38p.m.)
Thurs., Nov. 6 AM (8:25-11:34a.m.)
Thurs., Nov. 13 PM (12:29-3:38p.m.)
Tues., Nov. 25 AM (8:25-11:34a.m.)
Thurs., Mar. 12 AM (8:25-11:34a.m.)
Thurs., Mar. 19 PM (12:29-3:38p.m.)
Thurs., June 11 AM (8:25-11:34a.m.)

Safety Reminders

Parking Lot: I want to thank all of the parents who have been observing our parking lot guidelines. As you know, the parking lot is to be used for school business only. It is not for student drop-off or pick-up.

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up: All students are to walk to school or are to be dropped-off or picked-up somewhere other than in the parking lot, such as on Kercheval, Nottingham, or Balfour.

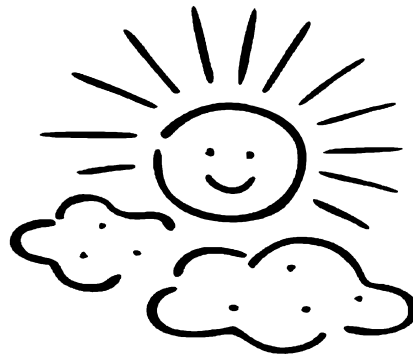
Drop-Off: If using Kercheval or Nottingham, please just pull up on the Defer side and drop off your child. Then please go so that other parents can pull in to drop off their children. Please do NOT sit and wait for the bell to ring, as that blocks up the drop off lanes. **“Stop, drop, and go!”** J

Pick-Up: You may legally sit and wait for your child to exit the building and come to your car, but do not stop in the “No stopping, standing, parking” zones and do not leave your car in the “No parking” zones.



Exit Doors: We ask all parents to please observe the **STOP** signs posted on our exit doors and that you NOT exit those doors during the school day. **All exit doors are locked immediately after the 8:25 a.m. and 12:29 p.m. tardy bells.** Some parents have been ignoring the STOP signs on the closed doors and exiting them. Since some of our old wooden doors are warped, they don't completely close automatically, thus leaving the building unlocked. **When the exit doors are closed and locked, the STOP signs will be visible on the interior exit doors and the buzzers will be activated (as a reminder to those who forget).** **When entering or exiting the building during school hours (8:25-11:34 a.m. and 12:29-3:38 p.m.), all parents and visitors are asked to use the doors off the back parking lot.**

In the interest of the safety and security of all of our students and staff, we appreciate your attention to these safety reminders.



Respect

At Defer, we are Fired Up for Success! Our goal is to be respectful, responsible and safe and have a great learning year! Part of a good plan to have the best year possible is to get off to a great start. One of our three PBS core values and focus is to BE RESPONSIBLE! To help make some strides in this area, please find the attached handout Study Skills: A Handout for Parents. There are some helpful strategies and suggestions to help make homework time meaningful, productive, and maybe even, fun!

Donna Johnson-Beach
Tina Justice