

Defer Dragon's Burning News

April 13, 2017
Karen Sullivan
Defer Principal

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.

Seven 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— together is better**
- **Sharpen the Saw**

District Mission Statement

One GP –where everyone learns, every day

Defer Mission Statement

**Promote Innovation
Maximize Potential
Embrace Community**

Earth Week Challenge April 16 – 30th, 2017



The Defer Green Squad wants to really make an impact on Earth Week 2017! They have planned activities for each grade level intending to send a powerful message about our Earth!

Some of the plans include:

- Students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd will complete a **Green Pledge** highlighting an effort they plan to make to help the environment.
- Wednesday, April 19th, our students will help to clean up the Defer grounds during recess. Grades 1 – 5 will each be assigned an area. Wear a green shirt that day!
- Mrs. Makowski will be creating art at each grade level using cancelled catalogues from a 3rd – 5th grade project. We'll be sharing our **Green** art fair.
- Thursday, April 20th, student will walk or bike to school to reduce the carbon footprint. Data will be collected by our 4/5 class to help judge our impact.

Our biggest project, **The Catalog Canceling Challenge**, will be carried out by our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. They will be joining over 9,800 kids in 24 states who have canceled 89,562 unwanted sales catalogs to save trees, water, energy, and our climate. Scout troops have canceled 100s. Schools have canceled 1,000s!

Here's the facts:

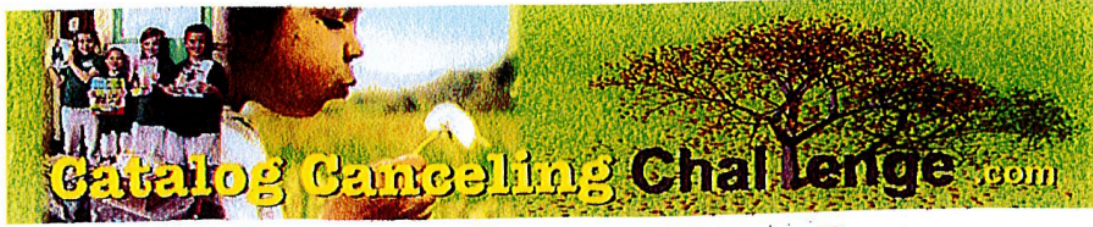
Over 19 billion catalogs are mailed per year in the USA. That uses up:

53 million trees

53 billion gallons of water (enough to fill 81,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools)

Enough energy to supply 1.2 million homes annually

Defer's Catalog Canceling Challenge will take place from April 16 – April 31st. Which grade will cancel the most catalogs? This is an optional activity for students in these grades. Directions and your One Tree Club record sheet follow. Students in grades 3 – 5 will receive the information in their Thursday folder as well. Let's start cancelling!



Organizer Pack 2011 Update

Today we are thrilled to announce the start of an exciting green initiative – *The Catalog Canceling Challenge* – that your child has the option to participate in. This is a project for grades 3 – 5, but parents can certainly help their younger students participate as well. We hope to reduce the number of unwanted sales catalogs our community receives each day.

To help your child, please consider doing the following:

1. Start a pile of unwanted sales catalogs (i.e. *Lands' End, J.Crew*) for your child to cancel.
2. Help your child to cancel the catalogs in one of two ways: By calling the catalog companies directly with the 1 - 800 number on the back of each catalog using the script below. OR by helping your child set up a free account at www.CatalogChoice.org and inputting the catalogs you wish to cancel. Many children find this website fast and fun!

Script:

Student: "Hi, my name is _____ and I am calling to take my family's name off your mailing list."

The representative will ask you to look on the back of the catalog and provide the customer number (usually in blue or yellow box). If they ask why your family wishes to cancel, you can say your family is doing it to save trees, and that you'll use their website for ordering in the future.

Student: "Thank you so much!"

3. Finally, record the catalogs you cancelled on the *One Trees Club* worksheet. Pile up the catalogs your child has cancelled and drop them off in their grade's bin located in the 2nd floor hallway.
4. The grade that cancels the most catalogs will earn a pizza party sponsored by our Green Squad.

NAME _____

JOIN THE **ONE TREE CLUB**,
AND BE A TREE-SAVER!!

Cancel 60 catalogs and save one tree in one year!* Use this sheet to log in each catalog. Can you reach 60 and save an entire tree?

#	Name of Catalog You Canceled	Date
1		
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#	Name of Catalog You Canceled	Date
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32		
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59		
60!		

*One tree is used to make 360 catalogs. Canceling 1 catalog stops 6 from being made. Canceling 60 stops 360, and you save 1 tree!

Absences and Late Arrivals

We appreciate your cooperation. Please be sure to utilize our attendance line at 432 – 4001 with all absences/late arrivals. The attendance line is a dedicated line available 24 hours, 7 days a week. If you know of a future absence (trip, appointment, etc.) please let the office know with a call to this number as soon as possible. Your cooperation will save a considerable amount of time during the morning rush and avoid office calls to locate students



Tardy or Absent

Mondays – A student is marked tardy if they arrive after 9:10 but before 10:00 for AM instruction or after 12:26 but before 1:35 for PM instruction. A student is marked absent if they arrive after 10:00 in the AM, or after 1:35 in the PM.

Tuesday through Friday – A student is marked tardy if they arrive after 8:25 but before 9:15 for AM instruction or after 12:46 and before 1:15 for PM instruction. A student is marked absent if they arrive after 9:15 in the AM, or after 1:15 in the PM.

When a student is signed out 50 minutes or less before the dismissal bell, they are marked ‘withdrawn early’, over 50 minutes is an absence.

Ask the Principal

Q: When dropping off or picking up my child can I park in the school parking lot?

A: Families are not allowed to use the Defer parking lot for drop-off or pick-up of their children. We have worked with the Grosse Pointe Park police and they feel that it is a very unsafe for parents to do this. Our students walk directly across the parking lot entrance every morning and every afternoon. Having cars attempting to pull out of the lot onto Kercheval puts our Defer students in danger. We ask that all parents park away from the school and walk up to Defer or use the Nottingham drop-off lane for this purpose. **Remember, the rules are for everyone’s safety.**

Keeping Safe

As parents we have on-going conversations with our children about keeping safe. We live in and go to school is a wonderful community, but we are never totally insulated from unsafe situations. Some of the topics to discuss with your children include:

Always travel to and from school with another student or adult and be aware of your surroundings including the cars and people around you

Never respond to or accept anything from a stranger

Report immediately any approach by a stranger to either their parents, teacher, and/or principal

Always know your after-school plans and if you can’t locate your parent or sibling after school report immediately to the office

Kindergarten 2017-2018

The district is presently registering next year's incoming Kindergarten class. The **Transition to Kindergarten** event is **May 2, 2017**. In order for an incoming Kindergartener to participate they need to be registered by April 25th. Please help spread the word to families you know in our community that have children that will be entering



LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found is bursting at the seams! There is a great deal of winter gear from mittens and gloves to snow pants and boots. There are also a large quantity of lunch boxes. We encourage students to look for lost items every day. Next time you are in the building stop by and check for any missing items that your children may have lost.

Any items remaining at the end of the month will be donated.



PBIS REWARDS PARTY

The PBIS program, begun at Defer in 2008, continues to be at the heart of learning at Defer. All children know the expectations and know that by following our PBIS procedures we are creating a respectful, responsible, and safe school environment in which all students can learn and thrive. Each month we celebrate the successes of our students in a school-wide PBIS party and March was no exception. 95% of our students qualified for this Reward Party as we celebrate with a school-wide movie! Good Work Dragons!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Our Student Council, under the direction of Mrs. Gout and Mrs. Nugent, are hard at work! After collecting close to 300 items for the needy in Detroit they are now working on a 2nd project for the year. Our recess soccer goals, after years of welding and re-welding, are no longer usable. Our Student Council worked with Mr. Masters, one of our physical education teachers, and with the district head custodian to identify a set of soccer goals that are sturdy and safe for elementary students, and then they set to work. So far they have raised over \$500 through *Hat Day* and the *Bingo Night Bake Sale*. They are well on their way and will be able to purchase one set of goals at this time. They hope our two other fund-raisers – *Pajama Day* and *Crazy Hair Day* - will help them to reach their goal of purchasing another set of soccer nets for recess.



Dragon Dens

Each month our students meet in **Dragon Dens**. Each staff member has a **Den** composed of students from across the building and each month we focus on one of the 7 Habits. Our March Dragon Den focus was **synergize**. What does it mean to synergize? **To put it simply, synergy means "two heads are better than one."** Synergize is the habit of creative cooperation. It is teamwork, open-mindedness, and the adventure of finding new solutions to old problems.

Each Dragon Den synergized around the same problem. They were given a round ring with 32 strings attached to the ring. A tennis ball was placed in the center of the ring. The Den's challenge was to lift the strings together in such a way that they were able to move the ball from the floor to above their heads and back down to the floor without the ball falling. Our Dragon Den teams synergized together, shared strategies, did some trial and error, and then successfully accomplished the task. Synergy lets us discover jointly things we are much less likely to discover by ourselves and that when we work as a team we can accomplish unbelievable things!



Safety Service News

In February, Defer Safety/Service celebrated their volunteer 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 Vincent Maffesoli with 101 for the boys and Jocelyn Shier with a 100 for the girls.

Thank you to Mr. Curvey, Mrs. Drake, Mr. Kirkland, Mrs. Lemmen, Mrs. Donnellon (Leonard), Mrs. Maffesoli, Mr. Moorehead, Mrs. Rhodes, and Mrs. Woolums 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." They love it!

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: Liam D.

Service: Bella L.



Thank You PTO !

On Tuesday, March 28th our Defer PTO sponsored an amazing assembly – **The Earth Dome!** The Earth Dome is a gigantic inflatable earth balloon standing 19-feet high and 22-feet in diameter. It's made of 24 huge panels silkscreened with photographs shot from satellites of the surface of the world on cloud free days. It has been used extensively across the United States to educate students about geography as well as environmental issues. This opportunity provided for seven half-hour assemblies in which 40 – 50 students in each session explored the earth from both the outside and the inside of the Dome. They saw and better understood the scale of concepts such as continents, time zones, latitude, longitude, and even major cities in comparison to the total earth were recognized. Seeing and understanding the Earth as it appears from space, as opposed to painted globes or drawings, is an experience not soon forgotten. Thank you PTO!





It's Springtime!!! From your Elementary Library Media Specialists!

(click on each image for a link)

Have fun exploring this month's digital picks. This month, we take a different approach with our digital resources, emphasizing the moderate, responsible use of technology. Take some time to visit these online resources and discover some strategies to take charge of technology and its presence in your life.



<https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/>

See if this 4-week program can help you reclaim dinner time for family sharing. This website is filled with recipes, suggestions and resources and age-appropriate games to play during meal time.

Common Sense Media
#DeviceFreeDinner

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/device-free-dinner>

Check out this website for great dinner time conversation starters and technology-free activities. Turn dinner into a time spent sharing rather than one competing with devices and distractions.



Recently, reports in the news have address the addictive nature of technology for children and adults alike. Visit the [Technology Addiction resource](#) page of Common Sense Media and explore questions according to different age groups. Find well-researched answers to concerns you may have about your child(ren)'s technology use - and maybe your own!



<https://www.getepic.com/>

Web-based, app for the iPhone and iPad. \$4.99 monthly subscription. Free for educators. Have instant access to thousands of ebooks for children without the inconvenience of waitlists. Scan and page through collections of fiction and nonfiction books.



See what all the excitement is about - [GoNoodle](#) website (free) turns movement into a game and makes it easy to be active, the kid way—silly, energetic, playful, and fun. Just press play on hundreds of custom-created videos and get kids running, jumping, dancing, stretching, and practicing moments of mindfulness.

Elementary Library Media Specialists

- Danielle Gostomski: Kerby, Mason, Poupard
- Amy Hermon: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Sherry Martin: Ferry, Mason, Poupard
- Cheryl Quinlan: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Rachel Walpole: Defer, Richard, Trombly



APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Spring Break Begins	4	5 2nd and 3rd Grade to the Detroit Zoo	6	7	8
9	10 School Re-sume	11 PTO meeting 7:00 pm	12 Raising Global Leaders 7:00 pm Pierce	13	14 No School	15
16	17 School Resumes	18	19 Parent Diversity meeting 6:30 at Maire	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Town Hall 10:45-11:05 Dragon Den 11:00-11:25	27 Safety Service Party Swim at Pierce	28 Donuts with your Dragon 5th grade Instrumental Concert 10:30 In the gym	29
30						

Important April Dates

April 3rd – 7th Spring Break

April 19 – Parent Diversity Meeting Maire

April 28th – 5th grade Instrumental Concert @ 10:30 AM

MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Kindergarten Transition Visit	3 7:00 pm Instrumental Concert	4	5 Macomber Vocal Concert	6
7	8	9	10	11 5th Grade Promotion Picture Spring Vocal Concert 7:00 pm Pierce Gr K, 2, 4	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Safety Service Windmill Park	19 Am school Only Volunteer Tea—8 am	20
21	22	23	24	25 Field Day	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day No School	30	31 5th Graders To Camp			

Important May Dates

May 11 - 5th Grade Promotion Picture

Spring Vocal Concert

May 19 - AM school only

May 25 - Field Day

May 29 - Memorial Day No School



DEFER PTO

Providing Support to Students, Teachers and Parents at Defer Elementary since 1924



April 2017



President
Becca Ozar

Vice President
Heather Wiegand

Treasurer
Emily Summerfield

Secretaries
Kelly Woolums
Jessica Kodanko

Communications
Sara Martin

Fundraising
Kelly Warnick

Hospitality
Kim Rhodes

Membership
Lindy Holloway

School Board
Observer
Kelley McLean

Volunteers
Brooke Macuga

Faculty
Representative
Janette High

Defer Wear
Megan Bejin

Past President
Renee Palazzolo

Defer PTO Meeting — Tuesday, April 11 @ 7 p.m.

All Defer parents are invited & encouraged to attend PTO meetings, during which parents and staff communicate about what's happening in the building and future events. New faces & feedback are always welcome!

Green Squad Catalogue Cancelling Challenge — April 17-21

More details to be sent home this week but the Green Squad is having a school-wide challenge for all dragons to cancel unwanted catalogues. Students will keep a list of those cancelled by parents. The catalogues will be collected at Defer and the grade that has the most cancellations wins a pizza party!

In addition, the week will include a variety of lesson plans around the challenge, the reduction in carbon footprint by cancelling unwanted catalogues and conservation efforts to help preserve the Earth.

Walk/Bike to School Day — Thursday April 20

Students are encouraged to walk or bike to school on this day to reduce their carbon footprint. This event is in conjunction with the Green Squad's celebration of Earth Day and the Catalogue Cancelling Challenge.

Donuts with your Dragons — April 28, 8-8:20 a.m.

Students may bring a special someone to the gym for donuts, juice & coffee. Allergy free donuts will be available.

Student Council Crazy Hair Day — April 28

Students may fashion crazy hair for the day. This is a fundraiser the student council to purchase soccer nets for use on field during recess.

Receive up-to-date information about Defer happenings:

Join the PTO Yahoo email blast group
(send an email to: deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

You will receive a confirmation email, to which you must to respond by simply hitting the reply button.

Follow Defer Elementary PTO on Facebook:
(<https://www.facebook.com/Defer-Elementary-PTO-153168848088901/>)



DONUTS WITH YOUR DRAGON
AT DEFER ELEMENTARY
IN THE SCHOOL GYM
FRIDAY **APRIL 28** AT 8AM!!

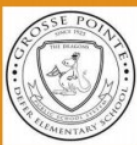
PLEASE JOIN YOUR STUDENTS FOR A
SWEET TREAT COURTESY OF THE DEFER
PTO! THIS EVENT IS FROM 8AM UNTIL THE
BELL RINGS AT 8:20. WE PROVIDE DONUTS,
FRUIT, COFFEE, AND JUICE!
WE WILL ALSO HAVE AN ALLERGY FREE
TREAT TABLE AS WELL!

Interested in Volunteering?
Want to learn more about what
opportunities are available?

Contact parent
Brooke Macuga—>
brookemacuga@yahoo.com

Online Ordering NOW AVAILABLE!

Welcome to the Defer Elementary Spirit Store!



"Vintage"



"D"



"Dragons"

ORDER ONLINE:

<https://gpschools.formstack.com/forms/deferspiritwear>



Hoodies:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons Vintage	
	Y\$25		
Adult	S M L XL 2XL		A\$30
Youth	S M L XL		2XL
	\$35		



Long Sleeve Tshirt:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons Vintage	
	Y\$20		
Men's	S M L XL 2XL		A\$23
Ladies	S M L XL		2XL \$25
Youth	S M L XL		



Short Sleeve Tshirt:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons Vintage	
	Y\$15		
Men's	S M L XL 2XL		A\$18
Ladies	S M L XL		
Youth	S M L XL		

1/4 Zip:	Gray	Logo: D Dragons GPPS Seal	\$35
Men's	S M L XL 2XL		2XL \$38
Ladies	S M L XL	Logo will be embroidered	

Baseball Hat:	Hunter Gray	Logo: D Dragons GPPS Seal	\$15
Adult			
Youth		Logo will be embroidered	

Winter Pom Hat:		Logo: D Dragons	\$18
Winter Skull Cap:		Logo: D Dragons	\$15

Name: _____ Order Total: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Paid: Cash Check _____

Order using this form or online via the Defer School website
 Orders will be delivered to Defer in approximately 2-4 weeks
 Questions? defer.spirit.store@gmail.com

